

MARK 1:35-39 Part 2

INTRO/REVIEW: Read **Mk. 1:29-45**

- *In these verses we see the Spirit communicating through Marks writing and highlighting 3 core elements of the earthly ministry of Jesus;*
 - 1) The validation and proof of His kingship and Messiahship by the miracles which were worked through Him.*
 - 2) The power that sustained Him and His ministry came from His personal prayer life and communion with His Father with His dependence on the Holy Spirit.*
 - 3) The priority of His ministry was to preach the gospel to the lost so that through faith in Him they might be saved unto everlasting life.*

PRAYER; THE SAVIORS SOURCE OF POWER:

- Jesus did not have time for prayer..... He had to make time.
- No man ever has experienced a busier life than He, but Jesus knew the need, importance, necessity, and joy of prayer, and He made it an absolute priority in His life,
- What Jesus needed we cannot do without.
- Can any of us imagine saying before the throne of God and truly say "I spent too much time in prayer."
- "He with whom God dwells is never less alone than when alone, for then he enjoys without interruption God in himself and himself in God. Solitude is the mother country of the strong. The true deepening of the spiritual life is better sought in the desert place than in conventions." (Alexander MacLaren.)
- Prayer is the true test of a Christian's character and life.
- Here in our prayer closets spiritual life either decays or flourishes.
- *"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray." – Samuel Chadwick*
- *"What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men who the Holy Spirit can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not come on machinery but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer." – E. M. Bounds*

PREACHING THE SAVIORS PATTERN OF MINISTRY:

- Jesus' answer is a great contradiction and perhaps a letdown for the hometown boys. Let's move on to other towns. But Jesus had received His directions during prayer.
- VS. 38 & 39, Jesus lets them know that He must go to other towns that He may PREACH there also, and that this was His mission.
- Jesus was a preacher, and prayer and preaching was the seed bed of His actions. For 3 long years He went forth proclaiming the gospel.
- Sometimes in houses, sometimes on a mountain, sometimes in a synagogue, sometimes in a boat, and sometimes in the street or on a shore.
- He was a gospel proclaimer and when we think of the picture we have in the gospels of Christ, we see Him preaching often accompanied with signs and wonders which were the validation of the truth that He spoke and of His Person.
- Jesus went all through the region preaching and repeating what He did in Capernaum, and with similar results. (multitudes, "the whole city, everyone.)
- Popularity was not His aim; promoting Himself was not His ambition, being hailed as a healer and a hero was not His goal, these things held no appeal to Him, only to do the will of His Father and through obedience to finish the work the Father sent Him to do. This was His inspiration.
- Most people having found popularity would find it to be a reason for staying, but Jesus thought it a reason for leaving.
- Jesus compassionately healed the sick, fed the hungry and delivered those oppressed by the devil, demonstrating His compassion and power, but His deeper mission He stated as "I have not come to call the righteous but the sinners to repentance, (Lk. 5:32)
 - and again "the Son of man has come to seek and save those who are lost. (Lk. 19:10)
- Vs. 38, "for this purpose I have come forth." Came forth from where??? This is why I came forth from the eternal purposes of God, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
- Jesus must complete the mission as the Servant of God, a mission that had been foreordained from the heart of the Trinity before the foundation of the world. (John 8:42, 16:28)
- This is the beginning of the "Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

THE HEALING OF THE LEPER.

THE PERIPHIALS:

- The nation of Israel was never so healthy or cleans as when Jesus walked the length and breadth of the country healing and delivering all who came to Him for help. It could nearly be said that He banished sickness, disease and demon possession for the land.

- The leper was commanded to go and give testimony of his cleansing. Where there is salvation there should be testimony.
- Jesus told the leprous man to keep quiet, keep his miracle of cleansing to himself, but he went and told everyone of his cleansing, while Jesus tells us to proclaim our cleansing to all but we keep silent, keeping it to ourselves.

THE LEPROCY:

- There are two whole chapters in Lev. Devoted to leprosy. 13 & 14.
- When God cursed Miriam with leprosy, Aaron interceded for her with Moses and pleaded, "Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed." (Num. 12:12)
- Leprosy could be spread both through the air and through touch.
- Leprosy eats away the flesh and joints.
- It is almost always fatal and even today has no known cure, but can now be controlled by medicine.
- It was a disfiguring disease, both to the face and limbs.
- It attacks the skin, the blood, the flesh, the bones and the joints. Eventually affecting his internal organs. nervous system and weakened the victims immune system.
- In 99% of the cases H.D. leprosy numbs the extremities and the destruction that follows is due to the injuries received solely because the nerve warning system, that of sending pain messages to the brain as warnings are gone. (sin affects our warnings to our souls and conscience as well.)
- It was very painful and had a most strong putrid stench.
- It was a slow and miserable death.
- Eventually the victim loses his extremities including his nose as he begins to rot and decay by inches.
- On top of this he is completely separated and shunned from society and religion and all were forbidden to touch him.
- The victim was isolated from society, care and comfort.
- In almost every case he was forbidden to enter the synagogue so he was deprived of religious life.
- A leper must wear a partial veil over the lower part of their face, from the lower lip down.
- If they came near anyone they must call out their condition as warning, "unclean," "unclean."
- According to the Talmud, they were not to approach closer than 6" to anyone, and if it were a windy day that distance was increased to 150'.

