

# Luke 4:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

## Analysis

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**And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever.** After the synagogue exorcism, Jesus goes to Peter's home. The detail that Peter had a wife's mother confirms Peter's married status (mentioned in 1 Corinthians 9:5). The phrase *synechomenē pyretō megalō* (συνεχομένη πυρετῷ μεγάλῳ, gripped by a great fever) indicates serious illness—Luke, the physician, notes the fever's severity.

**And they besought him for her.** The phrase *ērōtēsan auton peri autēs* (ἠρώτησαν αὐτὸν περὶ αὐτῆς, they asked him concerning her) shows the family's faith. Having just witnessed Jesus' authority over demons, they immediately seek His help for physical illness. This demonstrates growing faith—they expect Jesus can and will heal.

## Historical Context

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First-century households were multi-generational, so Peter's mother-in-law living with Peter and his wife was normal. Capernaum homes were modest structures built around courtyards. Peter's house has been excavated, showing a typical fisherman's dwelling that was later converted into a house-church. The family's immediate appeal to Jesus reveals the intimacy developing between Jesus and His disciples. Peter's home became a ministry base where public teaching in the

synagogue extended into private miracles in the home. This pattern continues—Jesus ministers in both public and private spheres.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does the family's immediate appeal to Jesus reveal about the relationship between witnessing Jesus' power and exercising faith?
2. How does Jesus' willingness to heal in a private home demonstrate that His ministry extends beyond public religious settings?
3. What does Peter having a wife's mother teach about the normalcy of marriage among Jesus' disciples?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἀναστὰς δὲ ἐκ τῆς συναγωγῆς εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὴν  
**he arose** **And** **out of** G3588 **the synagogue** **and entered** **into** G3588  
G450 G1161 G1537 G4864 G1525 G1519

οἰκίαν Σίμωνος ἡ πενθερὰ δὲ τοῦ Σίμωνος ἦν  
**house** **Simon's** G3588 **wife's mother** **And** G3588 **Simon's** **was**  
G3614 G4613 G3994 G1161 G4613 G2258

συνεχομένη πυρετῷ μεγάλῳ καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτῆς περὶ  
**taken with** **fever** **a great** **and** **they besought** **her** **for**  
G4912 G4446 G3173 G2532 G2065 G846 G4012

αὐτῆς  
**her**  
G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 11:22** (Parallel theme): But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

**1 Corinthians 9:5** (Parallel theme): Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

**Matthew 15:23** (Parallel theme): But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

**John 11:3** (Parallel theme): Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

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