

8) Read Mark 1:40-45 again, painful open sores caused everyone to dread leprosy. Those who contracted it were quarantined because the disease was highly contagious. In this story, Jesus did what no one else dared do - He touched a leper. When He did so, the man was healed immediately. His sores were instantly transformed into smooth skin. The Lord then instructed the cleansed leper to report his healing to the priest (a requirement of the law of Moses - Leviticus 13-14), but to tell no one else. The man, however, went out and told everyone - the exact opposite of what Jesus had said. Undoubtedly he was thrilled that he had been healed and probably imagined that spreading the news about Jesus would honor Him. But the fact remains that he did just what Jesus had said not to do. One of the consequences was the Lord was swarmed by such large crowds that He could no longer publicly enter into cities, but had to remain in unpopulated areas. What is a lesson we can learn from this?

9. Additional thoughts, questions and prayer.

Mark Study 2

Mark 1:14-46

Mark presents Jesus as the suffering Servant of the Lord (10:45). His focus is on the deeds of Jesus more than His teaching, particularly emphasizing service and sacrifice. Mark omits the lengthy discourses found in the other gospels, often relating only brief excerpts to give the gist of Jesus' teaching. Mark also omits any account of Jesus' ancestry and birth, beginning where Jesus' public ministry began, with His baptism by John in the wilderness.

Mark demonstrated the humanity of Christ more clearly than any of the other evangelists, emphasizing Christ's human emotions (1:41; 3:5; 6:34; 8:12; 9:36;), His human limitations (4:38; 11:12; 13:32), and other small details that highlight the human side of the Son of God (e.g., 7:33, 34; 8:12; 9:36; 10:13-16).

1) What miracles did Jesus perform at the outset of His ministry? What do they prove?

2) Read Isaiah 52-53, how does the picture of God's Servant contrast with the introduction of Jesus from Mark 1?

3) From Mark 1:16-29, Jesus calls a diverse group of disciples. Why do you think this is? What could that mean for the spread of the good news?

4) John Knox a famous revivalist said “give me Scotland or I die” how does such a passion for telling people about Jesus compare to the modern-day evangelism programs?

5) What does it mean to be a ‘fisher of men’?

6) What can we learn from Mark 1:35-39 about prayer?

(Hint)

1. He sacrificed sleep to spend time with the Father.
2. He didn't skip prayer when tired or busy.
3. He listened to the Father in prayer, seeking direction for the day.
4. He obediently submitted to the Father's direction.
5. He didn't give into pressure from others.
6. He realized that an "open door" doesn't always reveal God's will.
7. If Jesus so needed time with the Father, how much more do we.
8. He spent considerable time in prayer, beginning "while it was still dark."

7) Where do you see Christ's humility demonstrated in Mark 1:14-46?

(Hint)

- v.9 – He underwent baptism.
- v.13 – He allowed Himself to be tempted for forty days, during which time He fasted. (We know this from Matthew and Luke.)
- v.14 – He did not preach until John's ministry was completed.
- v.16 – He reached out to lowly fisherman.
- v.35 – He got up very early after a late night healing service.
- v.35-38 – He was not enticed to bask in the popularity of the crowds, but moved on instead.
- v.41 – He touched a leper, and didn't say "Of course I can!"
- v.45 – He stayed in "lonely places", not in plush accommodations.
- v.48 – He told a man not to tell anyone that Jesus had healed him.