THIS LEPER:

- Luke tells us this poor man was “full” of leprosy, which means he had the disease for some time and was most likely in the end stages.
- The disease would have by this late stage sunk into his lungs and other organs of the body. All would have been affected. His case was hopeless.
- His sickness and disease was the very thing that brought Him to Christ.
- See his desperate plea for a miracle. Hopeless and yet?
- He does not question the Masters power, but His willingness to help a wretch like him.
- Luke and Matt. Tell us he called Jesus “Lord.” (Mt. 8:2, Lk. 5:12)
- If you will, or desire to, you can make me clean. What a faith in His power.
- As Jesus moved to touch He spoke, what a difference Jesus makes.

THE CLEANSING:

- The morning sun rose upon this leper as it had for years, a miserable being, a miserable existence, more dead than alive, a walking dead man a moving mass of misery and sores, of corruption and stench, his life hopeless.
- That evening saw him full of health, whole and happy. Truly blessed, a member now of society.
- Notice the immediate action of Jesus. Immediately He stretches forth His hand and touches the unclean man. Perhaps the first touch he had had in a long time.
- Mark gives us the words, “Jesus moved with compassion.” See Him touch the untouchable.
- And as Jesus touches the unclean He is not contracting uncleanness or disease but He is conferring health.
- And so it is with His touch of the sinner. Jesus is not afraid to touch us. Our sin will not keep Him away from our honest and sincere cry for salvation and cleansing.
- With Christ nothing is impossible; No one has sunk beyond His power to save, no sin can stand or resist His word and touch. He is the sin cleanser the sin breaker, the soul restorer the new life giver.
- Our great physician is a great healer of the sin sick soul. He is able to heal the sin infected soul to the uttermost. **(Isa. 1:18)**
- There is no question of Jesus willingness to forgive, save and cleanse.
- Can we imagine the whole life change for this man when Jesus answered his prayer for cleansing?

- Shacked by a heavy burden
'Neath a load of guilt and shame
Then the hand of Jesus touched me
And now I am no longer the same
 - He touched me, oh, He touched me
And oh, the joy that floods my soul
Something happened, and now I know
He touched me, and made me whole
 - Since I've met this blessed Savior
Since He's cleansed and made me whole
Oh, I will never cease to praise Him (to praise Him)
I'll shout it while eternity rolls
- To whom much is forgiven loves much. (Lk. 7:47)
 - Men are never and will never be lost because they are too great of sinners, but because they will not come to Christ to be saved and cleansed.

THE PICTURE:

- Leprosy is symbolic of sin. Its slow, steady progress and its defiance to every and all known cures of man.
- This is so unlike the sin of today which demands we all celebrate it rather than shun it. (not the person, love them, win them.)
- Sin is like leprosy in that it is a deep seated disease.
- It is a foul soul disease infecting every part of our nature.
- Like leprosy, sin is deeper than the skin; it spreads into the body and to others.
- It defiles the life, isolates the infected and in the end it takes the life and when it is finished the outcome is to be burned.
- It is deep seated, it infects the heart, mind, will, conscience, understanding, affections and memories.
- Like leprosy it makes loathsome and abominable, unfit for the compay of God.
- Like leprosy it is incurable and is slowly but surely dragging men down to the second death and all mankind apart from the mercy of God are infected by this incurable disease.
- This soul killing disease not one is exempted, as the scripture read in Isa. 64:6, "We are all in God's sight as on unclean thing."
- The leper is instantly cleansed from a disease that had no earthly cure, how wonderful is our Jesus who takes away our sin instantly, purifying our souls and setting us free unto a new life in Himself. A new creation.
- Notice also how the Lord traded places with the leper which is a picture of our salvation.
- The leper was banished from the population, but after his cleansing he was accepted and free to live again in the city and move among the population.
- Jesus who was ministering in the city among the population and then, due to the lepers blazing broadcast of his healing is forced out of town into the deserted places.

- And so it is regarding our redemption, when Christ traded places with the sinner that they may be welcome and accepted by a holy God.
- Jesus was the darling of heaven, worshiped while we were banned from heaven and were heavens scorn.
- Then Jesus traded places with us, He was forsaken and because of this we are now accepted.
 - (2 Cor. 8:9) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

CONCLUSION:

- The ceremony of the cleansed leper in Lev. 14:14:4-7 presents a beautiful picture in type of the work of redemption.
- The 2 birds representing two different aspects of our Saviors ministry.
- 1) His incarnation and death. (the bird placed and killed in an earthen vessel.
- 2) His resurrection and ascension as pictured by the bird stained with the blood of the one that gave its life and then set free.
- The cleansed leper was then anointed with the blood of the sacrificed bird on his right ear, (a consecration of hearing of the word of God.)
- On his right thumb, (a consecration of his life as working for God.)
- On his right big toe, (a consecration of his walk with God.)
- Then oil was put on the blood symbolizing the anointing and empowering of the Spirit of God. This cannot take place until the blood has been applied. I must be the Lords.
- Where am I with Christ, Where do I stand?
- Am I still a leper, or am I cleansed?
- Then praise Him! Luke 17:11-19 the ten lepers and one who returned.