

“Grace Interrupts” | Rev. Josh Eby | February 4, 2018

Mark 1:29-39

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. **30** Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. **31** So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. **33** The whole town gathered at the door, **34** and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. **36** Simon and his companions went to look for him, **37** and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” **39** So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Intro Question

Josh begins by stating that we are not in control. It’s impossible to be prepared for all things; that life catches us off guard and that’s ok. A lot of times it’s grace that interrupts us. Sometimes it’s not polite and it doesn’t need our permission. Any examples where you know grace has interrupted you at “inconvenient” times. Josh then delves into 3 aspects of grace: that it surprises, its cycle and its scope.

Background

This passage begins with an afflicted person, Simon’s mother-in-law who had a debilitating fever. What happened to her sets the stage not only for the rest of the passages but is the heart of Josh’s sermon.

So what happens after Christ heals her. She begins to serve! She doesn’t say thanks and go about her way, she receives grace and then begins sharing it with others.

Christ doesn’t stop here. He continues to dispense grace to the sick or those oppressed by demons. Not only in the same house where he healed Simon’s mother-in-law, but in the next towns and all of Galilee.

Read Mark 1:29-39 aloud.

Discuss:

- 1.) Discuss a time when grace has surprised your life. It surprised the mother-in-law because it was unexpected and healing.
- 2.) What did Josh mean when he said that grace never stays in bed? This is the cycle of grace. The healed go on to serve. We were saved to save. We received grace to give it.
- 3.) How do we do this? What did Jesus do? He had been healing and casting out demons all day. Probably pretty tired. Grace didn’t stay in bed. See v. 35.
- 4.) Is the scope of grace limited to Simon’s mother-in-law’s house?

Conclusion/Application

Josh ends on a more personal note by saying farewell to All Saints in his capacity as a pastor, but does so with optimism, faith and thankfulness for what’s to come. Through Vida House, he is going out to extol grace, to serve those who will one day serve others in the Hispanic community, building up the next group of missionaries. Remember, grace doesn’t end with you so pass it on!