

2139 - The LIFE of JESUS - Mark 1:9-45

PRELIMS. Last Sunday we saw how John Baptist **'prepared'** people for the coming of Jesus. This is sometimes called the gospel of **'Peter'**, because Peter looked over Mark's shoulder as he wrote! Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark goes straight into X's ministry without mentioning His birth! We want this morning to look at 'The Life of Jesus', ie, **how** He lived each day as outlined in this chapter! Note X is **baptised before** He starts His **official** ministry! There were many baptisms in the OT including baptism for the priesthood [Lev 8], and Hebrews tell us about *instructions about washings* [6:2] The **Trinity** seems to be present at Christ's baptism [v10,11]! Then...

What **next!** **Driven** by the Spirit of God *into the wilderness* - to be *tempted by Satan* [12]. Preparation! **Trials/problems/difficulties** are **character-building** and a **strengthening** means of 'sanctification'! The **man** Jesus Christ needed preparation for His work also! He was made **exactly like us** in every detail! *Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered* [Heb 5:8] Not that He was ever disobedient! But He did not **experience** obedience **in the flesh** and in a **sinful environment** in heaven! He did **not experience** suffering of any kind in **heaven!** His earthly life was entirely new!

Jesus went for a lot of **walks!** He probably **prayed** as He walked - I am sure He did when he made this walk, for He was **looking** for **suitable** candidates for **'eldership'!** (He believed in **team-work!**) He would ask His Father in heaven, for **guidance** to lead Him to suitable leaders! Jesus had to make **decisions** in the **same way** as we do - he had to think, assimilate, calculate and choose. He had to leave people **out** as well as put people in! It was **not** any easier/simpler for Jesus to do things than for you/I. He was **exactly like us** - except sin!

He may have noticed how **diligent**, **Simon** and **Andrew** were at their job! He saw how careful and thorough/conscientious and gifted, they were. You see, if you are 'no good' at anything, you will be 'no good' at ministry! I have met people who applied for the ministry because they were no good at all the other things they tried! Everything, they said 'was against them'. There is plenty 'againsts' in the ministry!!

Anyway, whatever Jesus saw in their fishing for fish, He obviously

thought it would be good for fishing for men! So, He called them *Follow Me and I will make you **become** fishers of **men*** [17] And Jesus did the same further along the coast to **James** and **John**. I do not believe this was these disciples **conversion!** They were already converted. We know John was, because he tells us himself in his gospel how he was changed - the **10th hour** in the place where Jesus was staying [J1:39] (Chronologically earlier than this incident. John was one of the two disciples of John the Baptist who heard the Baptist say about Jesus *Behold the Lamb of God!* [John 1:36])

This was their calling to **full-time** ministry. **All** Xns are in ministry! But there is a full-time ministry that requires **concentrated prayer** and the **study** of the **Word**. Remember when revival struck Jerusalem, the disciples were so busy they had to appoint more official workers for the particular work of **administrating** the supplies of food to feed the needy. *It is **not right** that we should **give up preaching** the Word of God to serve tables...we will **devote ourselves to prayer** and to the **ministry** of the **Word*** [Ac6:2-4] There **are elders who rule well and** also those who **labour in preaching and teaching** [1Tim 5:17] ****Note:** these disciples, had to spend **three years WITH** Jesus observing and learning from Him!

We do **not** read of the apostles preaching in front of Jesus. They first **listened** to Him. *they went to Capernaum and immediately on the Sabbath **He** entered the synagogue and was **teaching*** [21] Jesus must have said things that they did not hear or know before! How else could they be **astonished at His teaching?** Certainly He had **authority**. When there is authority, the **heart is affected** and the **conscience touched!** Jesus had **both** authority and **new** insights with instruction, thus: *A **new teaching with** authority!* [27]

We come across **angels** again - but this time they are evil angels a *man with an unclean spirit* [23] And what a **testimony** the unclean spirit gave concerning Jesus! A testimony regarding the **Person, power** and **authority** of Jesus. Look at what he said *Have You come to **destroy** us? I know who You are - the **Holy One of God*** [24]! Evil angels **expect** to be destroyed by the Lord!! Why? Because they know some things that we humans do not know about spiritual

realities! Holiness cannot live with evil - one must destroy the other!

