

## Introduction

Let me set the scene for you. It's early in Jesus' ministry—so early that word about Him is still spreading through Galilee like wildfire. By the end of Mark 1:34, crowds are pressing in, the sick are lining up, and His disciples are riding high on the wave of popularity and miraculous power. Peter's mother-in-law has been healed. Demons are fleeing. The crowds could not get enough of Jesus.

Then Mark tells us something striking:

**Mark 1:35** - "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before day, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed"

Notice what Jesus didn't do. He didn't build on the momentum. He didn't say yes to every sick person waiting outside. He didn't let the crowd's hunger drive His schedule. Instead, in the darkness before dawn, alone in the wilderness, He prayed.

"This is where the heart of the passage comes into focus."

Prayer aligns the disciple's heart with Christ's mission,  
transforming us from seekers of comfort into proclaimers of the Gospel.

Jesus shows us this alignment isn't automatic. It requires deliberate withdrawal. It requires saying no to good things—even healing, even helping—to say yes to the best thing. It requires prayer that recalibrates our hearts around God's purposes, not our own success.

This morning, we're going to watch Jesus model something that most of us get dangerously wrong.

Let's pick up the story in mark 1:35 –

**Mark 1:35-39** - Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. <sup>37</sup> When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." <sup>38</sup> But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."<sup>39</sup> And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

## Commitment to His Mission

Notice what happens in verse 35. Jesus rises **a long while before day**—He withdraws to a solitary place and **prayed**.

This wasn't casual. This wasn't a quick check-in with the Father. The text suggests sustained, deliberate communion.

And here's what's crucial: **Jesus modeled what He would later command His disciples to do.**

**He was committed to the Mission by Praying**

Look at the prayers woven throughout Jesus' Life.

- Prayer wasn't incidental to His mission; it was foundational to it.

**Here's the tension we have to wrestle with: Jesus is fully God and fully man. So if He's truly God—all-knowing, all-powerful, and lacking nothing—why does He pray?**

We Believe Jesus was **fully God and fully man**. During his earthly life, Jesus never ceased to be omniscient, but in his humanity, he **voluntarily limited the display and use of his divine attributes**, including his omniscience, to live in total dependence on the Father and the Holy Spirit. [1, 2]

Paul said in **Philippians 2:6-7 (ESV)**- who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

- The Gr. word is translated "robbery" (in KJV & NKJV) here because it originally meant "a thing seized by robbery." It eventually came to mean anything clutched, embraced, or prized, and thus is sometimes translated "grasped" or "held onto."
- Though Christ had all the rights, privileges, and honors of deity—which He was worthy of and could never be disqualified from—His attitude was not to cling to those things or His position, but to be willing to give them up for a season.

**I found the way John MacArthur explains this to be very helpful:**

- **The Doctrine of Kenosis:** Based on Philippians 2:7, "emptying" himself did not mean Jesus surrendered his deity or attributes. Instead, he laid aside his independent heavenly privileges, veiling his glory, and choosing to live under the limitations of human flesh. [1, 2, 3, 4]
- **Relinquishing Independent Knowledge:** While Jesus retained his inherent all-knowing nature as God, as a man, he willingly chose not to exercise his omniscience independently. MacArthur points to events like Jesus "not knowing" the day or hour of his return (Mark 13:32) as a prime example of Jesus submitting to the Father's timeline and willingly adopting human limitations. [1, 2]

**"Jesus voluntarily limited the display and use of certain divine attributes so His full humanity could be expressed:**

- This limitation was essential for Jesus to truly experience and express full humanity. If He had constantly operated with unhindered divine omniscience, for instance,
- His growth in wisdom (Luke 2:52), His genuine temptation (Hebrews 4:15), and His reliance on the Father (John 5:19) would not have been authentic.

**By embracing human limitations, He fully identified with us, becoming the perfect mediator and High Priest who understands our struggles.**

- (Google Search - Was Jesus in his humanity omniscient [John MacArthur](#) / [Gospel Coalition](#))

Jesus, as the Son of God, prayed because He is both fully God and fully man (Colossians 2:9). His prayer life beautifully illustrates His perfect humanity and His complete reliance on the Father, even in His divine nature.

Here are a few reasons why Jesus prayed:

1. **To model dependence on God the Father and submission to His Will:** As a man, Jesus perfectly demonstrated what it means to live in complete dependence on God. His prayers showed His submission to the Father's will and His need for strength and guidance, just as we

do (John 5:19; Hebrews 4:15). He did not operate independently of the Father, but always in perfect unity and obedience.

- **John 5:19** - Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

2. **To set an example for His followers – Pattern of prioritizing Prayer**

3. **To demonstrate the relational aspect of the Trinity:** We see this in Jesus High Priestly Prayer in John 17 – I and the Father are one!

4. **To fulfill His mission:** Through prayer, Jesus sought and received strength for His ministry, wisdom for His teachings, and perseverance for the suffering He would endure (Luke 22:41-44). His prayers were an integral part of accomplishing God's redemptive plan.

