



WEEK ONE : Jesus Heals the Sick and Casts Out Demons

WARM-UP

- What is the most notable disease or injury you've ever suffered?
- Have you ever had what you would consider an encounter with a spirit?
- What do you do to "recharge" when you've been super busy?

WORD

³²That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who He was. ³⁵Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. ³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ³⁸Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. ⁴⁰A man with leprosy came to Him and begged Him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹Jesus was indignant. He reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. ⁴³Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴"See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to Him from everywhere."

Mark 1: 35-45 (NIV)

WE EXIST TO HELP PEOPLE KNOW GOD, GROW TOGETHER,
DISCOVER PURPOSE, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



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INTRODUCTION

Mark 1 is a great picture of what God intended the Christian life to look like. Although Mark records that “people were amazed at his teachings” (v.22), he doesn’t tell us what Jesus taught, but jumps right into a narrative of what Jesus did. Mark highlights three miracles in three different settings to start his account of Jesus’ ministry, showing by actions, that the Kingdom of God may begin in the church but extends into the home and out onto the street. Power and authority are important themes here. Verse 14 tells us that even as His cousin and ministry forerunner, John the Baptist was put into prison by the Roman-appointed, Jewish authorities, Jesus began preaching about a different authority, the Kingdom of God.

The first of Jesus’ miracles recorded here took place in a religious setting, a synagogue, where he cast out a demon, demonstrating His spiritual authority and power over demons (vs.21-28). A synagogue or church might not be the first place you’d expect a demon, but Jesus’ life on earth was marked by the unexpected. People were astounded at the authority both His words and deeds carried (v.27).

His second miracle took place in a private home as he retired to rest and eat. It was the relatively simple healing of a fever for a loved one, Peter’s mother-in-law (vs. 29-31).

Lastly, Jesus heals a man with leprosy whose disease would’ve made him a social and religious outcast, unwelcome in the synagogue and most homes (vs.40-45). He reaches out to touch a man who no one else would go near, a man whose open sores and rotting flesh would infect any who came in contact with him, and for the first time in human history, the exchange was reversed. Instead of disease being passed to the clean, cleansing was passed to the diseased.

In this passage, Mark shows us that Jesus came to heal the sick, loose the bound, and restore the outcast, not just by the words Jesus spoke but by the things that Jesus did. Mark is the book of swift action.

Mark

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS



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DISCUSSION

1. Jesus healed many, causing crowds to seek Him out. Why do you think Jesus healed people? (vs.33-34) Why do you think people were looking for Jesus? (v.37)
2. After a long day and night of ministry, Jesus woke up early the next morning to get away and pray. What do you think Jesus prayed about? Do you have a “solitary” place where you can go to recharge? (v.35)
3. After a full day of ministering, the whole town came to where Jesus was staying, bringing their sick and demon-possessed for healing and deliverance. (vs.32-33) Close your eyes and picture that scene in your mind. Describe what you see. What does it look like to minister healing and deliverance today?
4. Why do you think the leper was unsure whether or not Jesus would be willing (not “able”) to heal him? (v.40) How would the leper’s life be changed through this miraculous healing? How has your life been changed by the touch of Jesus?

APPLICATION

1. Are there any areas of your life where you need healing? Will you bring those to God this week and get others to pray for you as well?
2. Are there any areas of your life where you need some demons driven out? Will you bring those to God this week and get others to pray for you?

TRANSFORMING THE CITY, ONE LIFE AT A TIME



APPLICATION CONTINUED

3. When and where can you get away to a solitary place to seek God this week?
4. Do you know someone who needs healing, deliverance, or restoration? How can you reach out to minister to them this week?

PRAYER

1. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the gospel with someone this week.
2. Ask God to help you make time to get alone with him.
3. Ask God for opportunities to minister healing, deliverance, and restoration this week.

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