

Notes for Virtual Vestry Sabbath School discussion

12 June 2021

Llew

Bible passages	Matt.	Mark	Luke	John
Miracles (1): In and around Galilee	8:14-17	1:21-28 1:29-34 1:35-39	4:31-37 4:42-44 4:42-44	4:46-54

The outline questions below will stick with Mark's account for ease of focusing on one account but please feel free to read all the passages and bring any nuances to the discussion.

Part 1 Jesus – the Holy One of God (Mark 1:21-28)

Read the story through a couple of times in the above passages and then consider the following questions.

1. What positive and negative things might this story tell us about the worship service Jesus attended?
2. How safe are we from being demon possessed? Is it in our power to not be possessed?
3. Consider the three things the demon says in verse 23.
 - What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
How might the following links help us understand what the question means - Judges 11:12 and 1 Kings 17:18?
What did the demon expect of Jesus?
 - Have you come to destroy us?
Who is the demon referring to as "us"?
Did the demon really think Jesus might 'destroy' us?
Why doesn't He?
What might the demon think of Jesus' work and character?
 - I know who you are—the Holy One of God/Son of God
What does the demon know?
Is the demon referring to the Holy One described in Isaiah 40:25?
Is the demon telling the truth about Jesus? And why does no one else in the story talk about what the demon said? If what the demon says is true, who are the Pharisees going to seek to kill? See Mark 3:6.
Consider another statements the demons make about Jesus – see Matthew 8:29 and Mark 5:6-7. Who do you conclude Jesus is?
4. Why might Jesus have silenced the demon? What is your concept of Jesus?

5. Why and what two things about Jesus amazes [Mk 1:22 & 27] the people in the synagogue? What in this story amazes you about Jesus?

Part 2 Sabbath and Healing (Mark 1:29 – 34)

1. Are there illnesses Jesus is not concerned about? How easily does Jesus deal with demons and illness?
2. If the incident in the synagogue happened in the morning and Jesus heals Simon's mother in law in the early afternoon, how much time was lost until sunset?
Why did they wait until sunset?
Where did they get the idea from that there should not be healing before sunset?
This seems to signal a major issue – how might the story in Mark 3:1-6 relate to this incident?
What made Jesus heal on sabbath?

Part 3 Jesus' focus keeping the main thing, the main thing (Mk 1:35-39)

Morna Hooker

“Nothing in the Gospels is as impressive as Jesus' single-minded obedience to his Father. Mark records three passion predictions - Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-31, 10:32-34. They are set at Caesarea Philippi, in Galilee and on the road leading to Jerusalem. The sayings have been likened to the solemn tolling of a bell; certainly they dominate this section of the Markan narrative and remind us of the inevitable destiny of the Son of man which Jesus obediently accepts.”

CH Spurgeon

The more work we have to do with men for God, the longer we ought to be at work with God for men. If you plead with men, you cannot hope to prevail unless you first plead with God. And, inasmuch as our Lord had great success the day before, it teaches us that the greatest success does not release us from the necessity of still waiting upon God.

1. How does prayer – see v35 - help us to know what our duties are?
2. What is the role of silence and solitude in hearing or allowing God to talk to you? Do any of you have stories about when God spoke to you?
3. Read Mark 1:38 & 39. Why did Jesus come? What was his mission?

4. Mark begins his book by saying that this is the good news [gospel] of Jesus. What good news do you see in these passages?