

## Spiritual Sickness and Spiritual Warfare | 10.22.17

### Mark 1:29-31

#### Sermon Discussion Questions

1. This week's message dealt with sickness and Jesus's reaction to it in the Gospel of Mark. Re-read Mark 1:29-31 and take a moment to share: how do you normally react when you come to verses like these? What sort of experiences, ideas, beliefs and baggage do you bring into the conversation?
2. Pastor Jim pointed out that in the story, there seemed to be a spiritual component to her illness. He asked us to consider, "what role does spiritual warfare, demons, sin and etc. play in the physical sickness we experience?" How would you have answered that before today?
3. Pastor Jim then took us to a variety of instances in Scripture to help us map out the different ways sickness shows up in the Bible. Take a moment and discuss with the group what this exercise was like for you. Did you know these verses before? Had you ever looked at them all together and compared them like today?
4. Out of the things that were said about each instance, did anything stand out? If you'd like, take a moment to revisit some of the examples, maybe use your notes from service and discuss what your impressions were of the instances presented.
  - a. John 9
  - b. 1 Timothy 5
  - c. Mark 5
  - d. Luke 13
  - e. 1 Corinthians 11
5. Pastor Jim invited us all to find our place on the map. He gave us five things to look for saying that the more of these that are present in our illness, the more likely we're moving towards the spiritual side of the map. Are any of these present in your illness, or in the illness of a loved one or friend?
6. No matter where we are in the spectrum, God is our ultimate hope and healer. Whether he works through medicine and medical treatment, whether there is divine intervention and miraculous healing or something in between, it is God who we turn to. Pastor Jim encouraged us to seek prayer, to repent of sin in our life, engage in spiritual disciplines and to go to the elders for prayer. As you close today, share what worries you have about your sickness, as well as your fears and concerns. Then, together spend sometime praying, claiming God's promises and declaring His name above all else. Encourage and comfort each other but also remind each other that in spiritual warfare, our victory is secure in Jesus Christ.