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Learning From Difficult Times
Mark 1:29-31
November 27, 2016

We begin today's sermon with the backdrop of the synagogue where Jesus is preaching and a man with an unclean spirit interrupts the worship experience. Because the unclean spirit knew the true identity of Jesus, He was compelled to rebuke the unclean spirit and cause it to come out of the man. As the people saw the power of Jesus to rebuke unclean spirits, His fame spread throughout the region of Galilee.

According to the text, the man with an unclean spirit was experiencing difficult times, but when he encountered the wonderworking power of Jesus, his difficult times were eliminated. Immediately thereafter, as Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue and headed to Simon Peter's home, they were greeted with the news that Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever, causing Simon Peter to experience some difficult times of his own.

As surprising as it may seem, even those who were called and chosen to be the followers of Jesus were not exempt from experiencing difficult times. And so, this sermon looks at the difficult times of Simon Peter and how he was able to handle them with the Lord's help.

1. Walking with the Lord does not exclude us from worrisome issues in our lives.

Jesus calls Simon Peter while cleaning his nets and Peter decided to follow Him. Peter's home became Jesus' base of operation in Capernaum. Even though Peter was faithful to Jesus, His mother was sick for some time with a fever. Even though he saw Jesus work miracles for others, yet he is pained by the difficulties of his family.

Walking with the Lord does not exempt us from heartbreak, disappointment, hurt, and pain. No matter what, when difficult times come in your life, you've got to keep on walking with the Lord. Because walking with the Lord gives us the strength and power to get through the worrisome problems of life.

Walking with the Lord reminds me of the song, *I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

When difficult times come up in your life, just keep on walking with the Lord.

1. Knowing the Lord gives us confidence in his power.

Peter came to know the power of Jesus while fishing. He began to witness the power of Jesus over the period he walked with him. Because Peter took the time

to tell Jesus about his problems, he was confident that Jesus could work it out. And so, Peter “had a little talk with Jesus.” When you know Jesus, and watch the consistency of his power and might, you develop a **“Do It Again Kind Of Faith.”**

The text says Jesus takes the woman by the hand and the fever leaves her. Jesus puts his hands on her and things immediately begin to change.

1. **Knowing the Lord makes you an example of his compassion.**

As soon as Peter’s mother was healed, she began to serve Jesus in the house. And when people began to hear about the compassion of the Lord, they showed up at Peter’s front door because they heard that Jesus had the power to heal and deliver.

We can't sit on our blessing; rather we must go out and tell somebody what the Lord has done in our lives.