

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Saviour, Jesus who is the Christ.

Amen

In our gospel this week, Jesus leaves the synagogue and goes to the house of Simon and Andrew. So, after the service, they went to Simon's house to get something to eat. Notice there was nothing about Simon's mother being sick that led them to Simon's house. They just went as Peter was a gracious host and wanted to feed his friends. And this is where the situation gets interesting.

Notice what the text says now: "Now Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him of her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her; and she served them."

They told Jesus she was sick, but it does not say they asked Jesus to do anything. They did not demand anything of Jesus but only made Him aware of the problem. What faith!! They wanted Jesus to be in a relationship with this woman and somehow, they knew, they felt, He would take it from there.

Simon and Andrew took a leap of faith. They saw Jesus heal in the synagogue, so they took a leap of faith by just telling Jesus she had a fever.

They had faith like the little boy in the following:

During the terrible days of the Blitz, a father, holding his small son by the hand, ran from a building that had been struck by a bomb. In the front yard was a shell hole. Seeking shelter as quickly as possible, the father jumped into the hole and held up his arms for his son to follow. Terrified, yet hearing his father's voice telling him to jump, the boy replied, "I can't see you!"

The father, looking up against the sky tinted red by the burning buildings, called to the silhouette of his son, "But I can see you. Jump!" The boy jumped, because he trusted his father.

I think this idea of trust and faith is one of the main ideas of this passage.

The disciples had not been with Jesus very long. He had taught in the synagogue; He healed a man with an unclean spirit and now the disciples were able to let Jesus decide what He was going to do. This was remarkable faith on their part. They could have demanded that Jesus do something as they had seen in the synagogue, but instead they allowed Jesus to take the action himself.

The text says: And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her. Notice, it was Jesus who acted out of His compassion. He took the initiative. Jesus acted, period.

And then notice what happened. The woman got up out of her sick bed and went to the kitchen to serve them a meal. Jesus acted, she responded in what she knew best homemaking.

Jesus through God handles our daily problems.

The following poem says it well:

I am God.

Today I will be handling all of your problems.

Please remember that I do not need your help.

*If life happens to deliver a situation to you that
you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it.*

Kindly put it in the “something for God

*to do” box. It will be addressed in My time, not
yours. Once the matter is placed into the box,*

do not hold on to it

I am God.

The disciples in this case learned that lesson well. Let go and let God. This is a difficult lesson to learn. Peter learned it now, but later in scriptures we find Peter wanting to do things himself instead of letting Jesus. And many of us are in the same boat. We want to handle our problems ourselves, or even worse, we want to tell Jesus how to handle them. How many of us when we pray want to tell Jesus in our prayers how to answer them. We want this, we want that, but what we need to do is just say help and let Jesus act out of His grace and compassion.

This point of allowing Jesus to act in our lives can be illustrated in the following:

"In a textile factory where threads are woven into fabrics there is a sign above the machines: "If the threads become tangled, call the foreman."

A new employee found the threads on her machine badly tangled. Frantically she tried to untangle them.

The foreman came by and said, "Why didn't you call for me?" she replied, "I was just trying to do my best."

Then, very pointedly, the foreman told her, "Doing your best includes calling the foreman."

Doing our best means letting Jesus act in our lives in His way at His time with His results. We see by the scriptures that the people in that village had faith as it says:

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

33 And the whole city was gathered together about the door.

34 And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

They brought to Jesus all those who were sick. It happened at sundown for at sundown meant that the Jewish day of sabbath was over so they could do the work of bringing the sick to Jesus. Can you imagine it? Somehow the whole village brought people to Jesus. Somehow they all had faith enough in Jesus to do the work which was demanded to bring the sick to Jesus. I imagine for some the work was very difficult. I could imagine that many were brought in beds or lying on cots being carried by four strong men. Somehow that faith spread through the whole village so that others did what was necessary to bring the sick to Jesus. Faith can be catching. This catching faith allows one to let go and let God.

Now we move on to the next interesting part of this text. Jesus has slept the night with Peter and Andrew, but early in the morning he goes out to a private place to pray, to be alone with his thoughts.

Most of the time when we read this passage and other passages such as Mark 7:24, Mark 6:31, where it says Jesus went to a lonely place to pray, we think of a quiet, peaceful time. A time to collect thoughts and recharge batteries.

However, I would like to suggest that this was far from the point. It was not a peaceful time, but a time of soul searching, a time of turmoil, a time of decision. It was a time for Jesus to focus in on the mission His Father called him to do.

As the Rev. Thomas Long says in his book "Shepherds & Bathrobes" "we have a miss understanding of this time, because the word which is translated "lonely place" is *erhmov* which is better translated as wilderness. The *erhmov* is a holy place, alive with the presence of God. The *erhmov* is a dangerous place, the

atmosphere charged with the possibility of betrayal. The temptation to follow the will of the crowd instead of the will of the Father was present in the environment."

I think this interpretation makes sense. Jesus was constantly going off by himself to pray. To pray for what? To pray for the strength to follow the course the Father had laid out for Him. Jesus in his humanity must have feared the cross and the pain which was involved. Jesus prayed that He would have the human strength to follow that course.

The dark night of the soul means to wrestle with the ideas and thoughts you have about life and faith. Jesus went to that place to wrestle with the dark night of his soul. Should he do what the Father wants, or should he become the kind of king that the people seem to think he is. A worldly king, a conquering king. Jesus could have gone on to heal many people, give out many loaves of bread and fish, He could have turned water to wine many more times.

But Jesus was in this place to struggle with these things and many more. He was here to wrestle with the dark night of the soul. And he would continue to have these times alone to wrestle with his thought and desires until He entered Jerusalem the week before his death. Jesus let go and let God give Him the strength to carry on.

Even the night before Good Friday on Maundy Thursday we find him in the garden of Gethsemane alone praying. One of the scriptures says about this occasion said that sweat like blood poured from His head.

Jesus wrestled with what the Father wanted Him to do. And many of us have that time of the Dark Night of the Soul when we wrestle with our life situation. Many of us if we are honest with ourselves can feel that same kind of pain in our lives. We want so much to know what is going to happen. We plead with God for answers and sometimes there is only silence. Many of us have been through the

“Let go...Let God...” Mark 1:29-39 Trinity 12 2026

Dark night of the Soul wondering what is going to happen, wondering why me!

We could go on and on.

But I think it is comforting to know that Jesus had these times also. He struggled with the path His life was headed. This scripture gives us two powerful thoughts. One of faith, believing and trusting in Jesus and the other struggling with life, with the path of life. all, I think, are part of our life journey.

Let go and let God. Amen