

**Social Criticism**

**Mark 1.29-34**

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<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup> That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup> And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

**SOCIAL CRITICISM**

**Mark 1.29-34**

- Social Description
  - What do we need to know to film this scene? a
  - To understand the interactions? b
- Social History
  - What sociopolitical issues are involved?
- Sociology of Knowledge
  - What worldview is assumed? How is it maintained? How does it shape social order? a
- Models from Cultural Anthropology
  - Boundaries (physical and symbolic) a
  - Power b

**SOCIAL CRITICISM**

**Mark 1.29-34: Social Description**

PHYSICAL OBJECTS

- Synagogue
- House / door
- Where/how lying down
- Serving: food, meal setup and manners
- Typical dress
- Nature of diseases and demon-possessed
- ← • Town

**SOCIAL CRITICISM**

**Mark 1.29-34: Social Description**

SOCIAL ASPECTS

- Brothers
- Friends
- Hospitality
- Mother-in-law
- What is involved with "serving"
- Understanding of disease and demon possession
- ← • Sabbath > evening/sunset

**SOCIAL CRITICISM**

**Mark 1.29-34: Social Description**

WORLDVIEW and SOCIAL ORDER

- Sabbath
- Roles of men and women
- Family, friends, and hospitality
- Understanding of disease and demon possession
- ← • Visible world and supernatural world

