



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Mark 1:35–45

Questions for the Week: In what ways do you feel like Jesus deeply understands you? In what ways do you feel like Jesus is completely unlike you?

READ THE TEXT – Mark 1:35–45

The Structure

1. Jesus's time of Prayer and Purpose (Mark 1:35–38)
 - 1.1. After rising very early in the morning he went out [from Capernaum] and into the desert place and was praying. (1:35; see also Mark 6:46; 14:32–42)
 - 1.2. Simon and those with him, hunted down Jesus (1:36)
 - 1.3. They found Jesus and tell him, “Everyone is seeking you.” (1:37)
 - 1.4. Jesus's response: “Let's go elsewhere to other cities, in order that I preach there for this is why I have come.” (1:38)
2. Cleansing of the Leper (Mark 1:39–43 // Matt 8:2–4 // Mark 5:12–16)
 - 2.1. Context: He came preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons . . . (1:39)
 - 2.2. Encounter and Request: A leper came to him, kneeling, and saying, “If you desire, you are able to cleanse me.” (1:40; see also Mark 10:17)
 - 2.2.1. *Lepra* Laws (Leviticus 13–14)
 - 2.2.2. *Lepra* requires care (Deut 24:8–9)
 - 2.2.3. *Lepra* as punishment (2 Chron 26:16–21)
 - 2.3. Jesus's Response: (1:41) - Compassioned reached his hand and touched him and says to him, “I desire so, Be Cleansed!”
 - 2.3.1. Compassion (Mark 6:34; 8:2; 9:22)
 - 2.3.2. Touch (Mark 1:41; 3:10; 5:27, 28, 30, 31; 6:56; 7:33; 8:22; 10:13)
 - 2.4. Result: Immediately, the *leprosy* departed and he was cleansed (1:42)
 - 2.4.1. Miriam (Numbers 12:1–16)
 - 2.4.2. Namaan (2 Kings 5:1–14)
 - 2.5. Further instruction (1:43–44)
 - 2.5.1. Stern warning and sent out (1:43; see also Mark 14:5; John 11:33, 38)
 - 2.5.2. Content of the instruction: “say nothing to no one, but go show yourself to the priest and present what Moses commanded for your purification” (Mark 1:44; see Leviticus 14:2–32)
 - 2.6. Conclusion: (Mark 1:45; see 7:36)
 - 2.6.1. Cleansed Man: He began to preach much and spread the word.

2.6.2. Jesus: he was no longer able to openly enter a city but was outside in desert places.

2.6.3. They were coming to Jesus from everywhere.

Activities and Questions this Week:

- Read Levitical Laws on *Lepra* in Leviticus 13–14
 - What do you learn from these laws?
 - Notice that “impurity” is not a moral problem. *Lepra* affects clothing and spirit
- Read the Accounts of Lepra being healed
 - Numbers 12
 - 2 Kings 5
- Read the other examples of Jesus being “moved with compassion” (Matt 9:36; Matt 14:14 // Mark 6:34; Matt 15:32 // Mark 8:2; Mark 9:22; Luke 7:13; 10:33; 15:20)
 - What do you notice about what moved Jesus to compassion?
 - What moves you to compassion?

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord’s reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?