



FJBC

DISCIPLE: HOPE IN THE BOOK OF MARK • JESUS OFFERS HOPE • MARK 1:21-28 •
9/13/2020 for 9/20/2020 Small Group

MAIN POINT

Mark reveals Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever personally met anyone famous? Who was it? How did you meet them? How did the conversation go? What did you learn about that person that you did not know before?

What did you do immediately after the interaction? Who did you tell? What was your demeanor like as you shared the experience with others?

If you've met someone famous, then you know that it can be a nerve-wracking experience for some. Some of us may "clam up" and not be able to speak, while others may talk incessantly or even incoherently in their enthusiasm. Sometimes famous people can be difficult or awkward to speak with, but often times we discover that they are normal people just like us. It just takes time to get to know them.

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels in the New Testament. Mark wastes no time or space in his account of Jesus' presence on earth. Through the experiences and teachings he shares, readers are called to respond in faith and follow Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. The purpose of this study is to highlight key areas of Mark's gospel that illustrate who Jesus is and how we should respond.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Review what Pastor Curt said about this passage.

How does Jesus bring hope in the different circumstances of our lives?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 1:21-45.

Why were people astonished at Jesus' teaching? What was different about His teaching from that of the scribes (v. 22)? What did this demon know about Jesus (v. 24)?

This man had one "unclean spirit," and yet he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?" (v. 24). Why do you think this one demon asked Jesus if He had come to destroy "us"? What does that tell us about Jesus?

In differentiating saving faith from knowledge of God, James says, "even the demons believe and shudder" (Jas. 2:19). This demon knew who Jesus was, "the Holy One of God," and yet still chose to live in rebellion against Him. This one demon speaks for all when he expresses concern that Jesus might destroy all demons. This unclean spirit recognized that Jesus had authority not just to destroy him, but that Jesus had authority over the entire demonic order.

**What is significant about the manner in which Jesus casts out this demon (v. 25)?
What might be significant about Jesus exorcising this demon with His words?**

Jesus rebuked the demon saying, "Be silent, and come out of Him!" God spoke the world into existence. He said, "let there be light" and there was light and over everything that God made, He declared "good" (see Gen. 1:3-4). The presence of this demon-possessed man, however, tells us something very important: the world is not good. Evil has broken into God's good world. Thus Jesus casts this demon out the same way God spoke the world into existence, by His Word. This reveals Jesus' divine nature and mission. He is going to restore God's world by doing something about the evil present in it.

How did people respond when Jesus cast out the demon (v. 26)? Why do you think Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons, and raised the dead?

What might demonstrating His authority over sickness, death, and demons communicate about Jesus' mission?

When Jesus exercised authority over the demons, sickness, and death, He was not just showing us how great He is, He was telling us that He has come to do something about those things. Jesus has come to establish His kingdom and restore the world back to its pre-fall state. Jesus has come to establish God's kingdom on earth by doing something about what is wrong with the world. Jesus' miracles were precursors to His death and resurrection by which He would render our great enemies absolutely powerless over us. Jesus is the good news of God. Through Him, God's kindness entered our world. Through Jesus, God offers to free us from that which oppresses us. It's what he had to do to free us that is most surprising.

Read Mark 1:22 and 1:27. What is Mark showing us about Jesus in this opening event of Jesus' ministry?

Mark 1:35 uses four verbs in describing Jesus' actions one day—rising, departed, went, prayed. What does this tell us about Jesus' priorities in his ministry? What can we learn from this for our own walk with God?

In first-century Palestine, a leper² was someone who was not only physically unclean but also ceremonially unclean. To touch such uncleanness would make oneself unclean. In Mark 1:40-45 Jesus heals a leper not simply by speaking to him but by touching him (v. 41). Doing so did not make Jesus unclean; it made the leper clean.

What does this teach us about who Jesus is and what he came to do?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Having discussed these core events in Jesus' ministry, how do you respond to who Jesus? Do you believe in him as the Son of God, a good teacher, or what? Explain.

If you're a Christian, the message of Mark calls you to action. How can you be a part of God's plan and make it known to others? How should it affect the way that you plan?

PRAYER

Close your time in prayer, praising God for who Christ is. Praise Christ for being God made flesh who died and who rose. Thank God for the resurrection which is the power of salvation.

COMMENTARY

| MARK 1:21-28

1:21. Jesus and His team entered a small city called Capernaum, located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. This city was probably the home of Peter, Andrew, James, and John, His new disciples. Capernaum became a major site for Jesus' healing and preaching ministry—a kind of base of operations for His Galilean ministry. The Sabbath was set aside as a day of worship and rest. The people would gather at the synagogue for prayer and exposition from the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach. A Jewish custom permitted visiting teachers, like Jesus, to preach by invitation of the leaders of the synagogue.

1:22. The people were amazed at Jesus' teachings. His teachings were different because He taught as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. The scribes were professionally trained scholars who applied and interpreted the law. The difference between Jesus' teaching and the scribes was that the scribes never gave an independent opinion. They always quoted other experts such as "rabbi such and such" to back up their interpretations of the law. Jesus did not quote any source. He was the ultimate authority in and of Himself. Jesus taught with authority that came straight from God.

1:23-24. The synagogue service was interrupted by the cries of a man who was possessed by an evil spirit. Immediately Jesus was opposed by Satan. This was a key event because Jesus had the opportunity to show His authority over the power of Satan. The term "evil spirit" means that this man's personality had been damaged to the point that the core of his being was under the control of a demon. The question What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? shows that there was more than one demon in the man. There must have been several demons possessing this man and causing him to cry out. The demons also clearly recognized the authority and mission of Jesus. The demons seemed to know that Jesus' preaching brought judgment. If one did not respond to Jesus' preaching, then judgment would occur. The use of Jesus' name by the demons and His title the Holy One of God is believed to be an attempt by the demons to gain control over Jesus. It was widely believed that by uttering one's name, an individual could gain power or control over that person. The demons seemed to hope to do this with Jesus.

1:25-26. Those who could cast out demons, called exorcists, would usually identify themselves by name to some deity or power and then pronounce some authoritative phrase to cast out the demon. Jesus needed no magical formula to exorcise the demon. He was the ultimate authority. He ordered the demon to be quiet. At this authoritative word of power, the evil spirit convulsed the man, then left him with a shriek.

1:27-28. The people were amazed once again. In fact, they said, What is this? A new teaching—and with authority. They had never experienced such power and authority. Jesus' authoritative teaching was backed up by authoritative action. Jesus' authority was inherent within Himself. As usual, Jesus' teaching not only generated great discussion but caused His fame to spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

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