

Looking For Jesus

God's Word:

Mark 1:32-45

Key Verse:

“They found Him, and said to Him, ‘Everyone is looking for You.’”
Mark 1:37

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Breaking It Down:

Earlier in Chapter 1, Jesus drives out a demon from a man who was in the synagogue where Jesus was preaching. Jesus did this when the unclean spirit cried out identifying Him and asking to be left alone. Jesus rebuked the spirit saying at verse 25, “Be quiet and come out of him.” The people were so amazed they quickly spread the news about Jesus throughout Galilee. After sunset, all kinds of sick and demon-possessed people gathered at Jesus’ door.

Early the next morning, Jesus left the house to pray in a solitary place, for even Jesus desired to spend time alone with the Father. Simon and his companions went to look for Him. Maybe they assumed that Jesus would want to continue healing the sick and casting out demons. After all, He was so popular now and everyone was looking for Him. Jesus did not get into all the hype. He stayed focused and remembered why He was there. Jesus came to preach the good news to all the villages.



Jesus comes across a man with leprosy. According to Mosaic Law, touching a leprosy person resulted in defilement (Leviticus 5:2), and only a priest could declare a leprosy person healed or clean (Leviticus 13). The leprosy man tells Jesus that if He is

willing He could clean him. At Mark 1:41, Jesus responds, “I am willing; be cleansed” and heals him. Here we can see the compassion that Jesus has for humanity. This man probably had this disease for some time for he speaks to Jesus from a distance. Maybe he was ashamed of his appearance and foul odor. According to the law it was considered unclean to touch a leper, but the teachers of those days had intensified the law by saying that it was forbidden to even get closer than six feet to a leper. Even so, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched this man who had not felt a loving touch for a long time.

Living It:

“They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” (Mark 1:22) From this verse, we can understand the amazement people felt with Jesus. He taught differently than the teachers of His days. Most teachers of Jesus’ day didn’t really preach. All the teachers did was quote many of the Rabbis who had interpreted the texts. Jesus taught with authority, because he had authority. Jesus knew about what He spoke, because the words He had were not from a Rabbi, but from God the Father Himself. His emphasis was not based on laws and rituals, fear and obligations. Jesus spoke good news that had not been heard before. Jesus preached saying, “the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:15)



Jesus’ message was that the time has come for all who are willing to repent and believe in the gospel to be a part of the kingdom of God. To repent does not mean to be sorry for what you have done. That is only part of it. Repent means to turn away from what you are currently doing that goes against God’s will, and ask Him to guide you for the rest of your life. To believe doesn’t mean to understand a concept or to have knowledge of it, but instead to live your life in accordance with your newfound understanding of God’s good news.

Jesus is concerned with people’s lives today as much as when He was here on earth, and He wants to make an eternal difference in our lives. Jesus was not concerned about making a name for Himself, or interested in creating a club. His purpose was to make the gospel known throughout all of the land.

People are looking for Jesus in our days. Many want to be healed and others just want to fill a curiosity. Still, many just like the leper know that He is the only one who

can cleanse them from the result of a sinful life and forgive their sins. The question today is where do you stand in regards to Jesus, and why are you looking for Him?

Questions:

1. Whose house was Jesus staying at?
2. After Jesus cleansed the leper, what did He tell him to do?
3. What is the difference between cleansing and healing?
4. What is something that you want God to cleanse in your life?

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Do It!

Not only did Jesus speak good news, He also showed with actions what He spoke. Jesus showed compassion to the people in need and related to them in a loving way. This week, spend at least 5 to 10 minutes in prayer each day, asking God to let you experience Jesus' loving touch and compassion in your life.

