



Study 2: Jesus—The Action Man

Mark 1:14-2:12

Personal Preparation 1

Last week we looked at the first 15 verses of Mark. That passage was all about setting the scene, introducing Jesus, and telling us about his background. But now we move from the introduction, to see Jesus roll up his sleeves and go to work. And Jesus really is the action man! - from 1:14 through to 1:45, the time frame is just 24 hours.

We've already learnt that Jesus is 'the Christ', the long awaited anointed one. And down by the Jordan River, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit to do God's work. Now empowered by the Spirit, let's see what work Jesus does.

Read Mark 1:14-20

1. What seems to be the trigger for Jesus to 'get going'? Why do you think Jesus waited until then?

2. Jesus' message can be summarised by "*The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!*" What does it mean to repent?

3. Who becomes Jesus' first disciples?

4. Notice that the two sets of brothers are said to have left behind two different things – v18 and v20. What are they? And what sort of sacrifices are they making?

5. Why is following Jesus' worth it?

For Today: How does the response of these men to Jesus, illustrate what repentance means? Are you willing to repent of all things, in order to follow Jesus and have him as number 1? Is there anything in your life that you need to repent of at the moment?

thoughts. questions. insights

Personal Preparation 2

Jesus has now gathered the first 4 men of what will become his band of followers. But this day has only just begun! Jesus now goes public with a number of amazing, authoritative, and astonishing feats.

Read Mark 1:21-45

1. What happens after Jesus enters the synagogue in Capernaum?
2. What is the crowd astonished about?
3. What is the result of this exorcism in Capernaum?
4. List, in order, the different miracles and supernatural feats that Jesus performs, recorded in v29-45.
5. How many times does Jesus command people not to speak about him? Why do you think this is?
6. What is Jesus' focus in his public ministry – is it proclaiming the gospel, miraculous cures or exorcising demons? How can you tell?

For Today: As a church, do you think we have the focus right between those three things? Why/Why not?

thoughts. questions. insights

Jesus: The Action Man, Group Discussion Questions

What were the issues raised, questions posed or new insights you had as you read Mark 1:14-45 this week?

In our personal preparation time we've been working our way through the amazing and miraculous things Jesus does in Galilee, and in particular, the Galilean town of Capernaum. We'll discuss some of these events as a group, before turning our attention to the time that Jesus enters Capernaum again (2:1) and does the most miraculous thing of all. **Read Mark 1:14-45.**

1. Jesus' message is that the 'kingdom of God is near'. Perhaps a more helpful translation is 'the kingdom of God is at hand'. What does this mean?

2. In the events of chapter 1, how is it shown that God's rule and authority (his kingdom) is at hand?

3. From the introduction of Mark's gospel, 1:1 – we the readers have been told who Jesus is. From the events of chapter 1 – who also knows who Jesus is and who hasn't quite got it yet?

4. Why does Jesus command the evil spirit to be quiet v24-25? Isn't it free advertising?

5. From the events of v14-45, do you think Jesus places a higher priority on the performing of miracles or on preaching?

Let's now move onto one more event. Jesus has shown his authority in all sorts of ways already. Now he will show his authority in the clearest way of all. **Read Mark 2:1-12** to see what happens when Jesus enters Capernaum once more.

6. Imagine you were one of the lucky ones to get a front row seat in this house to hear what Jesus has to say. Get creative with your imagination - put yourself in this scenario. As you observe all that happens – what are the unusual things that happen?

7. What happens that the scribes are offended about? Why is their offence, in a way, understandable?

8. How does Jesus' show he has the right to forgive the man's sins?

9. Notice that in verse 10, Jesus calls himself 'the Son of Man'. This is Jesus' favourite self-designation. The 'Son of Man' title speaks of humility, and normalness - a mere man. But 'Son of Man' also harks back to Daniel 7. **Read Daniel 7:13-14**. In this vision the son of man comes to God's throne room, is given rule over all and his everlasting kingdom is established. How has Jesus shown already that he is the Son of Man in Mark's gospel?

10. From the events of Mark 1:14-2:12, how would you describe Jesus?

11. Given these events, what response to Jesus are we supposed to have?

Pray

- Give praise to Jesus that he is the King, the Son of Man with authority over all things.
- Give praise to Jesus that in his kingship, he shows compassion and a desire to forgive.
- Pray that _____ would come to know forgiveness through Jesus.

