

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

Studies in the Gospel of Mark

“The Forward Motion of the Kingdom” Mark 1:35-45

MAIN IDEA

The mission of the church is to carry on with the work of the Gospel of Jesus. The opening chapter of Mark begins with the Lord going right to people along the shores of Galilee. While He did wondrous works, Jesus' first recorded words were a herald, *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.* (v15) The invitation to the would-be disciples was to become “fishers of men.” This was not to start a healing ministry, but rather to become a core of preachers, joining Christ in taking the salvation message to the people of Israel. While the crowds grew with the miracles, Jesus felt it necessary to explicitly state his mission, *Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.* (v38) Also note that the time in Capernaum began and ended with prayer in the wilderness. These sabbaths replenished and repurposed Jesus to continue the mission. Preaching on behalf of Christ and His kingdom is our core mission too, but the work will move forward in power if we also start and end each campaign sitting before Him.

SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT

As Jesus made his way to the synagogues of Galilee, he is confronted by a leper who asks to be healed. Most translations render Mark's commentary of Jesus' emotions as, *moved with compassion* (σπλαγχνισθεὶς). (v41) But the NIV2011 edition follows other copies of the Greek manuscripts and renders the Lord's feelings as, *Jesus was indignant* (ὀργισθεὶς). This seems rather harsh to think that the Lord was feeling annoyed or upset with healing someone. But the context gives clarity in that Jesus had already explained his primary purpose was in preaching. Of course, Jesus was willing to heal, but each supplemental miracle would build crowds and slow the mission. Jesus' harsh follow up and orders to go all the way to Jerusalem make a bit more sense in light of this, ***And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once, and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”*** (vs43-44) But of course, the man was so joyous he did the complete opposite. :)

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together Mark 1:35-45 and discuss Jesus' words and works. Which of the two were most important to Christ, and which was most important to the crowds?

KEY PASSAGE

Mark 1:37-39 When they found Him, they said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.” But He said to them, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.” And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

• *Why were the miracles important to the message that Jesus was preaching? How were they a distraction? Supernatural healings still happen today. How do they help the work of the Gospel ministry, and how do they hinder it? Why do miracles get more attention than preaching? What are our expectations for God to heal or do miracles for us? How do we feel when we aren't healed? How does God sometimes work in our suffering? **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9** and **Romans 5:3-5** to see how the Apostle Paul grappled with this dilemma. What is our message of hope to others when God doesn't heal?*

• *What is the difference between "preaching" and being "preachy"? What does the Bible call us to preach? What are our expectations for those we proclaim the Gospel to? Why do some feel condescension when we share Christ with them? How can we prevent our preaching from being impersonal? How can "preaching" be conversational? How does the Holy Spirit play a role in our preaching?*

PRAYER & TESTIMONY

Share how God has recently answered prayer for you, or what you would like to the group to join with you in praying for. Also, in light of our study, pray for God to reveal who He is leading you to share the Gospel with.

SPIRITUAL APPLICATION & DISCIPLINE

Prayer is way we prepare ourselves for God's work in our lives. Those moments of solitude help us align with God and therefore build confidence in the outcome. But sometimes we stumble about what to pray for. The psalmist said, *Oh how I love your law! I meditate in it day and night.* (Ps 119:97) And, *The unfolding of your words gives light.* (Ps 119:130) Try recounting Scriptures, especially those that are God's promises to us, in your prayers. When we repeat God's word it reminds us what He is like and directs us towards Him for our answers.

RESOURCE

Kathryn Butler is a trauma and critical care surgeon from Boston. She wrote this great article *If God Doesn't Heal You*, published at *Desiring God*. Her thoughts are in light of seeing miracles, her own clinical practice and what she has discovered in Scripture.



Community Group Discussion Guide

Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message from September 16, 2018.

Watch Again: <https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-christ-son-of-god-savior/video/the-forward-motion-of-the-kingdom/>