

FOLLOWING JESUS

THE GOSPEL FOR THE DIRTY, GUILTY, ASHAMED, AFRAID, OR ALONE...OR, THE GOSPEL FOR ALL

MARK 1:29-45

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS — OCTOBER 10, 2021

LOOK BACK

Discuss how God's Word had an impact last week.

1. Abundant life is only found under the authority of Jesus. Have you lived under His authority this week? What adjustments could you make this coming week to more faithfully follow Jesus?

LOOK TO GOD'S WORD

Study and apply God's Word as a group.

1. Read this week's passage:

Mark 1:29-45 (English Standard Version)

Chapter 1

29 And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. 35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, 37 and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." 38 And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. 40 And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. 43 And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, 44 and 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, for a proof to them." 45 But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

2. Recap what God is saying to all of us through the passage:
 - Jesus has authority over disease.
 - Jesus has authority over demons.
 - Jesus prioritizes time alone with God the Father over every other thing in His day.
 - Jesus prioritizes proclamation of the gospel among more people in more places over meeting physical needs right around him.
3. As you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what insight was particularly distinctive, helpful, encouraging, and/or challenging to you? What insight was difficult to grasp? What aspects of this sermon do you hope we talk about as a group?

LOOK FORWARD

Consider the implications of the passage for His body and His mission in the world.

1. All of us are hurting, broken people in a fallen world. Do you ever feel guilty, ashamed, afraid, alone, or unclean because of what you have done or what has been done to you? When you recall those things that you or others have done that have led to hurt, what thoughts and/or feelings do those memories cause in you? What impact do these thoughts or feelings have on your trust in the Lord



and His Word?

2. What fallen measures do you sometimes take to try to self-cleanse, cover over, or compensate for your brokenness (i.e., to rid yourself of guilt, shame, or fear)? Might you, for example, pursue the 'right' person, job or title; illegal or illicit substances; or even religious works in order to compensate for the effect of sin in your life? What do these pursuits say about your understanding of, relationship with, and dependence on Jesus?
3. The good news of the gospel is this: Jesus' has come to declare innocence to the guilty, bestow honor on the shamed, give faith to the fearful, grant family to the forsaken, and wash the unclean. In what ways have you most clearly received and known Jesus' healing and restorative work in your life? How does this work reveal and testify of who Jesus is? Consider sharing your testimony with your Church Group, and praise Him with prayer.
4. Jesus rose early, while it was still dark, to pray. What do our daily routines tell us (and others) about our priorities? What are things that tend to interrupt our prioritized time with the Father each day? As a group, take time to share some helpful ways, routines, rhythms etc. that help encourage uninterrupted and prioritized time in God's Word and in prayer. What are temptations we need to be aware of that keep us from prioritizing well? Parents, what do our kids learn about our priorities when they observe how we spend our days? Kids and students, how can you also prioritize time with God each day?
5. Consider the fact that Jesus prioritizes proclamation of the gospel among more people in more places over meeting physical needs right around him. How might our Church Group imitate Jesus by reallocating resources (e.g., time, money) to invest in proclamation of the gospel to unreached people and places? Does our Church Group have a plan to "pray, give, and go" to the unreached? (Note to the Church Group Leader: As you prepare for your group meeting, you might watch this video to consider ways for your group to get involved in global gospel proclamation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqziifw8f9Q>)
6. Invitation to prayer:
 - Do we truly believe that Jesus has authority over disease? Do we pray like we believe that? Take time as a group to name those you know and love who are in need of physical, social, mental, emotional, and/or spiritual healing. Stop and pray, in the name of Jesus, for healing for those you have named.
 - Friday, October 15, has been set aside as a churchwide day of prayer and fasting. Together with your Church Group, consider joining with your church family in-person this Friday night at the Tysons Corner location at 7:00PM to pray for those who need physical, social, mental, emotional, and spiritual healing.

