

# SHIFTS HAPPENS, on to my NEXT SEASON

## Week 1 -Day 3

Lesson Title: THE GREAT PHYSICIAN!

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” Mark 2:17

Yesterday, we discovered Simon Peter, the fisherman, has now been called to become Peter, the fisher of men. Today we will begin to see some lessons that Peter learned as he traveled through Galilee with Jesus. Instead of focus directly on the teachings of Jesus we will instead focus more on the individuals He taught. As we take a spiritual glance at some of them, we will find some of them uncomfortably familiar.

READ Mar 1:21-34

After leaving the synagogue, whose home did Jesus visit?

Who was sick at this home?

Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law and she began to serve Jesus and his followers. The text doesn’t indicate she rested for a while before waiting on her guest as we might have expected. Instead, she immediately began to serve.

What do you think might have motivated her to immediately serve the guest at her home?

She might have felt a sense of obligation as most of us do when we have guest in our home, but I think there was more to it. Verse 31 tells that she began to wait on them. The Greek word translated “wait” to *diakoneo* and it means “to be an attendant, i.e. wait upon” and it also means “to minister (unto), serve.” It is the same word used in Mark 10:45. Read that passage and not the context (verses before this one). What does that tell you about service?

Jesus came to serve. He served Peter’s mother-in-law by healing her that day and she in turn, served Jesus and His guest. She served that day more from a sense of gratitude than obligation. When our acts of service are motivated by gratitude toward God, our perspective is right. She was so grateful that she opened her home to the entire town, allowing others who needed healing to seek the same power of Jesus Christ she had experienced. That is a sincere spirit of gratitude, the mark of one who has been touched by Jesus. Once touched she could not keep him to herself.

Are you currently serving out of gratitude and love for your Lord? Do you sometimes serve out of a sense of obligation or in an effort to gain recognition? List all the ways you are currently involved in serving the body of Christ. Make sure you not what motivates you to each act of service.

I challenge you to serve out of gratitude to Jesus Christ and when you do you will find yourself giving far more graciously.

Everyone was looking for Jesus, yet Jesus was determined to go someone else to preach. News of the numerous healings had spread throughout the town of Capernaum. People were flocking after Jesus.

Why would He leave just when He was gaining such popularity? Jesus came for all people and he knew that he had work to do. Jesus remained focused on HIS purpose not on popularity.

READ Mark 1:40-45

The former leper did not listen to Jesus as he warned him not to say anything. In fact verse 45 tells us he went out and began to speak freely. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly.

What would happen when Jesus returned to Capernaum?

READ Mark 2:1-12

The crowd in the house was so large there was no room, even outside the door to stand and hear Jesus speak. The friends of the men were so convinced of Jesus' power that they were willing to dig through the roof in order to get their friend into his presence.

The man needed physical healing, right? Why would Jesus say "Your sins are forgiven," rather than simply heal the paralytic? Sometimes we forget the physical healing is not the only healing a person might need.

When the friends lowered the paralytic down through the hole in the roof, they and those in the room, assumed he was seeking physical healing. But based on the response of Jesus he needed more. To everyone's amazement, he received spiritual and physical healing and walked away with his mat. It was the forgiveness he received that allowed this former paralytic to enjoy his restored physical condition.

Peter and the other disciples had witnessed the healings and listened to His teaching as they traveled throughout Galilee. They learned their Leader had the power and authority to heal and to forgive. They also saw the now famous Teacher and Healer show compassion to the outcast in their society, including a leper.

READ Mark 2:13-17

What were Jesus's words in verse 17?

Peter and the other disciples needed to understand that the activities of the past few days were exactly what they could expect in following Him. The lepers, the demon-possessed, paralytics and sinners would become familiar dining partners for this crew. But had that realized that they too, had been called because they were sinners? Jesus had not selected them because of their great credentials or righteous behavior, but because of their need for a spiritual doctor.

READ Romans 3:23 and note what you learn:

All of us need the healing only Jesus can give.

Spend a little time today in prayer, thanking God He sent HIS Son to cover your sins and heal your soul.

Jesus truly is our GREAT Physician!