

“Jesus at Peter’s House” (lesson #4)

Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

1. Peter's mother-in-law was healed in what city, on what day, & what was the nature of her illness (Luke 4:31-39)?

Capernaum – Sabbath – High fever.

2. We see that Peter had a wife. Did he leave her when he became a disciple and began preaching (I Cor 9:5)? Why this question?

James Cardinal Gibbons, a Catholic Archbishop said, "Jesus our Lord, founded but one Church, which He was pleased to build on Peter. Therefore, any church that does not recognize Peter as its foundation stone is not the Church of Christ, & therefore cannot stand, for it is not the work of God." (**The Faith of Our Fathers**, p. 82).

The apostle Paul said, "For other foundation no one can lay, but that which has been laid, which is Christ Jesus" (1 Cor 3:11). There is no other foundation but Christ! Therefore, any church that does not recognize Christ alone as the foundation stone cannot be the church of Christ.

Catholic writers often speak of "the primacy of Peter" & "the primacy of the Pope", which they derive from a misunderstanding of **Matthew 16:18**.

However, **Col. 1:18**, speaking of Christ, says, "And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; that in all things he may hold the **preeminence** (primacy)..." Thus, with reference to the authority in the church, the Lord Jesus Christ holds the primacy in **all things**. This leaves nothing for the Pope!

Catholics claim that the Pope is the visible head of the church. Please notice the following from Catholic sources:

"The pope, therefore, as vicar of Christ, is the visible head of Christ's kingdom on earth, the Church, of which Christ Himself is the invisible head." (Answer Wisely, by Martin J. Scott, p. 49). "According to the will of Christ, all its members profess the same faith, have the same worship & Sacraments, & are united under the one & same visible head, the Pope." (Father Smith Instructs Jackson, by John F. Noll & Lester J. Fallon, p. 42)

Catholic officials always use the word "visible" no doubt thinking that it removes the thought of the Pope standing in opposition to the headship of Christ, & removes the apparent problem of having a church with two heads. Nonetheless, the Scriptures nowhere teach the idea of a visible & invisible head. Jesus said, "All authority **in heaven & on earth** has been given to me." (**Matt. 28:18**; Emp. mine D.R.).

3. What had Jesus previously done on this day?

After an attempt on His life had been made in Nazareth. **When** he arrived in Capernaum, He cast an unclean spirit out of a man in the synagogue on the Sabbath Day ([Luke 4:31-37](#)).

4. What did he do that evening ([Luke 4:40-41](#))?

He healed the sick of various diseases & demons confessed His divinity, but the people dared not approach Him until after the Sabbath Day.

5. How would the event encourage Peter to become a better disciple of Jesus?

It helped him distinguish Truth over Tradition.

It enabled him to see first hand the strength behind the message that Jesus preached was the very power of God to help, to heal & to do good.

It was an object lesson to Peter that Jesus was Lord of all, including the Sabbath ([Matt 12:1-8 – 12:9-15](#); [Luke 6:1-5 – 6-11](#); [Mk 3:23-28 – 3:1-6](#)).

6. Explain the prophecy of Isaiah 53:4 & how does it relate to our lesson?

We don't often stop to think of the "grief" & "sorrow" of those who were healed & their families.

They had reconciled themselves to their hardships, never dreaming that they would ever find relief. ([If we could only have this sense regarding our sins](#)).

Yet even these "esteemed [Jesus] stricken, smitten by God & afflicted" (they thought His troubles were a punishment from God, for His own sins – tlb).

APPLICATION:

1. Peter is presented as a hospitable disciple. What is hospitality? (**Rom 12:13; Heb 13:1-2; 1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Pet 4:9**)

By definition: the love of strangers.

2. What point can be made about Peter's mother-in-law & hospitality?

She was anxious to serve them.

Her actions seem to have been a way of life for her.

She was grateful for being healed, like one of the ten lepers (**Lk 17:11-19**).

3. Give an example of the above. (**3 Jn 1, 5-8**)

Gaius had this disposition toward the Jewish evangelists.

4. Why is "showing hospitality" so important to being a disciple of Christ?

It is greater evidence than anything else we can do of the sense of unity & family that ought to exist among saints.

Hospitality has a very strong drawing power to those outside of Christ seeking for that sense belonging to someone.

Hospitality requires concern or love for our brethren, forethought, planning & effort; our lives must be arranged to allow for it.