

Mark – Study 3

Read Mark 1:29-39

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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 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 travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Q. So far Mark has shown that Jesus teaches with authority (' He gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him 1:27). What is the stunning situation that continues to expand our knowledge of Jesus?

Q. How would you explain this miracle to someone? What aspects would you focus on?

Q. What do we learn about Jesus' authority?

Q. What is the implication of Jesus having performed two miracles (casting out a demon and healing from sickness)? (32-34)

Q. Re-read v32-33 and previous passages, 1:14-19 and 21-28. Try to piece together where and what times of the day Jesus had been at particular places.

Jesus has been walking alongside the Sea of Galilee as he calls the disciples who were from Capernaum. He then goes into the synagogue and spends some part of that day preaching. He casts out a demon (word begins to spread 1:28). He goes to Peter's M.I.L.s house to rest. It is dark outside as the sun has set and outside are a number of locals needing healing and exorcism. His day has just finished and yet the evening work just begins.

Q. How does Jesus respond to these demands?

Q. How does this scene inform your sense of ministry in your church? (Discuss things like, ‘Does Jesus set a realistic model of ministry for us mere humans?’ ‘How do we answer the issue of burn –out for instance?’ ‘How is it that Jesus remains resolute in the face of this pressure? Is it because He is God?’ Can compassion for others lift us beyond our human limitations?’

Q. What time does Jesus get up to pray and what might this tell us about His priority for time with His father?

Q. What are your top 4 priorities in life and articulate how you demonstrate that these are priorities?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Q. What do you think is the order of priority for Jesus just from this section? Prayer which drives him to action, or action which drives him to prayer? Back up your answer.

Q. Taking into account now that Jesus is being recognized as authoritative, having power to cast out demons and also heal illnesses, his higher purpose is now revealed. See verses 35 – 39. What is the central focus of Jesus’ mission?

Q. How might this inform our church mission and how do things like healing ministries fit into our mission for the world?

Read verses 40-45

Mark 1:40-45 ⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. ⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Q. What are reoccurring ideas in this section?

Q. What is the outcome of this miracle? (45b)

Q. What does this scene tell us about Jesus' compassion for people in need?

The outcome of Jesus' powerful miracles was that his fame grew so much so that he wasn't able to enter towns freely. Even this early in the gospel Mark tells us that the implications of Jesus' compassion for the needy are in a way inhibiting the gospel mandate. We can speculate if this outcome is also due to the spiritual forces of evil blocking Jesus from doing the work he came to do (1:13, see also 1Thess 2:18).

Q. Spend some time praying for those you know who may be ill.

Q. Spend some time praying about the gospel imperative and how we can continue to keep it as our highest mission priority.

Q. Pray for those who need to know the Gospel, and ways to reach them.
