The Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law (Mark 1:29-31)

Introduction:

1. Sometimes we read stories in the Bible, and don't really give much thought to some of the lessons we can learn from them.
   a. Some people seem to think that certain passages are just historical accounts that are given just to set the stage for some other event.
   b. Have you ever thought that before? – Whether we realize it or not, I'm sure we've all read over some account in the Bible without seeing any immediate application.
2. Today we are going to look at one such account that is frequently read, but not much is ever said about it.
   a. Turn to Mark 1:29-31.
   b. We are going to look at four attributes in this short passage that we would all do well to exhibit.

I. The disciples were holy (1:29).
   a. The disciples (with Jesus) had just been to the synagogue.
      i. It was in the synagogue that the Jews met weekly.
      ii. It was in the synagogue that the Jews gathered together to sing praises to God.
      iii. It was in the synagogue that the Jews gathered together to study God's word.
      iv. This is basically "going to church" during Jesus' day.
   b. This shows that they put an importance on the spiritual side of their lives.
      i. They wanted to know more about God's word.
      ii. They wanted to praise God with other faithful children of God.
   c. As such, they were striving to get closer to God and further from sin: the definition of becoming holy!
   d. What about you?
      i. Why are you here?
         1. Is it because you truly want to know more about God's word?
         2. Is it because you truly desire to praise our great God?
         3. Is it because you enjoy the company of others who strive to be holy?
      ii. Are you holy?
         1. How close are you to God?
         2. How much work do you put into being separate from sin?
   e. The disciples were holy, and we should follow that example.
      i. But not just holy...

II. The disciples were hospitable (1:29).
   a. After leaving the synagogue, they went to the house of Simon Peter and Andrew.
      i. This house was the family home of Peter and Andrew.
         1. As we will see later, Peter's mother-in-law also lived there.
         2. It is quite possible that Peter and Andrew's parents also lived there.
      ii. James, John, and Jesus (and possibly others) were invited to come to the house.
         1. Meals would have been given to them.
         2. Jesus even apparently was staying there as well.
   b. This shows that they put an importance on being hospitable to others.
      i. They thought it was important to have people come over for food.
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ii. They thought it was important to provide a place for people to stay when they had nowhere to stay (the Son of man has not a place to lay His head).

c. As such, they were striving to live out the command to love thy neighbor as thyself.
d. How about you?
   i. How often do you invite others (friends and visitors alike) to come over to share a meal?
   ii. How often do you open up your house for people to stay?
   iii. Christians are to be hospitable, one of the qualifications for elders is that they are given to (addicted to) hospitality.
   iv. Would God describe you as a hospitable person?
e. The disciples were holy, they were hospitable, and now we see that Jesus...

III. Jesus healed (1:30-31).
   a. When He found out that Peter’s mother-in-law (his wife's mother) was sick with a fever, Jesus went and immediately healed her.
      i. Now obviously we do not have the power of divine healing ability.
      ii. We can't work miracles.
      iii. But can we follow Jesus’ example and care for the medical needs of others?
   b. This shows that Jesus cared about the health of other people.
   c. What about us? How can we follow this example?
      i. We can take care of those who are sick to the best of our ability. (look at Roy with Faye).
      ii. We can pray for God to help them improve, health-wise.
      iii. We can take them to the doctors.
      iv. ESPECIALLY this is true when it is family or friend (which would have been the case with Peter’s mother-in-law).
   d. Are you following this example?

IV. Peter’s Mother-in-Law Helped (1:31).
   a. Though she had been sick, Jesus healed her completely and immediately.
      i. Then she immediately got up and ministered (served) them.
      ii. This woman had the heart of a servant, ready to take care of others.
   b. Jesus said that if we wanted to be the great, we needed to be a servant.
      i. Jesus was the ultimate example of who a servant should be.
      ii. Peter’s mother-in-law put others first and served them.
   c. What about you?
      i. Do you have the attitude of a servant?
      ii. Do you look for what you can do to be helpful to others?
      iii. Do you look for opportunities to serve other people?
      iv. Do you look for opportunities to serve God?

Conclusion:

1. These examples, if we follow them, will make us better people, better friends, and better Christians!
2. Be holy! Be hospitable! Be helpful! And help others be healed spiritually!