

Luke 4:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her:
and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

Analysis

And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her. Jesus epistas epanō autēs (ἐπιστὰς ἐπάνω αὐτῆς, standing over her) demonstrates personal attention and care. He epetimēsen tō pyretō (ἐπετίμησεν τῷ πυρετῷ, rebuked the fever)—the same verb used for rebuking demons (v. 35) and storms (8:24). Luke presents fever as something to be commanded, suggesting possible demonic involvement or simply Jesus' absolute authority over all creation, including disease.

And immediately she arose and ministered unto them. The healing was instantaneous and complete. The phrase parachrēma anastasa (παράχρημα ἀναστᾶσα, immediately rising up) indicates no convalescence—she went directly from severe fever to full strength. Her response was diēkonei autois (διηκόνει αὐτοῖς, she was serving them), demonstrating that genuine healing produces service. Saved to serve remains the gospel pattern.

Historical Context

Severe fevers often required lengthy recovery periods. Peter's mother-in-law's immediate return to activity demonstrates supernatural healing—not gradual improvement but instantaneous restoration. Her service (likely preparing a meal) illustrates proper response to Jesus' grace. The Greek word diakoneō (διακονέω) became the root for "deacon"—those who serve. Her immediate service models what all who are healed by Jesus should do: serve Him and others. This domestic

miracle in Peter's home shows Jesus' concern for ordinary people and everyday afflictions, not merely dramatic public miracles.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' rebuke of the fever (as He rebuked demons) teach about His authority over all creation?
2. How does the woman's immediate service after healing model the proper response to Jesus' grace?
3. Why is it significant that the healing was instantaneous with no recovery period needed?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐπιστὰς	ἐπάνω	αὐτοῖς	ἐπετίμησεν	τῷ	πυρετῷ	καὶ
And	he stood	over	her	and rebuked	G3588	the fever	And
G2532	G2186	G1883	G846	G2008		G4446	G2532

ἀφῆκεν	αὐτοῖς	παραχρῆμα	δὲ	ἀναστᾶσα	διηκόνει
it left	her	and immediately	and	she arose	ministered
G863	G846	G3916	G1161	G450	G1247

αὐτοῖς

her
G846

Additional Cross-References

Luke 4:41 (Parallel theme): And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

Luke 4:35 (Parallel theme): And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

Luke 8:24 (Parallel theme): And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org