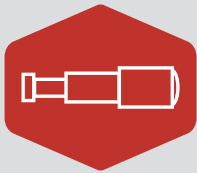




Lesson 7: Mark 1:29–39 Jesus' Gospel Ministry

Main Idea: As you study Jesus' healing of a woman in Capernaum and His surprising choice to stay out of the spotlight, you will better understand the kind of life God offers to you.

Scripture: Mark 1:29–39



The Author's Lens (Spyglass)

What did the Scripture mean to the original author and audience? As you explore information on the author, content, culture, history, land, and language of the Bible, you will gain a better understanding of the intended message of God's Word.

In this section of Mark, the reader is given a micro example of the power of the Gospel in the life of a woman and then a macro example to help us see something in the life of Jesus' ministry. This passage shows the reader an everyday occurrence in the life of Christ and His disciples. In this text, Mark is giving a lesson of applied theology in the Gospel ministry of Jesus. It is as if Mark wants to give a typical day in the life of Jesus, filled with teaching and miracles.

Jesus is now in Capernaum. This story appears in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Mark tells it very matter-of-factly. The men of Capernaum gather in the synagogue to pray, read, and discuss the Scriptures. When the service is over, Jesus travels about two hundred feet from the synagogue to the house of Peter. There Jesus encounters a sick woman, Peter's mother-in-law. She was sick with a fever of unspecified origin. The fever was not seen as a symptom

of something else. Interestingly, Jesus speaks to the fever and not the woman. And when Jesus touched her, Mark tells readers, the fever left. This story happens on a Sabbath, which lasts from Friday night at sundown until Saturday night at sundown. The Sabbath having ended people could now bring, without breaking the law, their sick and demon-possessed to him.¹ As the news of Peter's mother-in-law's healing spreads, many people gather at the gate of the city. Why are the people coming? Everyone who had any kind of problem was carried to the gate and laid there in hopes that Jesus would touch them. Mark leaves the impression that Jesus touched all of them, and before the evening was over, many of those people went home well.

The disciples think that staying in front of the people is the most important thing. They look for Jesus the next morning and He is not where they expect. Jesus had gone away to a quiet, solitary place to pray. Jesus seeks the strength that only communion and fellowship with the Father can provide.² He cannot be pushed into the crowd. They do not understand why Jesus does not want to be center stage. However, His life purpose is linked so tightly to the will of God that He needs to stay in communion with God to stay on track with that purpose. Jesus tells His disciples it is time to move to another place. Mark reminds his readers that His coming into the world was more to proclaim God's Good News and all that was involved in discipleship and suffering than to be a popular miracle-worker.³ Jesus came to publicly proclaim the good news of God's kingdom to as many people as possible.

1 Walter W. Wessel, "Mark," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 628.

2 Walter W. Wessel, "Mark," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 629.

3 Walter W. Wessel, "Mark," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 629.



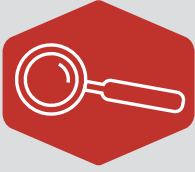
My Lens (Eyeglasses)

What does this Scripture say to you? Through studying the biblical explanations and principles in the text and bullet points below, you will better understand what God's Word is saying to you today.

We as believers should never take anything God does for granted, but we should always expect God to intervene in our situation. As we learn to walk by the nudges of the Holy Spirit, our lives will be filled with miracles. These miracles will produce faith in others.

Our life's purpose begins and continues at an altar of prayer. Our life should not be driven by the demands of people or our own ambition but should be driven by God's purpose. And God's purpose for us will always include worship, service to others, and evangelism. Consider some of the following lessons:

- Christ should be invited into our home.
- Intercessory prayer is vital for those in our family who need Christ's power.
- We can spread the news that Christ is ready to heal.
- The ministry of a believer should be touching people's lives.
- As a believer, we should pay attention to the nudges of the Holy Spirit in our life.
- As a believer, we should stay prepared spiritually and mentally to respond to the needs of people around us.



The Holy Spirit Lens (Magnifying Glass)

How can the Scripture apply to your life? By listening to the Holy Spirit's leading as you answer this series of questions, you can gain useful insights that will help you apply the truth of God's Word to your daily life.

Application:

- Write down your answer to the following questions here or in your journal:
 - » Who appears in this passage?
 - » Where is this passage taking place?
 - » When is this passage occurring?
 - » Why is this passage important?
 - » What is happening in this passage?
 - » How does this passage apply to my life?

- Circle and write down any recurring words in this passage.



Using My *FireBible*

Read the study notes for the following verse in the Fire-Bible and answer the accompanying questions.

- Mark 1:34. What are some reasons that Jesus does not want someone to tell what He has done for them?