

22S37 Mark 1:29-45 (Part 3)

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 1:29-45 (Part 3) Jesus heals Peter mother-in-law and many others and Jesus preaches in Galilee and healing of the man with leprosy.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the new testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 1:29-45 (NAS) ²⁹And immediately after they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and they immediately spoke to Jesus about her. ³¹And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she served them. ³²Now when evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. ³³And the whole city had gathered at the door. ³⁴And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew who He was. ³⁵And in the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and prayed there for a time. ³⁶Simon and his companions eagerly searched for Him; ³⁷and they found Him and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." ³⁸He said to them, "Let's go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may also preach there; for this is why I came." ³⁹And He went into their synagogues preaching throughout Galilee, and casting out the demons. ⁴⁰And a man with leprosy came to Jesus, imploring Him and kneeling down, and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." ⁴¹Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out with His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." ⁴²And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. ⁴³And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, ⁴⁴and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 1:29-31 (NAS) *²⁹And immediately after they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and they immediately spoke to Jesus about her. ³¹And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she served them.* So, after Jesus left the synagogue, remember he just made a demon leave a man and the people were astonished. Now Jesus, Simon or Peter, Andrew, James and John went to Peter's house probably for a meal. When they get there, Peter's mother-in-law is sick. We don't know how sick. But Jesus takes her by the hand and she's not sick anymore. The last phrase in versus 31 is often over thought. "she served them" (NAS). Other translations use "she began to wait on them" (NIV). She began to minister to them (KJV,). But I think I like the wording of the NLT the best, "she prepared a meal for them". The concept here is not really waiting of them or ministering to them as we think of these words. Peter brought friends home of dinner and his mother-in-law as well as probably his wife prepared food for the guests. This is called hospitality. The Jewish people took hospitality very seriously. There are still people that do today. In my house if a guest comes, my wife, sister in-law, mother-in-law all hurry to provide them with something to eat as a demonstration of hospitality. When someone comes to my home, I almost always ask if I can get them something to drink. Water, soda, coffee. This is also hospitality. This is what Peter's mother-in-law was doing. It was needed and she got it done.

Let's read on, Mark 1:32-34 (NAS) *³²Now when evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. ³³And the whole city had gathered at the door. ³⁴And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.* So after dinner, did Jesus have a nice leisurely evening with His friends. Well not really, the people of the town figured out where Jesus was and started bringing sick and demon-possessed people to be healed. Many. Many, Many. I would guess this went on into the early morning hours. But, don't miss this. Jesus would not permit the demons to speak because they knew who He was. Why? Well latter in the story, Jesus tells us. His time had not yet come. Meaning. Jesus did not want to overwhelm people's free will. If these demons had spoken, then it would have been impossible for people to deny Jesus was God. But God does not want it this way. He wants us to choose Him, not be forced to acknowledge Him. Of course, there will come a time when choosing is over, and Jesus will reveal to everyone He is who He said He was. Jesus is King. Better choose your side now.

Let's read on, Mark 1:35 (NAS), *³⁵And in the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and prayed there for a time.* We need to pay attention to this point. Jesus did this a lot during His earthly ministry. He took time away by Himself. Away from the crowds. Away from His friends. Time to pray and prepare Himself. Now understand Jesus is God. It's not like He needs to recharge His batteries, but of course Jesus is also fully human. I'm sure He got tired. He had to physically prepare His body, even though He was always mentally and spiritual prepared. This is a very good lesson for me. Take time away from all the chaos of your life, pray, listen. Scripture says, "be still and know that I am Lord" We have to be quite long enough to hear God.

Let's read on, Mark 1:36-39 (NAS) *³⁶Simon and his companions eagerly searched for Him; ³⁷and they found Him and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." ³⁸He said to them, "Let's go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may also preach there; for this is why I came." ³⁹And He went into their synagogues preaching throughout Galilee, and casting out the demons.* I love Peter. I'm often like this. Jesus is gone, so they search and search. Then they find Jesus and tell him everyone is looking for you. I can imagine Peter probably used different words and was probably emotional. Scared, angry, frustrated, we don't know what emotion but I'm pretty sure it was emotional. And by the way, Jesus probably already knew people were looking for Him, He's God. But Jesus just says, let's go to some other places. Throughout Galilee teaching and healing.

