

SABBATH HEALINGS "On Fire for the Lord"

Last time we visited Jesus on a Sabbath in Scripture, he was ministering in Nazareth. After they tried throwing him off a cliff, he went on his way and came to Capernaum.

Luke 4:31-32

31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people.

32 They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. (NIV)

The KJV has this translated "sabbath days", signifying an ongoing work and ministry. On one of these "sabbath days" spectacular things happened.

1. Deliverance from the Demonic-

Luke 4:33-37

33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice,

34 "Ha! (*let us alone - KJV*) What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-- the Holy One of God!"

35 "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly (*rebuked² him - KJV*). "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!"

37 And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area. (NIV)

As Jesus is teaching, this unclean demon that had taken up residence in this man manifested itself boisterously. Jesus did not care for the testimony of demons. He told it to be quiet. As The Message puts it, he shut him up. The Greek word means to muzzle. How do you muzzle a demon? You tell it to be quite! (The demon stopped speaking coherently.)

Mark 1:26

The evil spirit **shook the man violently¹** (*KJV- torn him*) and came out of him with a shriek. (NIV)

We read the words "tear" and "rend" in the KJV and get concerned about possible damage to the one being delivered. Remember, in Luke we are told that the man wasn't hurt. The reason for the shaking and shrieking is because the demon is being hurt. It is being evicted and doesn't like it. Remember Legion? He begged Jesus not to torture him (Luke 9:28). If you didn't know it, tortured people tend to scream. Don't let the demon's despair fool you into leaving the person bound. See the deliverance through.

2. Released from the Fever -- to serve with Fervor-

Luke 4:38-39

38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.

39 So he bent over her and **rebuked**² the **fever**⁴, and it left her. She got up at once and **began to wait**³ on them. (NIV)

A composite of Luke 4:38-39; Matt. 8:14-15; and Mark 1:29-31-

Jesus left the synagogue and went with James and John to Simon and Andrew's house. They told Jesus about Simon's mother-in-law, how she was sick with a high fever and asked for him to help her. Jesus went to her, bent over her and holding her hand, rebuked the fever. The fever left her. She was healed! At once, she got up and waited on Jesus and the rest of the disciples.

Before we go on in investigating the fever, let us look at the fruit of her deliverance. Matt. 8:15 states specifically that she arose and ministered to HIM (Jesus) (NIV and in Greek autoo). What was it that was hindering her service to the Lord and his saints? The fever, of course. The fruit of her deliverance was service, ministry, in the Greek - diakoneo.

Strong's definition-

1247 **diakoneo**³ (dee-ak-on-eh'-o); from **1249**; to be an attendant, i.e. wait upon (mentally or as a host, friend, or [figuratively] teacher); techn. to act as a Christian deacon: KJV-- (ad-) minister (unto), serve, use the office of a deacon.

Matt 20:25-28

25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be **served**³, but to **serve**³, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (NIV)

John 12:24-26

24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 Whoever **serves**³ me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who **serves**³ me. (NIV)

Matt 25:41-46 [Teacher's note: application, not interpretation.]

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire [4442] prepared for the devil and his angels.

42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not **help**³ you?'

45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you

did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (NIV)

Heb 6:10-12

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you **have helped³** his people and continue to **help³** them.

11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.

12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. (NIV)

BONUS INTERLUDE- SCENE 2

John 4:46-53

46 Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.

47 When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

48 "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

49 The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

50 Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

51 While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living.

52 When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The **fever⁴** left him yesterday at the seventh hour."

53 Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed. (NIV)

3. Some Biblical Causes of Fever-

A) A result of the curse (for not obeying God)-

Lev 26:14-16

14 "But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands,

15 and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant,

16 then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting diseases and **fever⁵** that will destroy your sight and drain away your life. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it. (NIV)

Ps 102:1-5; 9-11

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come to you.

2 Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.

3 For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers (*i.e. a fever*).

4 My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food.

5 Because of my loud groaning I am reduced to skin and bones.

9 For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears

10 because of your great wrath, for you have taken me up and thrown me aside.
11 My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. (NIV)

Psa 31:9-10

9 Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly.
10 For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed. (KJV)

Bones burning = fever. Here, eye is consumed and so are the bones. Leviticus talks about fever that would take away the sight.

Lam 1:12-14

12 "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the LORD brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?
13 From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones. He spread a net for my feet and turned me back. He made me desolate, faint all the day long.
14 My sins have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were woven together. They have come upon my neck and the Lord has sapped my strength. He has handed me over to those I cannot withstand. (NIV)

B) The fire/fever/mouth connection-

The Greek word for fever derives from the word for fire. As you can well imagine, fire is a vast subject in the word of God. But we can see some correlations between fevers and fiery judgments.

2 Pet 3:7-8

7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. (NIV)

2 Pet 3:10-12 (KJV)

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

The "fervent heat" that will melt the elements is the Greek term kausoo, which is a medical term for a fever. The mouth, fire, and fevers are well intertwined in Scripture.

i. When we speak (evil)-

James 3:6

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (NIV)

Prov 16:27

A scoundrel plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire. (NIV)

ii. When we don't speak (of our sin)-

Ps 32:1-7

1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.
3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah [Possibly death knell selah - funeral dirge]
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah [Triumphal]
6 Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.
7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah [Triumphal](NIV)

iii. When we don't speak (of God's goodness)-

Jer 20:8-9

8 Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long.
9 But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. (NIV)

Ps 39:1-3 (NIV)

1 I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence."
2 But when I was silent and still, not even saying anything good, my anguish increased.
3 My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:

In contrast to this, the fear of the Lord and well spoken words can bring healing to the bones (see Prov. 3:7-8; 15:30; 16:24).

Prov 3:7-8

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.
8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (NIV)

Prov 15:30

A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. (NIV)

Prov 16:24

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. (NIV)

C) The Fire of Judgment-

Mark 9:49-50

49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.(KJV)

I Jn 3:2-3

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (NIV)

1 Cor 3:12-15

12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. (NIV)

Heb 10:25-31

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,

27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."

31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (NIV)

Heb 12:29 "for our "God is a consuming fire." (NIV)

5. The Lord Desires our Spiritual Fervor-

Rev 3:15-16

15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor **hot**⁶. I wish you were either one or the other!

16 So, because you are lukewarm-- neither **hot**⁶ nor cold-- I am about to spit you out of my mouth. (NIV)

Rom 12:9-11 (NIV)

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor [2204], serving the Lord.

2 Tim 1:5-9

5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6 For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame**⁷ the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. (NIV)

1Thes 5:14-21

14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

16 Be joyful always;

17 pray continually;

18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire;

20 do not treat prophecies with contempt.

21 Test everything. Hold on to the good. (NIV)

1 Pet 4:10-11

10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to **serve**³ others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone **serves**³, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)