So Jesus **healed** this man, delivered Him from the evil spirit, and then he heals Peter's wife *and the fever left her* [31] And of course *His fame spread everywhere* [28] All the sick/ill and oppressed came looking for help from Jesus *The whole city was gathered together at the door...and He healed many...and cast out many demons* [34]

Solitary prayer! *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* [35]! For Jesus, early in the morning was the **best** time for Him to get peace alone - as it still is! I am constantly amazed at how early **authors** get up. Dan Brown of 'Da Vinci Code' starts at 4am! Spurgeon said 'If I hear the blacksmith at his anvil at 5am, I am ashamed if I am not on my knees'!

If you do **not** have **solitary** prayer, then you do not pray! By its very nature, true prayer/fellowship with the Father **needs** to be solitary. How can you really have **intimate** fellowship with **anyone** unless you are **alone**? Listen to Jesus *But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you* [Mat 6:6] Shut the door!

Now reading these verses, many people would think that **healing** was the main part of X's ministry - and the **most** important! **But, no**, not at all! We see here that Simon Peter and others came **looking** for Jesus *Simon and those who were with him searched for Him* [36] And what was their message for Jesus? *Everyone is looking for You* Jesus reply is **amazing**!! *Let us go on to the next towns...* [38]!!

Imagine! People flocking **for healing** and Jesus says 'Lets get out of here'! Why did Jesus want to go away from there? His whole ministry was helping the needy wasn't it? Yes and No! The **gospel** - the **spiritual** needs of people are **far more important** than the physical needs! *that I may preach there also for that is why I came out* [38] Jesus visit to earth was for **salvation that is why I came**. 'I came to teach and instruct them in **righteousness**!

Jesus was saying that the people had it wrong - they were not looking for spiritual help. He knew where they were spiritually - so He had to

say, as it were, 'I must give others a **chance to hear** the gospel, so that they may have everlasting life'. **APP** But you know, Jesus cannot escape from those who want physical help. A **leper** comes!!

This leper came **worshipping!** ...and *kneeling* he said to Him, '*If You will, You can make me clean* [40]. What **motivated** Jesus to perform miracles? Was it to show His mighty **power/love**? Was it to prove He was the Messiah? No! He was **Moved with pity!** [41] Jesus had **sympathy/compassion!** Some Xns have every passion except **compassion!** But Jesus' compassion **dominated** His entire life!

The leper had **submitted** to the will of God - that really **affected** Jesus! *If You will, You can make me clean.* There was no question in the leper's mind about the **power/ability** of Jesus! The **divine purpose** ruled all. The leper knew that Jesus **could** do it, but was it, all things considered, the **best** thing for the leper and the **purpose** of God? The **sovereignty** of God is perhaps the most **neglected** subject which, if taught properly, could help so many Xns cope with their problem. Far too often, Xns believe that God **ought** to heal them or deliver them from their problem - while God's **purpose** is different.

God's ways are **not** our ways. Look at the **sequel** to this incident. The leper was healed and *Jesus sternly charged him...* '*See that you say nothing to anyone*' [43] That was Jesus **request**. 'I'll heal you, but you must **keep quiet** about it'! But the leper **did not**. He **talked freely about it, and to spread the news** [45]!

And then what? ...*so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town!* [45] The leper by **disobeying** Jesus **prevented others** from receiving **healing** and hearing the gospel!! Jesus could **no longer go** to cities and towns where there were crowds looking for help because He would be **arrested!** So much harm can be done by our keenness to tell others of some **personal triumph** and **boast!** It amazes me how many Christians feel they need to tell of miraculous healings. If there are miraculous healings there should be no need to broadcast it - it will be **obvious for all to see!** **Excitement** can carry us too far!! **Humility** is the place for all who have had wonderful experiences of Jesus love and mercy!