Then Mark includes one specific story in Mark 1:40-41 (NAS), *⁴⁰And a man with leprosy came to Jesus, imploring Him and kneeling down, and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." ⁴¹Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out with His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."* I've often wondered why we have these specific stories, when the scriptures say many were healed and many demons were cast out. We should slow down and pay attention to these specific stories of healing; the author Mark and God are using this specific story to show us or teach us something important. One think to understand first is people with leprosy were not supposed to approach people. Many forms of leprosy are very contagious. Touching someone with leprosy was just not done. Yet Jesus touches this man and instead of being contaminated by the man, Jesus' purity is transferred in part to the man. He is healed. I don't know the reason for this story for certain but for me, this is just like me. I am dirty with my sin and brokenness and Jesus comes down to me at my level in life and touches me. Jesus cleanses me. I can't do it for myself, Only Jesus can heal me. And I like the way the Bible says, Jesus was moved by compassion. Sometimes this is translated as pity. The creator of the universe, cared for this man. Was moved emotionally by the condition of this man. I'm sure glad Jesus can see through my mistakes and bad attitude, my brokenness and sorrow, and still care for me. Help me in ways I can't help myself. Thank you, Jesus.

Let's read on, Mark 1:43-45 (NAS), *⁴³And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, ⁴⁴and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a*

testimony to them.”⁴⁵But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

I always used to wonder. Why is Jesus telling the people He heals not to tell anyone. That's impossible. I think this is more about Jesus not wanting to attract attention. He of course knows the man is going to ignore His words and tell everyone. The man can't contain himself. I'm sure he started screaming to everyone as soon as his shock wore off. Jesus was still wanting to keep things small, so he went out into the wilderness areas. But people still came. But these really wanted to see Jesus, not just the curious but those in desperate need of Jesus. No longer convenient to see, it took effort from the crowds that followed Jesus.

Let's review.

- 1) Hospitality? Peter's mother in law is sick. Then bang, she fixed food and showing hospitality. Jesus and his group needed this service. Jesus healed without words. All he did is take her by the hand and she was healed.
- 2) Healing? Why does Jesus heal and cast out demons in the Bible story. Well the tougher question is why didn't Jesus just heal everyone. He could. I think we miss the purpose in the story. We focus on the sign, healings without understanding the purpose of the sign. I believe these are glimpses of heaven. Jesus is showing glimpses of what it is like when Jesus is in charge of everything. But you have to come to him. These signs also validate who Jesus is and that what He says is valid too.
- 3) Wilderness? So why is Jesus out in the remote unpopulated areas instead of the big cities? By design, you have to really want to see Jesus. God wants us to be committed to see Him. No casual on lookers, I call them looky-loos. People who just wander by to see what's going on. It's convenient. Jesus made it anything by convenient. Only those who really wanted to see Jesus, got to spend time with him during these periods of his ministry.

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

Let me leave you with this, Mark walks us through a typical day in the life of Jesus here in Chapter 1. We don't have all the details but you can sense that these are long days. Tiring days. Why do we think following Jesus will be easy. It takes effort on our part. Life takes effort, so why not focus your effort on getting to know Jesus. Following Jesus and living the better life Jesus wants for you. Jesus does not ask for us to sort of follow him or sometimes follow him. We have to always in every moment follow Him. That's when we get to experience the better life now. We can face our troubles and sorrow now with hope. Trust Jesus. We can serve others in the name of Jesus now, That's how we live the abundantly satisfying life Jesus promised us in the scriptures. Life in

the kingdom of God serving king Jesus today, right now. Put God first in everything, then leave the outcomes up to Him.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.