

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Healing Miracles of Christ

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The Healing of Peter's Wife's Mother

And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose and ministered unto them.—*Matthew* 8:14-15.

After the healing of the demoniac in the synagogue in Capernaum on the Sabbath Day, Christ Jesus returned home with Peter and Andrew, and they were accompanied by James and John. The house was in gala attire and the seven-branched candlestick was burning for the holy meal, the noon breakfast. This weekly festival was to be especially elaborate in honor of the presence of the beloved Master. However, when they arrived at the house, as Luke writes in his gospel, "Simon's wife's mother was holden with a great fever." He came and stood over her and rebuked the fever, and then took her by the hand and raised her up; and the fever left her, "and immediately she rose up and ministered to them."

In every instance of healing the great Physician used the Word of Power, and sometimes augmented this with the touch of His hand. The hands are messengers of healing and service. When the heart center is awakened, the hands become powerful channels for the inner healing forces.

Tears, colds, and similar physical conditions belong to the water element and may be traced to the lack of control in the emotional nature. Fevers relate to the fiery element and originate in a lack of control in the passional nature. Destructive or negative thinking, even insanity, pertains to the air element, and represents a failure to master the mental (especially the imaginative) processes which are closely linked with the

creative energy. The physical body is but the sounding board of the inner vehicles which register faithfully both their discordant and their harmonious notes.

Every infirmity is connected with one of the four elements. No fiery disease can exist in the water force, nor can any weakness connected with water exist in the fire element. All poisons are of fiery origin and have their center in the desire body, wherefore the spirit of poison can have no power when the lower desires have been transmuted. To such as the Disciples of the Christ who had accomplished the transmutation, the Master could say, "Thou shalt drink any deadly thing and it shall not harm thee."

Fever is a means of fire purification, a process of cleansing the carnal desire nature. The experience of Peter's wife's mother was a dedicatory one for this woman who immediately arose and began to serve.

Love, service, and sacrifice form the threefold path that leads to the spiritually creative work of true discipleship.

Healing the Syrophenician's Daughter

And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.

And she answered and said unto him, Yes Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.—*Mark 7:24-30.*

Christ Jesus had gone into retirement for a time and desired that no one should know where he had gone. Mark writes that although Christ Jesus had thus sought seclusion, having "entered into a house, and would have no man know it," yet, "*He could not be hid.*" The compassion of His great heart always encompassed all sorrow and suffering so that He could not remain away when His succor was so much needed. Nor is He ever hidden from those who earnestly seek Him, nor heedless of any sincere call for help on any plane. "Lo, I am with you always," is His promise.

A Phoenician woman, whose name was Justa according to the Chementine writings, had journeyed one hundred and fifty miles or more in quest of His aid for her child. She was a follower of the cult of Astarte, the Moon goddess, but the fame of the Divine Healer had reached her in her far-off home, and when she had come to the place where the Disciples were she besought them to intercede with the Master for her.

At last she was brought into His presence. In response to her pleas, He said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs," and in these words we may perceive the spiritual status of the woman. She did not belong to the inner circle of students, therefore she was not ready to receive the bread (deeper teaching) of the children (inner group). That she had, however, made the complete surrender of her personal life and was determined to walk in the Way leading to the inner circle is evidenced by her reply, "Yes, Lord, for even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their Master's table."

Her dedication was accepted, and her daughter was instantly healed as the Master declared, "Oh, woman, great is thy faith, be it done unto thee even as thou wilt." These words hold high promise of the attainment that was later to be hers.

In this healing Christ Jesus demonstrated to His Disciples the truth that spirit is all powerful and that it transcends the barriers of time and space. The girl was healed at His word, though miles stretched between her and the Christ, and He had had no previous contact with her.

Faith, humility, and devotion without reservation will always open the door for every aspiring neophyte: "Great is thy faith, be it done unto thee as thou wilt."

(Continued)

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