

the truth we must curb them.¹⁶ The demon throws the man down and rends him so that those who witnessed this would see from what great evil the man had been delivered, and would believe in Christ because of the miracle.

29-31. And forthwith, when He had come out of the synagogue, He entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. But Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and straightway they tell Him of her. And He came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them. As was the custom on the evening of the sabbath, Jesus went to have supper at the house of His disciples. And she who ought to have served them was sick with a fever, but Jesus healed her and then she served them. This account makes clear that if you, O reader, are suffering from an illness and God heals you, make use of your health to minister to the saints and to serve God. A feverish man is also one who is angry and shakes his fist. But if God the Word should take him by the hand, and if he ceases to shake his fist, then this once angry man attends to the Word. For if the Word takes the angry man by the hand and he arises, then anger waits upon the Word.

32-34. And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto Him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with demons. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And He healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many demons; and suffered not the demons to speak, because they knew Him. The evangelist does not add without cause the words, "when the sun did set." Since the Jews thought that it was not permitted for one to heal on the

¹⁶ A scholion in the Greek text adds "The Lord curbed the demon. For Truth had no need of recommendation by the evil spirits, nor to be praised by the testimony of Its adversaries. At the same time He hands down to us the salvific teaching that we should never believe the demons, even if they assert that they are speaking the truth. Since the demon spoke in a sober and composed manner, and all those present supposed that the words came from the heart of the man, and not from the demon, the Lord permitted the demon to throw the man down so that it would be clear that the words were demonic, and not spoken by the man. The demon 'came out of him' without harming him. For when the Lord cast him out, the demon did no harm, but the Lord permitted him to throw the man down for the sake of those present, but allowed no harm to be done, so that the power of Him Who commanded might be revealed."

sabbath day, they waited until sunset and then brought the sick to be healed. It says that "He healed many," perhaps meaning, "He healed all," for "all" are "many". Or it could be interpreted that He did not heal all, because there were some who did not believe, and these were not healed on account of their unbelief; but many of those who were brought forward were healed, namely, those who had faith. He did not permit the demons to speak, as I have said, teaching us not to believe them even if they speak the truth. For if they find some persons who completely believe them, there is no limit to what can be done by these accursed demons, who mix falsity with truth. Likewise Paul stopped the spirit of divination from saying, "These men are servants of the most high God."¹⁷ For the saint did not wish to receive commendation or testimony from an unclean mouth.

35-39. And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, Jesus went out, and departed into a desert place, and there prayed. And Simon and they that were with Him followed after Him. And when they had found Him, they said unto Him, All men seek for Thee. And He said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth. And He preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out demons. After healing the sick He goes away by Himself, teaching us not to do anything for show. Even if we should do something good, we should strive to hide it. And He prays to teach us that if we do something good, we should ascribe it to God and say to Him, "Every good gift is from above and cometh down from Thee."¹⁸ For indeed He Himself did not need to pray. He does not give Himself over to the multitude that is seeking Him and longing for Him; while acknowledging their desire to see Him, He goes to the others who are also in need of healing and teaching. It did not befit Him to restrict His teaching to one place, but He shed the bright rays of the Word everywhere. See how He intertwines action with teaching. For He was both preaching and casting out demons. So you also, O reader, must teach and then act, lest your words be empty. For if Christ had not shown forth miracles, His words would not have been believed.

¹⁷ Acts 16.16-19

¹⁸ Jas. 117