

# THE LEPER PROCLAIMED

CORE PASSAGE: MARK 1:35-45

## CONTEXT

Mark 1 quickly tells us a lot about Jesus's early ministry. Although some of the accounts are not as detailed, Mark's Gospel accurately aligns with the other Gospel accounts. Up to this point in Mark 1, Jesus had been teaching with authority, casting out demons, and miraculously healing the sick, which showed His authority over all things physical and spiritual. After this, Jesus continued His ministry by traveling throughout Galilee, preaching and healing as He went.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus's commitment to His mission originated in His compassion for others.**

As you examine Mark 1:35-45:

- Note that Jesus's purpose was to preach the good news.
- Recognize that Jesus's compassion on the leper led the man to spread the good news of Jesus.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority  
in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a  
Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus Appoints His Twelve  
Disciples (Mark 3:7-19)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
Jesus Heals a Leprous Man  
(Mark 1:35-45)

Jesus Teaches About and Heals  
on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Matthew 4:23-25
- Day 2:** Mark 1:35-38
- Day 3:** Mark 1:39-45
- Day 4:** Matthew 8:1-4
- Day 5:** Matthew 8:5-13
- Day 6:** Psalm 113



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 1:35-39

### JESUS'S COMMITMENT TO HIS MISSION IS SEEN IN HIS PRAYER LIFE AND HIS PURPOSE.

*Underline the phrase that points out Jesus's purpose in Galilee.*

**35** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. **36** Simon and his companions searched for him, **37** and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you." **38** And he said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come." **39** He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**THE GOSPEL:** The Bible teaches that the gospel is both an event and a story. First, it is an event that took place at a specific point in history, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the redemption of sinners (1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Second, the gospel is also the story of redemption that God has planned since "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4), which runs through Scripture, and which culminates in a restored and redeemed creation—a new heaven and new earth where sin, death, and suffering will never again plague humanity, and God's people will live with Him forever (Isaiah 25:8; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21). The event and story do not exist apart from or in conflict with one another, but together inspire us to a life of devotion and mission.

**Key Concept:** Jesus's commitment to His mission originated in His compassion for others.



In this section of verses, Jesus displayed a wonderful example of where to place our focus. Early in the morning, Jesus got up and went to a deserted place to pray. When your relationship with God is the center of your life, communion with Him is prioritized because He is the source of your joy. Jesus displayed an action of joyful devotion to His Father and a priority to communicate with Him. As believers, we too should commit ourselves to prayer, not just to “check a box” but because we have a God whom we love enough to prioritize communication with Him. Jesus taught us by example that ministry begins with our own hearts in an act of prioritizing prayer and a closeness to the Lord.

**Why do you think Scripture mentions Jesus praying so often?**

Jesus's purpose through His ministry was to preach the good news. He even told His disciples that the reason He came to earth was to proclaim the good news that salvation is available for sinners. Jesus, although He is currently not walking on earth today, still carries out this purpose through His people. We, as believers in Jesus Christ, have been indwelt and empowered with His Spirit to continue to preach the gospel to those who do not yet believe. That is why we still live on earth after we are justified by faith in Jesus. As we place our sole focus on God through prayer, He will equip us to be effective witnesses for Him.

**How can you follow the Holy Spirit's guidance as you tell others the good news of Jesus?**



#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“Prayer plumes the wings of God's young eaglets, that they may learn to mount above the clouds. Prayer girds the loins of God's warriors, and sends them forth to combat with their sinews braced and their muscles firm.”<sup>1</sup>

—Charles Spurgeon (1834–1892)

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 1:40-45

### JESUS HEALS OUT OF COMPASSION, LEADING TO A DESIRE TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL.

*Circle the action words in the passage below. Underline Jesus's motivation for His actions.*

**40** Then a man with leprosy came to him and, on his knees, begged him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." **41** Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched him. "I am willing," he told him. "Be made clean." **42** Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. **43** Then he sternly warned him and sent him away at once, **44** telling him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." **45** Yet he went out and began to proclaim it widely and to spread the news, with the result that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. But he was out in deserted places, and they came to him from everywhere.

#### WORD STUDY

**LEPROSY:** A general term used to describe different skin diseases. Old Testament law gave the priests the responsibility of diagnosing leprosy. Lepers were required to stay outside the city to avoid spreading the disease. Once healed, the man needed to show himself to the priest as the law commanded to be returned to the community (Mark 1:44; cf. Leviticus 13-14).

**Key Concept:** Jesus's commitment to His mission originated in His compassion for others.



Jesus was approached by a man with leprosy who hoped Jesus would heal his disease. Leprosy was both physically contagious and ceremonially tainting, so the Jews would make the lepers announce their presence as they walked by so that no one would touch, bump, or brush against them. Yet this leper knelt before Jesus and begged Him for healing, for in faith he knew Jesus could make him clean if He were “willing.”

Jesus was moved with compassion, even reaching out and touching the leper, which was unheard of in those times because of fear of contagion. But Jesus did so and healed the man. With Jesus's command, the results were immediate—the man was made clean and whole. Jesus does the exact same thing with us. Out of compassion, He saves those who were once spiritually “unclean” and washes them with His blood, making them eternally clean and whole.

**What does Jesus's display of compassion tell us about His character?**

Jesus instructed the man to tell no one. Instead, he was to go present himself to the priest and do as the law required to show that God had healed him. But the man, in his excitement, went and

told anyone who would hear that Jesus had made his body whole. The joy that the gospel brings should cause us to do the same—and this with Jesus's explicit permission and command.

The news of Jesus spread so much that He could not go into the towns openly. Even as He went to deserted places, the crowds followed. Why? Because what Jesus offered was miraculous. Some came merely for the physical miracles. But others were searching for the peace and salvation that the good news of Jesus Christ brings. Through all of it, His compassionate grace remained steadfast.

**How does Jesus's compassion drive you to share His goodness with others?**

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus's mission was to preach the good news of salvation that would bring healing to a world in need. He accomplished this ultimately through His death and resurrection.

## GROUP EXPERIENCE

### UNEXPECTED COMPASSION

Read the passages below. Write down what the people who encountered Jesus may have expected, and then write down what He did instead.

	EXPECTATION	WHAT JESUS DID
<b>THE LEPER</b> (Mark 1:40-45)		
<b>THE CROWDS</b> (Matthew 9:35-38)		
<b>THE WOMAN</b> (Mark 5:25-34)		
<b>MARY</b> (John 11:28-44)		

How do Jesus's compassion as well as His power give us hope as we face difficulties in our lives?

What are some ways we can display compassion to those who are in need?

**Key Concept:** Jesus's commitment to His mission originated in His compassion for others.



## HEAD

How can you prioritize prayer this week to deepen your relationship with God?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 113 and acknowledge that the Lord is to be praised because He alone is God. Ask for strength to be a courageous and faithful witness of His goodness through lifting up others out of compassion like Jesus's.



## HEART

What are some ways you can reflect often on the grace Jesus has extended to you?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

Who do you know who needs to hear the gospel? How can you be a joyful witness to them this week?

