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The Gospel of Mark “Following Jesus” Mark 1:21-45 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



As we move through the book of Mark, we will start to see the message of Mark unfold. The Gospel's main message is about discipleship, following Jesus. In this section, we see an example set for being a follower of Jesus. In order for us to follow Jesus we must demonstrate selflessness. We cannot make the mistake of following Jesus in order to receive personal gain. We are followers in order to promote the glory of God to the world. The call to discipleship is a call to something greater; it is a call to follow the one with divine authority over all of heaven and earth.



Read Mark 1:21-45 (NET)

²¹ Then they went to Capernaum. When the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people there were amazed by his teaching, because he taught them like one who had authority, not like the experts in the law.

²³ Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, ²⁴ “Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him: “Silence! Come out of him!” ²⁶ After throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed so that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ So the news about him spread quickly throughout all the region around Galilee.

²⁹ Now as soon as they left the synagogue, they entered Simon and Andrew’s house, with James and John. ³⁰ Simon’s mother-in-law was lying down, sick with a fever, so they spoke to Jesus at once about her.

³¹ He came and raised her up by gently taking her hand. Then the fever left her and she began to serve them. ³² When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and demon-possessed.

³³ The whole town gathered by the door.

³⁴ So he healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. But he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ Then Jesus got up early in the morning when it was still very dark, departed, and went out to a deserted place, and there he spent time in prayer. ³⁶ Simon and his companions searched for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” ³⁸ He replied, “Let us go elsewhere, into the surrounding villages, so that I can preach there too. For that is what I came out here to do.” ³⁹ So he went into all of Galilee preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

⁴⁰ Now a leper came to him and fell to his knees, asking for help. “If you are willing, you can make me clean,” he said. ⁴¹ Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing. Be clean!” ⁴² The leprosy left him at once, and he was clean. ⁴³ Immediately Jesus sent the man away with a very strong warning. ⁴⁴ He told him, “See that you do not say anything to anyone, but go, show yourself to a priest, and bring the offering that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” ⁴⁵ But as the man went out he began to announce it publicly and spread the story widely, so that Jesus was no longer able to enter any town openly but stayed outside in remote places. Still they kept coming to him from everywhere.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. As followers of Christ, what should we understand about Him from this passage?

14. How can we make sure that we are following Christ because of His authority and who He is, rather than following Him because of what He can do for us?

15. a. What are some examples of following Jesus because of what He can do?

b. What does it look like to follow Jesus for who He is?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES