

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 3: "Jesus Takes the Battle Beyond Capernaum"

Mark 1: 29 – 45

I. Review and Background

1. The Nature of the Gospel

- a. Mark's Gospel
- b. "Who is this Jesus?"
- c. 3 levels of understanding in Mark's Gospel
 - i. Lowest: humanity- where ignorance of Jesus' identity ruled
 - ii. Highest: supernatural (God, Satan, angels and demons) the real identity of Jesus' identity is clearly known
 - iii. Middle: disciples, who are largely ignorant of Jesus' real identity, but who at times seem to grasp some sense of it.

2. The Title of the "Son of God"- King of Israel

Discussion: When you think King? What are some traits that jump out at you?

List some at your table

Ancient near East View:

a. Life cannot pass to humanity

without an intercessory
No Hope for Mankind

b. Life flows through the King

King of Israel = Son of God
2 Samuel 7:14

Blessings and Life due to the Son of God
Good News (Gospel)

3. The Monster of Death:

- a. Death has many tentacles seeking to draw us in and take us down:
 - i. Satan and demons –Desire to Kill and Destroy
 - ii. human structures of violence and oppression
 - iii. human sin
 - iv. sickness
 - v. human ignorance and confusion
 - vi. natural dangers

- b. In the gospel of Mark, Jesus is shown as doing battle with each of these tentacles.
- c. Death, in the view of Scripture as a whole, is the last, worst, and supreme enemy that God will defeat.

II. Healing Peter's Mother-In-Law Mark 1: 29 - 31

1. Sickness Points Either Realistically or Symbolically Toward Death
2. Fevers: "fire from heaven," perhaps even as a form of punishment for sin
3. The Healing Act Itself
 - a. Jesus heals without even a word
 - b. Simple touch from him is enough
 - c. Jesus touches a woman! He breaks through social walls for personal contact
4. The Result
 - a. Immediate restoration
 - b. She serves!
 - c. She has returned to full strength; the healing has been totally effective
5. This Event ...
 - a. Shows that Peter must have been married
 - b. Honor a woman as the first person healed in the Gospel of Mark

III. General Healing Mark 1:32 – 34

1. The Timing: Sundown
2. An Important Distinction
 - a. Sickness and demonic possession are classified separately from each other
 - b. Satan and demons are not necessarily the cause of all human suffering and trouble
 - c. The Bible does not adopt a superstitious view of reality;
 - d. Satan and demons are limited; they are not omnipotent, omniscient, particularly wise, or self-controlled.
3. Various Diseases
4. Demons are Forbidden to Speak
 - a. Why?
 - i. Pragmatism
 - ii. Appropriateness
 - iii. Timing

IV. Jesus Retreats for Prayer

Mark 1: 35 - 39

1. "Desert" : Lonely Place
2. For Prayer: Prayer was critical for Jesus- not just a list- relationship Jesus didn't dare live His life without prayer
3. Jesus' Purposes
 - a. To preach/teach (notice the priority of the Word in his ministry)
 - b. To cast out demons (warfare against the leadership of the kingdom of evil)
4. To minister in a wider scope than Capernaum

V. Jesus Cleanses a Leper

Mark 1: 40 – 45

1. The Problem of Leprosy
 - a. creates deep shame, dishonor, and rejection
 - b. disorder afflicting the skin with white scabs or scales (Leviticus 13 – 14)
 - c. Unclean- leave the community
 - d. Not fatal
 - e. Miriam/ Aaron (Numbers 12: 9 -16)- "leper, represents death"
2. The Leper's Crossover
 - a. Jesus, God's supreme agent for life
 - b. The leper transformed from death to life
 - c. Jesus restores life, family, hope

VI. Primary tone of the Gospel- Jesus gives life-

I Co 15:55 Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
John 10:10 "I have come to give you life and give it to the full"

The Good News