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PETER'S MOTHER IN LAW

“And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them,” (Mk. 1:29-31). There is a great temptation to trivialize and deem as insignificant the daily necessary routine life of domestic service performed by women in the home. Washing and ironing clothes, cleaning up children and their messes, preparing meals and tidying up the living room is often portrayed in such unglamorous visions that the women who feel burdened by these chores often sense they are sinking into a dark pit of unimportant anonymity while the rest of the

world moves in glorious fashion performing the more important deeds of the day. In many instances, you can almost feel the collective disintegration of self worth and personal identity many women portray as they hear their mighty call from the pulpit to be good housekeepers and serving mothers and wives. *“...encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored,” (Titus 2:4-5).* *“...get married, bear children, keep house...” (1 Tim. 5:14).* What I love about this account in the gospel of Mark regarding the healing of Peter’s mother-in-law is the way it powerfully restores the great honor and prestige which rightfully needs to be attributed to the dignified and honorable

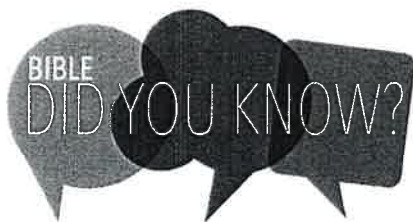
role of domestic service in the home. The powerful demonstration of the compassionate healing power in Christ is performed upon a woman with a severe fever (Lk. 4:38), and an equally powerful demonstration of her immense gratitude is seen in her immediate reaction to serve her family. What needs to be noted is her great act of kindness in preparing a meal or making her guests feel comfortable is directly proportionate to the great act of divine power performed upon her by Jesus. Shown immediately next to the awesome display of compassionate healing power simply by taking her by the hand and raising her up, her performance of service in the home as a direct response to that great divine power can hardly be viewed as trivial or insignificant or as a boring chore, but an exciting and powerful way of demonstrating her gratitude for having been the recipient of great healing power. As happy and grateful and honored as she certainly must have been to be healed through the means of divine miraculous power, these same emotions of joy and excitement and honor are what prompted her to begin taking care of the rest of the guests in the home.

She could hardly have viewed herself as an anonymous insignificant housekeeper who is unimportantly sweeping up crumbs off the kitchen table or pouring someone a drink of water, shrinking up in her mind as a second class member of society stuck at home working in the kitchen. Jesus had just taken time away from casting out demons to come directly to Peter's mother-in-law and lavish His might and power on her. She had been directly visited by God! Certainly she must have felt the honor and delight of knowing God was paying special attention to her that hour and could in no way be performing her duties in the home as an insignificant shadow. Perhaps mothers and wives need to be reminded of this. Can you just picture the overwhelming joy this woman must have felt as she showed Jesus to a comfortable place to sit and relax or prepared a meal for Peter and Andrew? As the house would later be overflowing with visitors as the entire city would be crowded at the door, can you see her working to serve those who were being healed or even attending to those waiting to be healed? Offering them something to eat, helping to clean the mess after everyone

went home, sweeping up, washing dishes, putting the house back in order... And once it had all been put back in place, she had to do it all over again several days later when Jesus came back and everyone heard of it and so many people came to hear Him preach that four men had to lower their paralytic friend through the roof to get to Jesus. As soon as this woman was healed of her fever, in her joy and thankfulness and honor she felt to be viewed as important enough to be visited and cured by Jesus, she was compelled to behave in a manner which would reflect her acknowledgment that an awesome demonstration of divine magnificent power had been performed upon her – “*she waited on them.*” Let her be a reminder that there is great work to be done by wives and mothers in the home that is a great honor and privilege to take part in. I’m told of one such woman who wanted to be constantly reminded of how needed and important her work as a homemaker was by hanging a sign above her kitchen sink which read, “Divine Service Performed Here Daily”. As husbands and fathers, let us remind those in our family who work so hard to make our homes a comfort to live in how

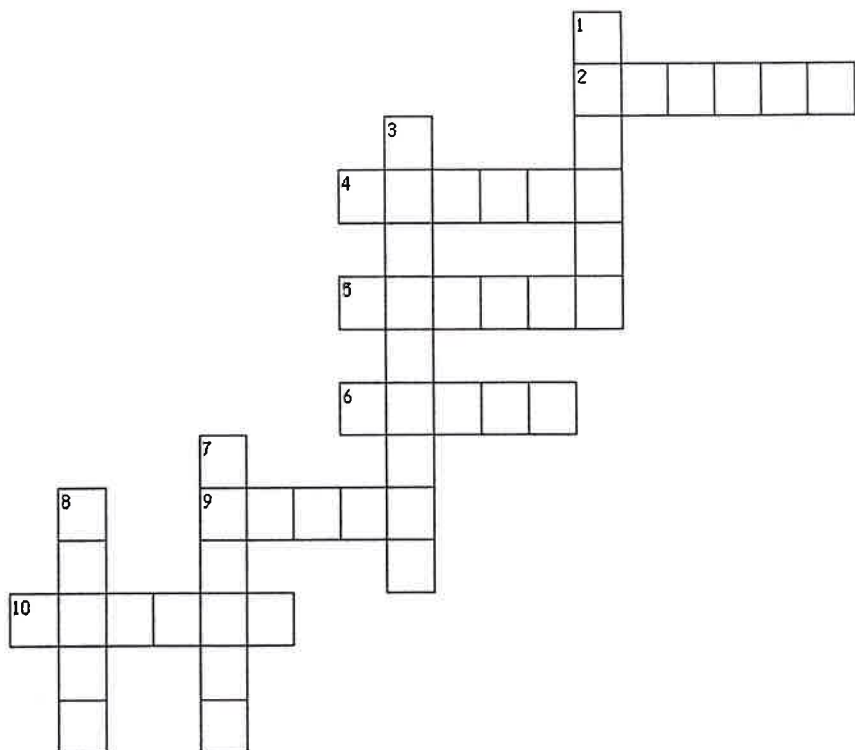
thankful we are for the great work of service they render for us, thereby showing and teaching our children how spiritually important the simple act of buttering a warm slice of toast for a hungry guest or family member truly is.

– Daniel Ruegg



In Heaven, Jesus has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses,” Rev. 19:11-14

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ACROSS

2. A woman had a hemorrhage for this many years (Mk. 5:25)
4. Name of the man possessed by thousands of demons (Mk. 5:9)
5. Synagogue official who came to Jesus to heal daughter (Mk. 5:22-23)
6. Jesus told the healed man to tell his people how he received this (Mk. 5:19)
9. After having demons enter them, these were drowned in the sea (Mk. 5:13)
10. The reaction of the people who heard about the healed man (Mk. 5:20)

DOWN

1. The man with the Legion was cutting himself with these (Mk. 5:5)
3. Name of the place where Jesus found the possessed man (Mk. 5:1)
7. Jesus was laughed at for describing a dead girl as this (Mk. 5:39-40)
8. The man with the demons dwelled here (Mk. 5:3)