**In essence, Jesus prayed not because He lacked deity,** but because He **perfectly embodied humanity** and desired to live in continuous, loving communion with His Father, providing a perfect example for all who follow Him.

**Mark 1:35-39** - Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. <sup>37</sup> When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

Jesus – What are you doing? We don't have time for prayer –

The disciples find Him and say,

- "What are you doing? Everyone's looking for You. The whole town wants You back."  
Translation: *The crowds love You. Your healing ministry is working. Stay here and capitalize on success. We don't have time for Prayer*
- But Jesus has just prayed. His heart is already aligned with something deeper. So He says, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, for **this purpose I have come**" (v. 38).

Prayer is not to get something from God – It aligns our hearts with God!

## **He was committed to the Mission by Praying**

**Why** We Should Pray –

- Prayer is Modeled in the NT
  - Jesus prayed so much the disciples asked him to teach them – Mark 1:35
    - **Jesus modeled what He would later command His disciples to do.**
  - His Disciples – Acts 1:14 - All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
  - Early Church – Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to ... prayers.
- Prayer is Commanded in the NT
  - Paul tells Timothy to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
  - Colossians 4:2 - "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

- Jesus Himself commands us, "Watch and pray" (Matthew 26:41).

## How We Should Pray

### PRAY

Praise – Our Father...Hallowed be Your Name

Repent – Thy Kingdom Come / Thy Will be done (Forgive me for not being about your business)

Ask – Provision, Pardon, Protection,

Yield – For thine is the Kingdom Power and Glory forever, Amen

### Jesus is praying...Disciples find him – "Everyone is looking for you..."

**Mark 1:38-39** –<sup>38</sup> But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."<sup>39</sup> And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

Communion with the Father Leads to Commitment to the Mission

### He was committed to the Mission by Proclaiming

"Everyone's looking for You." There's momentum. There's popularity. There's a chance to build something big in Capernaum.

And Jesus says no. He says, "**For this purpose I came**"—and His purpose is proclamation of the Kingdom, not merely localized healing.

- Prayer aligned His heart with His mission. In that solitary place, Jesus clarified what mattered most. And it changed everything about what happened next.
- He didn't stay where the crowds wanted Him. He moved on, preaching in the next towns
- He said, *For this purpose I came*. What Propose - **Proclamation**. Kingdom announcement. That's the North Star. Prayer clarified it. Now it drives every decision.
- That's what prayer does in a disciple's life too. It doesn't exempt you from hard choices—it *equips* you for them. It reorders your loves. It transforms you from someone seeking comfort into someone seeking His mission.

That's the pattern: **Prayer realigns the disciple's desires with Christ's actual mission**. Without it, we drift toward comfort, applause, and the familiar. With it, we become proclaimers.

**Luke 4:43** – but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

**Luke 19:10** - for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

How's Your Prayer Life? Scale of 1-10

How's Your Share Life?

- We exist to share the good news of Jesus
- We are Fishers of Men – Mark 1:17

- We are witnesses – Acts 1:8
- We are called Ambassadors of Christ – 2 Cor. 5:19-20

TFBC exists to equip believers to relentless pursue God's design to bring hope and renewal to every person and every place – In Thorsby and Beyond for the glory of Jesus' name!

- To reach everybody every where we must reach somebody somewhere
- Who have you invited – to church, to your SS class, to Christ

Reason people come to church

- Evangelistic Outreach – less than 10 %
- Pastor or Music – less than 10%
- Advertising, direct mail – around 6 %
- Invitation from a Friend or Relative – 75-85%

I praise God for Incredible musicians, for great programs (Best Kid Min / Stu Min any where), adequate preaching...All that is good – You have a greater ability to attract people than I ever will.

## Compassion of His Touch

**Mark 1:40-45** - Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

<sup>41</sup> Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." <sup>42</sup> As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. <sup>43</sup> And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once, <sup>44</sup> and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

<sup>45</sup> However, he went out and began to proclaim *it* freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.

## Blank Slide: Compassion of His Touch

Go back to Peter's Mother-in-law – He touched her!

- Jesus could have healed her from a distance – He could have commanded the fever to leave her – He already demonstrated that power with the Noblemen's son
- Why did he touch her?
- Why touch the Leper?

See the Significance of the Compassion of His Touch

1. **Radical "Purity Inversion":** Under the Old Testament Mosaic Law, leprosy was a devastating disease that rendered a person ceremonially unclean (Leviticus 13:45-46; Numbers 5:2-3). Anyone who touched a leper would also become unclean. However, when Jesus, "moved with compassion," stretched out His hand and *touched* the leper, He did not become unclean.

Instead, His touch transmitted purity and healing, instantly cleansing the man. This was a radical reversal of the expected outcome, demonstrating that Jesus' presence brings cleansing power, rather than being defiled by human brokenness.

