

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 3

Mark 1:14 – 45

Homework – Miracles in Mark

- 37 Separate miracles performed by Jesus recorded in the gospels
 - Matthew – 21
 - Luke – 22
 - John – 8
 - Mark – 20
 - Delivering a synagogue demoniac (Mark 1:23-28)
 - Healing Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31)
 - Healing the all who were sick and demon possessed (Mark 1:32-34)
 - Casting out the demons (Mark 1:39)
 - Cleansing a leper (Mark 1:40-45)
 - Healing a paralytic (Mark 2:3-12)
 - Healing a man with a shriveled hand (Mark 3:1-5)
 - Stilling a storm (Mark 4:35-41)
 - Delivering the Gadarene demoniacs (Mark 5:1-20)
 - Healing a woman with an issue of blood (Mark 5:25-34)
 - Raising Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:22-24, 35-43)
 - Feeding the 5,000 (Mark 6:34-44)
 - Walking on water (Mark 6:45-52)
 - Delivering a Syrophoenician's daughter (Mark 7:24-30)
 - Healing a deaf mute in Decapolis (Mark 7:31-37)
 - Feeding 4,000 (Mark 8:1-9)
 - Healing a blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26)
 - Delivering a demon-possessed boy (Mark 9:14-29)
 - Healing blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)
 - Cursing the fig tree (Mark 11:12-14)

Summary of Jesus' Message (1:14-15)

¹⁴Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,
¹⁵and saying, **“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”**

- A time line:
 - Baptism and Temptation
 - Year long ministry in Judea (John 1:19-4:45)
 - First Miracle in Cana – Water to wine
 - Cleansing of Temple
 - Encounter with Nicodemus
 - Woman at the well in Samaria
 - Galilean ministry picking up in Mark 1:14
- After John had been taken into custody – John was arrested because he was rebuking Herod Antipas over his incestuous marriage to his niece. The passive voice of the phrase “was put in prison” without a stated agent denotes the God's purpose was being fulfilled in John's arrest. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary – New Testament Page 107)
- Jesus came into Galilee – From Judea via Samaria.
- The time is fulfilled – God's dealings with man have entered a new era with the coming of the Servant-King.

- The kingdom of God – The Jews would have understood this to be God’s earthly rule. The King was at hand. God’s sovereign rule has two aspects: 1) God’s reign in the heart’s of His people and 2) God’s future reign in the literal earthly kingdom.
- Repent and believe in the gospel – Man’s response to Jesus’ offer of the kingdom is to repent and believe. Repent here is a turning from dead works and turning to God in faith (Heb 6:1).
- Gospel – The good news that the King is offering to set up His kingdom in individual’s hearts. Repentance and faith are required to enter the kingdom.

Calling the First Disciples (1:16-20)

¹⁶As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

- To repent and believe in the gospel brings a new purpose in life that transcends everything: work, family, etc.
- Sea of Galilee – A freshwater lake 13mi long, 7mi wide, and 685ft below sea level that supported a large fishing industry.
- Simon and Andrew – Andrew (and possibly Peter) had followed John the Baptist (John 1:40).
- MacArthur gives several different phases of Jesus’ calling the twelve.
 - First – Called to salvation (John 1:35-51; 2:11)
 - Second – Called to become fishers of men (Matt 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20)
 - The disciples did not leave their occupations until after these calls.
 - Third – Called again to become fishers of men (Luke 5:1-11)
 - ... they left everything and followed Him. Luke 5:11
 - Fourth – Appointing of the twelve (Mark 3:13-15)
- Some scholars place the second and third calls at the same time. However, since Luke was careful to write in chronological order (Luke 1:3) and there were three events common to both Mark and Luke after this call recorded in Mark 1:16-20 then it seems to best fit that the call in Luke 5:11 is when “they left everything and followed Him”.
- Follow Me – Frequently used in the gospels to refer to discipleship – the denying and complete surrender of self to Jesus. Occurring when one is born again – trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. Mark 8:34
- I will make you fishers of men – The fishing metaphor may have been suggested from the occupation of the disciples. Jesus is calling the men to follow Him and the task of catching people from impending judgement. Evangelism is the followers’ of Christ central purpose (Matt 28:18-20).
- Left their father – The price of discipleship is indicated in the breaking of family ties to follow Jesus. The mention of the hired men probably means that Zebedee was a man of wealth. May have been mentioned to show that the sons did not leave their father alone to run the family business.
- Jesus demonstrates His power over individuals by calling the disciples to leave all to follow Him.
- What do I hold back from Jesus? – a sin(s)?, possession?, goal?, plans for the future?, ???

Curing a Demoniac (1:21-28)

²¹They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and *began* to teach. ²²They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, ²⁴saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “**Be quiet, and come out of him!**” ²⁶Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” ²⁸Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

- Capernaum – A prosperous fishing village on the NW shore of the Sea of Galilee. Peter lived here and Jesus made it His base of operations for the Galilean ministry.
- Synagogue – Originated in the Babylonian captivity after the destruction of the temple by Nebuchadnezzar when the Jews would gather for prayer and the study of the Torah.
- Teaching as one having authority – The scribes (scholars – professionally trained in the interpretation and application of the law) would quote other authorities. Jesus teaches directly without referring to outside authorities. This was so foreign that those present were amazed (astonished).
- Unclean spirit – i.e. demon (Mark 1:23, 5:2, 7:25, 9:17) This continues Jesus’ encounter with Satan that was briefly mentioned in Mark’s account of His temptation. He now demonstrates His power to completely “destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8).
- Demon possession

□□□□□□□□□□(demon-possessed) simply means to be demonized, to be under the control of a demonic spirit, without regard to the kind or degree of control. Although its accounts of demonized people reflect many different conditions and degrees of control, Scripture does not clearly distinguish between being possessed, obsessed, or oppressed by demons.

