

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Mark 1 continues

The Calling of the First Disciples

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Q1. What is Jesus referring to in the phrase “The time has come”?

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Q2. Jesus said the “kingdom of God is near”. What did He mean?

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Q3. To what does “Good News” refer?

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Q4. Jesus said, “Repent”. Of what were the people to repent?

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Q5. Is “repenting” important to us, today? Why or why not?

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¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Q6. Within a short walk, Jesus called four people to serve with Him. Was there anything special about these men?

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Q7. Would it be scary to drop everything, including your job, and follow a stranger?

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Q8. Were these men bachelors or married? (See Mark 1:30)

Q9. To what does “fishers of men” refer?

Q10. What kind of parental pressure may have been exerted upon James and John?

Day 2

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Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.

Q11. Why did Jesus wait until the Sabbath: “when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue”?

²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Q12. “The people were amazed at his teaching”. Why?

Q13. Where did Jesus the carpenter’s son get his knowledge and authority?

Q14. What do you think could have been differences between Jesus’ teaching and that of the “teachers of the law”? More passionate? More knowledgeable? Better teachings how disparate parts of the Scripture (Old Testament) fit together? Any other attributes?

Continued

Day 3

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²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out,

Q15. Are people today demon-possessed?

Q16. Why did the possessed man cry out? Wouldn't it have better for the evil spirit to remain quiet?

²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!"

Q17. Was there only one evil spirit in the man?

Q18. Why do you think the evil spirit asked Jesus, "Have you come to destroy us?"

Q19. What impresses you the most about this verse?

Luke 11:24-26 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!"

Q20. Why did Jesus command the evil spirit to "Be quiet!"? (It would seem that Jesus would want someone to identify him as the Son of God.)

²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

Q21. Did the evil spirit obey Jesus?

Continued

Q22. Did the evil spirit think about it? Or argue with Jesus? Or did it immediately obey? Why?

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

Q23. The people recognized that even the evil spirits obeyed Jesus. Do you think the people were surprised? Were the teachers of the law surprised?

²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Q24. Why would "News about Him spread quickly"?

Day 4

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Jesus Heals Many

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.

Q25. To whom does "they" refer? Who walked with Jesus? (See Mark 1:16-20)

Q26. In Mark 1:16 Simon and Andrew are identified as brothers. Was it customary at the time to have extended families living together?

³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her.

Q27. What was Simon's more common, famous name?

Continued

Q28. Was Simon's mother-in-law sick and, if so, how sick do you think she was?

³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

Q29. How was Simon's mother-in-law healed?

Q30. Why do you think Jesus allowed someone who was sick to "wait on them"? Do you think it was a mean thing that Jesus permitted?

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.

Q31. Had Jesus developed a reputation?

Q32. Since radio had not yet been invented, how did the people know about Jesus' healing powers?

³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Q33. Verse 33: Were many people visiting the house of Simon and Andrew?

Q34. Verse 34: The demons knew who Jesus was, yet He wouldn't allow them to identify Him. Why?

Q35. What affect did all of this have upon His reputation?

Continued

Day 5

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³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Q36. Why did Jesus want to find a "solitary place"? And is this an example for us, today?

Q37. Is it important to pray?

Q38. Has God ever answered one of your prayers?

³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Q39. Why were people looking for Him?

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else -- to the nearby villages -- so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

Q40. What message was Jesus preaching?

³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Q41. Do you think that Jesus was welcomed to preach and teach in the synagogues?

Continued

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

A Man With Leprosy

⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

Q42. Do we know what Mark meant by the word "leprosy"?

Q43. Thinking about the Jewish traditions, how courageous was the leper?

Q44. Considering the way the leper approached Jesus and the words he spoke to Him, what did the leper think of Jesus?

⁴¹ Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

Q45. When Jesus touched the leper, what did that convey to the Jewish leaders and priests? And to the leper, himself?

Leviticus 13:45-46 ⁴⁵ "Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' ⁴⁶ As long as they have the disease, they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.

⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

Q46. Why was it important that the man go to the priest?

Leviticus 13:9-11a ⁹ "When anyone has a defiling skin disease, they must be brought to the priest. ¹⁰ The priest is to examine them, and if there is a white swelling in the skin that has turned the hair white and if there is raw flesh in the swelling, ^{11a} it is a chronic skin disease and the priest shall pronounce them unclean.

Leviticus 13:16-17 ¹⁶ Should the raw flesh change and turn white, he must go to the priest. ¹⁷ The priest is to examine him, and if the sores have turned white, the priest shall pronounce the infected person clean; then he will be clean.

Q47. Why did Jesus tell the man to not tell anyone?

Continued

⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Q48. Was Jesus' ministry impacted by the former leper's disobedience?

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