

September 18/19, 2004

Study Questions

The Good News About Jesus According to Mark

Jesus: Purpose Driven & Compassion Given

Mark 1:29-45

Pastor Andy MacFarlane

Opening Discussion

1. Is it easy for you to state your purpose in life? Why or why not?
2. What are the benefits of living with a clearly defined purpose? What are the limitations of living with a clearly defined purpose?

What are the consequences of living without a clearly defined purpose?

Bible Study

1. In verse 31, why do you think Mark added the detail that Peter's mother-in-law waited on them?

Would you describe your recovery from past fevers as gradual or immediate?

2. In verse 33, why do you think so many people gathered at the door where Jesus was staying?

How do you think you would have reacted to the news of these miraculous healings?

3. In verse 34, why do you think Mark includes the fact that Jesus cast out many demons?

Why do you think Jesus silenced the demons?

What conclusions do you draw from Jesus' interaction with the demons?

4. Why do you think Jesus felt the need to get away to be with His Father?

What do you make of Simon's response to Jesus' withdrawal from the crowd?

In verse 38, why does Jesus move on from the crowd?

How do you respond to people who say that Jesus showed a lack of compassion by not meeting all the needs before moving on?

5. In this passage, how do you see Jesus' purpose directing His life?

How does your purpose direct your life?

6. In light of Jesus living by purpose, are you surprised by His show of compassion in verse 41? Why or why not?

Can a person be task-oriented and compassionate at the same time? If so, how?

7. Are you surprised that the leper couldn't keep silent about Jesus' work in his life? Why or why not?

If you had been that leper do you think you could have kept silent about your healing? Why or why not?

Application

1. Do you have a clearly defined purpose in life? If not, take time this week to write out a purpose statement for your life.

If you do have a clearly defined purpose, are you living by that purpose? If not, what change do you need to make to live according to your purpose?

2. Do you view people with compassion? Ask God to give you His compassion for others.
3. What is a reasonable amount of time that you can devote to prayer each day? Write that amount of time into your schedule. Make prayer your most important task.