

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 22, 2015

Passage: Mark 1:29-45

Memory Passage: Mark 1:34

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:29-34.** Why do you think Mark includes the story of Jesus healing Simon's mother-in-law?
- (b) Why do the people wait until "sundown" to come to Jesus, and why does this fact not stop Jesus from healing Peter's mother-in-law or her serving Jesus & the 4 disciples?
- (c) What is different about the way Jesus deals with the sick and the way he deals with those oppressed by demons?
- (d) How does this distinction help us minister to people today?
- (e) Explain why the demons' knowledge of Jesus led to Jesus forbidding them to speak.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:35-45.** Why does Jesus, the Holy Spirit-endowed Son of God, need to pray?
- (b) Now that we know why He needed to pray, why does Jesus find it necessary to rise very early, depart from the house and His disciples, and go to a desolate place to pray?
- (c) About what do you think He was praying (though the text doesn't say, use your sanctified, context-driven, imagination!)?
- (d) If the Son of God found it necessary to pray as He went about His ministry, how much more should we be in prayer as we go about ours (and no, I'm not letting you off with such a generic answer!)? Write down at least 3 ways that you will improve your diligence & consistency in prayer during the coming week.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:35-45.** What do we learn about the disciples in vs.36-37, and what does Jesus teach the disciples in v. 38?
- (b) Casting out demons is becoming a recurrent theme (vs. 23-26, 32-34, 39). Why is this theologically important to Mark?
- (c) What is unusual about the leper's actions and words in v. 40?
- (d) What is unusual about Jesus' actions and words in v. 41?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:35-45.** Why does Jesus tell the cleansed leper to (1) be silent, and (2) present himself to the priest?
- (b) Why do you think the cleansed leper disobeyed Jesus, and how did his disobedience affect Jesus' ministry?

(c) **Read Lev. 13.** What do you learn about leprosy and how a leper is to be treated? How does this help you understand more fully the actions of the leper & of Jesus in Mark 1:40-45?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 1:35-45.** What diseases or illnesses are present today that cause the kind of shunning lepers received?

(b) Many people in Jesus' day would look at sickness, especially something like leprosy, as being caused by one's sin and therefore being deserved. How often do you, in your thoughts if not spoken aloud, look at certain illnesses, sicknesses, or conditions as merely a result of the person's sin so therefore they deserve what they have and are not worthy of your ministry?

(c) If you are prone to this, spend some time in prayer repenting before God and asking Him to give you the compassion Jesus displayed toward those who need loved, touched, and cared for.

(d) In what ways are you ready and willing to compassionately stretch out your hand and touch people who are in need of healing, no matter what their condition?

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The Compassionate Healer