2. **Divine Power over Disease and Ceremonial Impurity:** Jesus not only cured the physical disease but also removed the ceremonial uncleanness and the social ostracization that came with it. This showed His ultimate authority over both physical ailments and the spiritual barriers that separated people from God and community.
3. **Profound Compassion and Solidarity:** Lepers were **outcasts**, forced to live apart and declare their uncleanness. Jesus' willingness to physically touch such a person was an extraordinary act of love and compassion. It showed that He sought out and engaged with those on the fringes of society, offering hope and restoration where there was none.
4. **Messianic Sign and New Covenant Reality:** This act was a powerful messianic sign, fulfilling prophecies like Isaiah 53:4-5, which spoke of a suffering servant who would bear our griefs and carry our sorrows. It signaled the arrival of the new covenant, where God's presence, embodied in Jesus, does not recoil from human brokenness but absorbs and transforms it. It's a shift from the Old Testament's emphasis on ceremonial separation to the New Testament's emphasis on God's incarnational solidarity and transformative grace.

In both instances, Jesus' touch signifies His divine power to heal and restore, but the healing of the leper particularly highlights His authority to overturn the old covenant's ceremonial laws and usher in a new era of direct, transforming grace.

Leper is cleansed

Similarities between Leprosy and Sin:

- Both Corrupt –
  - Leprosy Starts small, grows, eventually the person is disfigured –
  - Sin grows (James 1...sin when it is finished brings forth death) corrupting thoughts and actions. Makes us numb, even to the conviction of sin
- Both defile and isolate
- Both spread if left unchecked
- Both require cleansing, not just healing
- Both illustrate God's grace

**Question was posed in our Personal Study Guide: What does this show about Jesus' Character?**

**What does this show about God's Character**

- **Think of God of OT as God of wrath, Thunder / lightnings, judgement**
- **Jesus in the NT is nice – Jesus is the express image of the Father – Heb. 1**

**John 1:14-18** - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "

<sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

The compassionate touch (*splagchnizomai*, 1:41) demonstrates that in the incarnate Christ, God's nature is *fundamentally restorative*—His holiness does not separate from human brokenness but absorbs and transforms it. This guards against gnostic or separatist Christologies that divorce Jesus' humanity from His divinity or posit tension between His justice and mercy.

When we mess up – disobedience or lack of obedience – we hid ( like Adam and Eve )

- while Jesus is perfectly holy and stands in opposition to sin, He is *not repulsed by sinners or their brokenness to the point of rejecting them*.
- Instead, His response is one of deep compassion and a redemptive love that seeks to transform and restore. His presence does not recoil from human brokenness but absorbs and transforms it.

Come to Jesus – For the First Time – First Time in a Long time

Come to Jesus for Salvation, forgiveness, and restoration.

### **Ironically, Jesus and the leper have traded places.**

- The leper is now on the inside with family and friends. Jesus is on the outside in a lonely and desolate place. This picture of substitution is the heart of the gospel. This is why Jesus came. He will take on Himself our sin, our sorrow, our shame. In return, His holiness, and His righteousness—praise the Lord! What an Exchange(Akin, *Exalting Jesus: Mk*, p. 37)
- He took my sins and my sorrows. He made them His very own. He bore the burdens to Calvary and suffered and died alone. How Marvelous – How Wonderful, and my song shall ever be...Is my Savior's Love for me.

Why did Jesus tell the Leper not to tell anyone about his healing:

In Mark 1, after Jesus healed the man with leprosy, He strictly warned him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them" (Mark 1:44 ESV). This instruction from Jesus, often referred to as the "Messianic Secret," had several important reasons from an evangelical perspective.

- First, Jesus sought to prevent misunderstanding about His mission. Many people in that time were looking for a political Messiah who would overthrow Roman rule. If news of His miraculous healings spread unchecked, it could easily ignite a popular movement focused on earthly power rather than spiritual salvation, diverting attention from His true purpose of preaching the gospel and dying for sins (John 6:15).
- Second, Jesus aimed to manage the overwhelming crowds that would gather if His miracles were widely publicized. Mark 1:45 states that after the leper disobeyed and spread the word, "Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter." The intense focus on physical healing would hinder His ability to effectively teach and disciple, which was central to His ministry.
- Third, there was a divine timing for Jesus' full public revelation as the Messiah and for His ultimate suffering and death. Premature widespread publicity could interfere with God's perfect plan for these events to unfold at the appointed time.
- Finally, Jesus emphasized the importance of obedience and the proper channels for the leper's reintegration into society. By instructing him to show himself to the priest and offer the prescribed sacrifices, Jesus affirmed the Mosaic Law and ensured the man's full restoration according to the customs of the time (Leviticus 14).

In essence, Jesus' command was a strategic and spiritual decision to ensure His ministry unfolded according to God's will, focusing on the spiritual transformation of hearts rather than merely sensational miracles or political upheaval.