Demonization may be defined as a condition in which one or more demons inhabits and gains control over a human being. Demons can attack men spiritually, mentally, and physically. In the spiritual realm they promote false religions, demon worship, the occult, and innumerable kinds of immorality, including murder (Rev. 9:20-21; 18:23-24). In the intellectual and psychological realm they promote such things as false doctrines; insanity and masochism, as in this demon-possessed man, who gashed himself with stones (Mark 5:5); and inability to speak and suicidal mania (See Mark 9:17-22).

Demon domination was a common affliction in New Testament times, even among God’s chosen people, the Jews. In the apostolic church, the gift of miracles, or powers, was the ability to cast out demons. It is interesting, however, that we read of no account of demon possession in the city of Jerusalem. Throughout history, including modern times, that particular aspect of Satan’s activity seems to appear more commonly in rural and unsophisticated areas than in sophisticated urban society. It is also more common where animistic religion and its accompanying fear and worship of evil spirits are strong. In more advanced societies, a person who is seriously deranged by demons is likely to be considered insane and placed in a mental institution, and it seems certain that many people who are diagnosed as mentally ill are actually demonized.

It is significant that Jesus never blamed a person for being either diseased or demon controlled. He recognized them as victims of powers beyond their own control and as in need of deliverance, not exhortation or condemnation. MacArthur's New Testament Commentary: Matthew 8-15

- Have You come to destroy us? – Could also be rendered as a statement: You have come to destroy us!
- I know who You are—the Holy One of God! – The demons believe and shudder (James 2:19).
- Amazed – Jesus taught and acted with authority. Jesus’ purpose in performing miracles was to prove His deity and that He was the King who was bringing the kingdom.

Curing Simon’s Mother-in-Law (1:29-31)

²⁹And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. ³¹And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.

- House of Simon and Andrew – Simon and Andrew were originally from Bethsaida, but may have relocated to Capernaum when Jesus set up His headquarters there. (John 1:44, Matt 4:13)
- Lying sick with a fever – Luke’s account (4:38) adds that this was a “high” fever. The fact that someone was lying down during an illness and not carrying on their normal duties indicated that she was seriously ill.

Curing Many People (1:32-34)

³²When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. ³³And the whole city had gathered at the door. ³⁴And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

- Ill and demon possessed – Word of Jesus’ healing of the demonic in the synagogue and Peter’s mother-in-law obviously spread to such an extent that “the whole city was gathered at the door”. Mark wants to emphasize the mighty power of Jesus in that He “healed many, and cast out many demons”. The demonstration of Jesus’ power authenticated His message (1:15), but Mark points out that the people were coming to gain something not simply to fall at the King’s feet.
- Not permitting the demons to speak – The silencing of the demons demonstrates that Satan is powerless before Jesus, prevents a fueling of the charges that He is in partnership with Satan (3:22), and allows Jesus to demonstrate by word and deed that He is a different Messiah from that of popular conception.

Withdrawal for Prayer and Preaching Tour in Galilee (1:35-39)

³⁵In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. ³⁶Simon and his companions searched for Him; ³⁷they found Him, and said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.” ³⁸He said to them, “**Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.**” ³⁹And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

- Jesus and prayer – Jesus apparently often or regularly spent purposed time alone with His Father (Mark 6:46; 14:32-39). Here after probably a late, physically exhausting day He rises early while it is still dark for the purpose of prayer.
- After communion with His Father Jesus has a plan that is contrary to what the disciples expected.
- The Capernaum crowds were probably seeking Jesus as a popular miracle-worker, but His purpose was to preach – “**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**”. The miracles authenticated His message and proved that He was the King.
- Mark makes a short statement concerning the preaching tour through Galilee, but the tour probably lasted weeks or months.

Curing a Leper (1:40-45)

⁴⁰And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.” ⁴¹Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, **“I am willing; be cleansed.”** ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. ⁴³And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, ⁴⁴and He said to him, **“See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”** ⁴⁵But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

- Mark chose to include only one event from the preaching tour through Galilee. He doesn't need to relate the content of the preaching since it is primarily – **“repent and believe in the gospel.”**
- Leprosy could have been any serious skin disease ranging from ringworm to true leprosy (Hansen's disease) – a progressively disfiguring disease. Lepers were considered ceremonially unclean (Lev 13:11) and social outcasts. Leprosy brought great physical, mental, social, and religious anguish.
- Leper – This leper showed how desperate he was and the magnitude of his faith in coming to Jesus.
- Moved with compassion... stretched out His hand – Jesus could have healed this man by His word alone. Jesus felt such “deep pity” that He reached out His hand in an act of compassion. Jesus showed that He was not bound by ceremonial law. He placed love and compassion over ritual and regulation.
- This healing was 1) immediate, 2) complete, and 3) visible to all.
- Say nothing to anyone – So that Jesus' teaching in the synagogues would not be hindered, which it eventually was since this man disobeyed.
- As a testimony to them – That he had been cleansed, but also that an undeniable messianic sign had taken place. The priests may have accepted the leper's cleansing, but would reject the One who did the cleansing.