

MEDITATION 10

Mark 1: 29-31

²⁹ As soon as they (Jesus and his 4 new disciples) left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

"Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever"

Jesus' reputation as a gifted healer with the power of God in him is beginning to spread. And now he enters the home of one of his newly called disciples. In the home is a family member bed-stricken with fever. It is a time before any modern medicine or medication. What may happen?

"And they told Jesus about her at once."

What are they hoping may happen? Is them telling Jesus about her a kind of prayer? We will see what effect such telling and asking have on Jesus...

What do you tell God in prayer? What do you ask for in prayer? What do you hope for through prayer?... Where has that led in the past in your experience?
Have you felt your prayer has been answered, and answered in a positive way?
Or have you been disappointed and left wondering whether your prayer made any difference?

Is it legitimate to hope for something more and better?... Are such hopes heard in any way?...
How may we know what an answer to prayer may be?...

"He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up."

OK, there's a lot in this simple sentence... Here's a woman with a virus that is presumably contagious. Jesus the healer touches her. He takes her hand. He engages her. She is not alone. Divine energy is accompanying her and passing into her on a healing journey wherever that will lead...

How do you feel when you are ill, when you are down, when you feel exhausted, overwhelmed, discouraged, even hopeless about yourself, your life, or a situation deeply affecting you?...
Is God far away? Do you ask for help, for healing strength?... Do you hope?...

God is ready to take you by the hand... Do you know that?... Do you trust that?...

Jesus took her by the hand and... **lifted her up**... the word for lift is: *eigieren*. This is one of the words used in the gospels for resurrection.... Jesus resurrected her... Her suffering was a

kind of death... Her ailment was physical, yes, but we're also being told Jesus the healer is interested in raising up the whole person - body and spirit.

How may you need resurrection right now in your life?... Is it in some circumstance in your life or a situation that has become really difficult?... Is it in a loss or a lack of direction?... Is it in a feeling of isolation and abandonment in what you're going through people around you cannot comprehend in a way that raises you up?...

Prayer: God... maybe my life is hard or maybe it's easy... Where may I need healing?... Is it so that I may see more clearly?... Is it that I need to experience resurrection?... Is there a kind of healing necessary for me internally despite a condition in my physical health that continues to afflict me?... Do I need to commit more deeply in love and care in my life toward another person requiring a greater opening of my heart and greater patience?... Is it about finding the courage to be truthful with kindness?... Help me see, O God... Raise me up, O God... Give me the courage and the energy to act, O God...

"Then the fever left her,"

What does this mean?... Are we simply talking about a virus, or is this a sign of something so much more?...

"And she began to serve them."

How do we express our gratitude for healing, our feeling better, more hopeful, able to see more clearly and live more compassionately? ... This woman's first act is service and care. How do you express your gratitude for God's healing and grace?... Does this gospel example inspire you in a particular situation or relationship in your life right now?...

PRAYER: Thank you, O God... You have called me... In various times of my life such a call would be different... What is your call to me now?... Where is healing a necessary part of my life inside as much as outside? Whether I am a caregiver or one needing care or both in various ways, how may healing and how may resurrection be welcome in my life right now?...

Thank you for awakening me to myself, to life, to you...

Thank you for stirring within me not to settle for what is less than it should be...

Thank you for also granting me a little more patience and grace to live what cannot be as it should be right now...

Show me the way ahead... Shine your light for me... Take me by the hand... Help me walk this season of my life and beyond... In Jesus' name... Amen.