

RTS Women's Study: The Gospel of Mark

#3: Mark 1:21-45: The Marks of Jesus' Ministry

Intro: What Would Jesus Do?

I. The Preaching of Jesus—He taught the Truth of God's Word

A. The Core of Jesus' Ministry was Teaching/Preaching

- Teaching is the very first thing Mark tells us Jesus did publicly (v.21)
- Jesus preached from town to town, for "that is why I came" (v.38)
- Why do you think the proclamation of God's Word was central to Jesus' ministry?

B. The Nature of Jesus' Teaching

- He taught from the Scriptures ("synagogue" is where the Scriptures were taught)
- He taught with "authority"
 - The people were "astonished" at Jesus' teaching (v.22)
 - Jesus spoke for God in such a way that the scribes never did—it's man's authority vs. God's authority

Key Question: Are you committed to the truth of God's Word?

II. The Power of Jesus—He Fought the Forces of Darkness

A. Power Over Demons (v.23-26; 32; 34)

- The reality of demonic forces
 - Mark reminds us that demons (fallen angels) are real and work against God's people
 - There is heightened demonic activity due to Jesus bringing in the Kingdom of God—Was the demon trying to interrupt Jesus' sermon?
 - Two extreme modern approaches to demons:
 - Some people are overly fascinated/obsessed with the demonic
 - Some people ignore or forget the existence of the demonic
- Demons submit to Jesus
 - They immediately recognize Jesus, while others in Mark often do not!
 - They are frightened by Jesus: "Have you come to destroy us?"
 - They are silenced by Jesus—Why do you think Jesus wants them to stay quiet?

B. Power Over Diseases (v.29-34)

- The passage talks about fevers (v.30-31), diseases (v.34), and leprosy (v.40)
 - Physical ailments are part of the fall; they are the result of sin entering the world
 - Physical ailments can destroy people's lives (particularly in the ancient world)

- Why does Jesus heal these diseases?
 - To demonstrate that he is Lord and creator
 - To have compassion on those suffering (more on this below)
 - They show that *a new kingdom has come!* The curse of sin is being rolled back

Key question: Are you joining Jesus in helping heal a fallen world?

III. The Prayer of Jesus—He Depended on His Heavenly Father

- A. Even as the Divine Son of God, Jesus Still prayed (v.35)
 - Prayer is not just about “asking for things”
 - Prayer shows a disposition of dependence and submission to God
- B. How Jesus Prayed
 - Early in the morning
 - A quiet place
 - He prays for us! He told Peter: “I have prayed for you” (Luke 22:31)

Key question: Are you seeking God regularly and personally?

IV. The Patience of Jesus—He was Kind and Compassionate to Others

- A. Jesus was overwhelmed with demands
 - The disciples told Jesus about Peter’s mother-in-law (v.30)
 - The disciples interrupted Jesus’ prayers with “everyone is looking for you” (v.37)
 - The leper requested Jesus to heal him (v.40)
- B. But Jesus was always patient and compassionate
 - Jesus showed no irritation or frustration
 - He took Peter’s mother-in-law gently by the hand (v.31)
 - He was not bothered when he was sought out
 - Jesus was “moved with pity” toward the leper (v.41)
 - Leprosy was physically, socially, and spiritually debilitating
 - Jesus listened to this man and even touches him!
 - Implication: Jesus understands and sympathizes with your suffering—he was a real human being just like you

Key question: Are you letting Christ’s compassion for you overflow to others?

Discussion Groups

1. Why is good teaching/preaching so important for a healthy Christian life? How are you seeking out that good teaching/preaching in your life today?
2. How does Jesus’ devotion to prayer comfort you, or challenge you today? What steps can you take to improve your regular time of prayer?
3. Do you think most people view God as compassionate and sympathetic? Why not? How does the actions of Jesus toward the leper encourage you today? How are you doing in showing patience and compassion to others?