

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“Jesus approached (Simon Peter’s mother-in-law), grasped her hand and helped her up. Immediately the fever left her and she then waited on them.”

Mark 1: 31

Simon and Andrew were brothers. They shared a home right across from the local synagogue in Capernaum not far from the shore of the Sea of Galilee where they fished for a living. It was not unusual in those days, as it often is not unusual in our own days, for a grandmom or grandad to live with their children and grandchildren. That was the case here except it was Simon Peter’s wife’s mom. His mother-in-law. She was really sick. A bad fever. You know that even now older people with high fevers are often at risk. No anti-biotics back then. Something as simple as a fever could take you out.

Jesus enters and immediately they let him know she is sick. He goes to her. Let me say that again. Jesus goes over to her, to where she is sick and he reaches out to her and takes hold of her hand. Something happens in that moment. The fever leaves her. Instantly. Suddenly she feels good. She feels like her old self again. Suddenly because of the touch of Jesus she is strong again, on her feet again, restored and healthy again.

And she is grateful. She realizes that his touch has made her whole and his touch has rescued her. She wants to show her gratitude to him not just say, “Thank you, Jesus!” She wants the Lord to know she really is grateful. She channels her gratitude in the way that is most familiar to her. She serves. She provides food for him and his men. We don’t see fevers as anything other than a sickness to which our bodies respond and our immune system tries to fight off. But the whole malfunctioning of creation that has spawned diseases of all kinds is part of the effect of sin. “All creation groans and is in agony awaiting the redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ. And that, my friends is why we go to him. Even today. And we go to him in faith. Asking. Praying. Believing. Are we really getting all this? That is the question of the week.