

PROCLAIMED

MARK 1:35-45

(Prepared by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB materials.)

1. Have you ever been near a famous person, whom everyone was trying to see? Maybe a presidential candidate, or a famous singer or actor, etc. (Ernie Haase and Signature Sound.)
2. Why do we seem to want to be near famous people? (Generally, they have a gift, talent or position that is extraordinary, not common for the average person.)

This was the case with Jesus. He taught as one having authority!

We saw last week that Jesus was introduced to the world by John the Baptist, and then He was baptized, and then driven into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. So now He is back, having called His first disciples, and He has begun ministering. In the first story, Jesus displayed His authority over Satan by exorcising a demon (Mk. 1:21-28). In the next account Mark shared how Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, along with many other residents of Capernaum (Mk. 1:29-34). Mark had showed Jesus' authority through teaching, calling, exorcising, and healing. Verse 33 tells us the whole city had gathered at the door eager to see Jesus.

Jesus is off to an amazing start to His ministry. But let's look at what our passage today tells us about His ministry.

FOCUSED! Read Mark 1:35

1. What all elements of Jesus' time with God do we see here? (Early in the morning; while it was still dark; Jesus got up—He didn't lay in bed and pray; left the house; went to a secluded place; and was praying there; and though not spelled out: WHO He was meeting: the Father.

Each of these is important: time, place, plan/procedure, Person.

2. Why do you think Jesus did this? (Because He knew He needed time alone with the Father, to get His directions for His ministry, and power to carry it out.)

3. What excuses could He have chosen to make to NOT do it? (He was "so busy" with ministry; there were other people in the house; He didn't really need it since He was God, etc., etc

But He DID need it. Jesus KNEW how important His time with the Father was EVERY day. WE need to realize how important it is too.

Back in the 1950's, A. W. Tozer decried many of the weaknesses he saw developing in American Christianity. "In my creature impatience I am often caused to wish that there were some way to bring modern Christians into a deeper spiritual life painlessly by short, easy lessons; but such wishes are vain. No such shortcut exists. God has not bowed to our nervous haste nor embraced the methods of our machine age. It is well that we accept the truth now: The man who would know God must give time to Him. He must not count time wasted which is spent in the cultivation of His acquaintance. He must give himself to meditation and prayer hours on end. So did the saints of old, the glorious company of the apostles, the goodly fellowship of the prophets, and the believing members of the holy church in all generations. And so must we if we would follow in their train." (A. W. Tozer The Pursuit of Man.)

Tozer's lesson is still true today. We modern Americans want everything fast: fast food, micro waved meals, instant access, split-second internet—and I think that has spilled over into our spirituality. We want "quick daily devotions," 30 second prayers.

4. Where did Jesus' power for His ministry come from? (His daily time with the Father.)
5. Think of these elements in Jesus' time with God: the time, place, plan, etc. Which of these is hardest for YOU?
6. What changes do you need to make so you can spend focused time with the Father?

Read Mark 1:36-39

7. Where do you think Jesus got directions for what to do next?

8. Which is better: to stay in one place and have a deep, long ministry; or to go to a lot of places and share with a lot of people? (The answer is probably “BOTH!” If you stay in one place, you can impact a group of people deeply; really pour into their lives. But if you go to a number of places, you can witness to more people. There is no ONE answer. This is why we must seek God’s leadership.) Sometimes it’s good to be reminded “what you came for”! We must not get “off track” individually or as a church. Our Sunday School classes exist to “reach, teach, and care for people” Are we doing it?

COMPASSIONATE! Read Mark 1:40-42

We don’t hear much about leprosy today because it can be treated, but it was much dreaded in Bible times. There are Old Testament Laws (Leviticus 13-14) about how, if you had leprosy, you had to cry out “unclean” and warn people away, so that they wouldn’t get it.

1. Is there a modern-day equivalent to this? (In some countries like India there are leper colonies where they live (and die) together. But COVID has been treated similar—stay away, don’t touch, quarantined, etc.)
2. How did this man approach Jesus? (Humbly, kneeling, begging, etc.)
3. What did he say to Jesus? (Notice he didn’t ask for healing but for cleansing—to be made clean.)
4. What emotion did Jesus have toward this man? (“Compassion” Kyle Idleman read through the Gospels to try to determine if there was a primary emotion Jesus felt. He is described as experiencing exhaustion, joy, anger, frustration, disgust, grief, loneliness, reflection, and dread. But the one emotion attributed to Jesus more than any other is compassion! Jesus’ primary emotion was determined by what others were going through!)

Jesus saw a large crowd, felt compassion for them then He began to teach them. Jesus saw...felt compassion...and did something.

5. Notice Jesus touched him. How long had it been since he had felt a touch from anyone?

Healing revealed His power, but His touch revealed His love!

6. Do you have compassion for others like Jesus does?

We know it was God’s will for this man to be cleansed/healed. But it is not always God’s will for us to be healed. But we do know that it is God’s will for each of us to be saved. 2 Peter 3:9 says He is “not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved!

He is willing!

PROCLAIMED! Read Mark 1:43-45

1. Why did Jesus warn this man, say nothing about this, just go present yourself to the priest and comply with the Old Testament Law? (Jesus didn’t want the reputation of just another miracle worker or healer. He wanted people to come to Him to hear His teachings.)

Jesus wanted to stay focused on His mission. He came to bring spiritual healing to people. He used miracles to make that happen, but He did not want the miracles to draw people’s attention away from their greater need!

2. Why did this man disobey Jesus? (While not excusable, it is understandable that the man disregarded Jesus’ command. No doubt he was ecstatic. His motives might have been good, but it resulted in Jesus being unable to enter towns and villages.)
3. Can you remember a time when you had some great news and just had to tell people about it? (Volunteers?)
4. How can meeting physical needs open the door for conversations about spiritual needs? (When needs are met people are more likely to be open to hearing the gospel and trust us.)

The greatest evangelistic outreach is NOT “some church program,” but just individual people witnessing to other individual people and inviting them to church.

CHALLENGE!

- We must share the gospel in places that have not yet heard about Jesus.
- We can show compassion by helping others in Jesus' name.
- We must demonstrate thankfulness by telling about the work of Jesus.

Pray: Thank God for His work in each of our lives. Help us to take opportunities we see this week to share the love of Jesus.