

## **Mark Chapter One (Part Three) – Teaching Notes**

**Introduction:** A key idea in Mark is that we should be servants of God. Today, we hope to discuss Jesus' power over disease and leprosy.

### **Body:**

#### **Read Mark 1:29-39**

**2. Over Disease.** Jesus ends up in the home of Simon and Andrew. He heals Simon's mother – in-law. He heals and casts demons out of many. In vs. 35, Jesus was up early in the morning praying. Simon and others found Him and sought to get Him to respond to the people. Jesus focused on His mission to the larger area.

Questions/Applications –

#### **What should believers do, in light of the importance of stilling away to hear God?**

- Notice in vs. 35 that Jesus appears to still away to focus on hearing God the Father. Let's make time to focus on hearing God speak to us. Morning, noon, or night is not as important as finding a time that allows you to focus. I strongly recommend that your listening include some scripture reading, praying, and meditating. I would add journaling. We should have a regular quiet time with God. However, there will be special times that we need to still away as well. And of course, after we hear, we should obey.

#### **What should believers do, in light of the importance of putting God's will over the will of the people?**

- Notice that in vs. 38 that Jesus put His divine calling above the cries of the people. Almost all of us will have a time where what God wants us to do is not in line with what people want us to do. When such a time comes, we must obey God. This is an easier decision, when we are choosing between good and bad. However, it takes discernment and courage to decide to do what is great, instead of what is good (see Lk. 10:38-42). An example may be raising our children to be independent, instead of simply spoiling them in reaction to our thinking that we were deprived as children. Another example may be the Pastor developing a system to care for the troubled, instead of him trying to do it all by himself. Let's seek God's wisdom and courage to do His will, instead of simply what people want us to do.

#### **What should believers do, in light of how we should trust God's plan, instead of pushing our own agendas?**

- Notice in vs. 39 that Jesus went to other places, where He preached and performed miracles. It seems as if the people accepted His supposed following of the Father's instructions. Let's work on trusting God to do what is best, even when it doesn't cater to our preferences. Human leaders are human. They have limited amount of time and energy to do a great work. Sometimes their limitations and God's call on their lives takes them beyond what we would prefer. Let's work on being in tuned enough with God that we accept our leader's and God's servant's actions as the will of the Lord. If we trust God, God has a way of taking care of His own.

#### **Read Mark 1:40-45**

**3. Over Leprosy.** A man with leprosy came to be healed by Jesus. Jesus compassionately healed the man with a touch. The man disobeyed Jesus' instructions about what to say.

Questions/Applications –

**What should believers do, in light of the importance of compassionately ministering to the needs of people?**

- Notice in vs. 41 that Jesus compassionately touched the man and healed him. The Christian religion is at its best when it is known for its love, not simply demonstration of knowledge or compliance with traditions. Let's work on being more compassionate. /// The touch of the text was a demonstration that Jesus put the healing of the man over compliance with the ceremonial law. Love trumped the law. Let's make sure love is considered the greater good. When in doubt, let's err on the side of love. This kind of thinking causes supposed senior saints to love people more than worship style or dress codes. /// Jesus did what He could. He healed him. We may not be able to heal, but we can serve and use what God has given us. Compassion without action is worthless pity. Let's work on having action oriented compassion, instead of pity and a bunch of talk.

**What should believers do, in light of the importance of giving in proportion to our appreciation?**

- Notice that in vs. 44 that Jesus instructs the man to give. A part of the giving should have been to reflect appreciation for the great things that God had done. The more God gives to us and blesses us, the more we should want to give to Him. The way we give to God is to give to God's church. There is a great inconsistency with our doing better each year in our lives but yet we are getting no closer to at least tithing. Let's give like we appreciate what God has done, is doing, and will do for His people.

**What should believers do, in light of the importance of obeying God, instead of simply doing what seems right to us?**

- Notice in vs. 45 that the healed man was disobedient and many in the city missed out on seeing and being healed by Jesus. Obedience is better than sacrifice, especially, when there is a way that seems right to a person but the ends there of are the ways of death. Let's work on obeying God's will. Even when we don't understand the guidelines that are given in the church, we often do well to simply obey, instead of doing what we think is best. For example, in I Corinthians 14:26-33a, we are taught to edify one another in the corporate worship service, instead of doing what may be personally edifying to ourselves. This principle when applied may push us to consider what is more edifying for the people of God long devotional prayers before the altar call or shorter real devotional prayers? – traditional devotionals or praise teams or some mixture of both? Thinking about and living by the Word of God can be challenging.

**Conclusion:** Let's work on being servants of God. God has much for those who obey His will.