Sermon Title: The One We Follow
Sermon Title: Priorities
Date: 6/26/2022

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Mark 1:35-39

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Jesus rapidly became famous for proclaiming the "Kingdom of God has come" and, of course, his miracles! Jesus was born and grew up – physically and in wisdom, but at just the right time – Jesus showed himself to be on a radical mission of mercy. It's here where we see Jesus living out his ministry in prayer, community, and with a specific purpose.

Therefore, to imitate Jesus well: **Make the Master's priorities Your priorities**

Priority 1: INTENTIONAL PRAYER

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Mark 1:35

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After spending the whole evening ministering to hundreds of people, Jesus wakes up in the middle of the night to pray. Throughout the gospels, we see Jesus going off to pray. Often in the dark of morning or in the middle of the night because it's a time when a man in demand could be alone. Jesus knows the limitations of humanness and that He needed where you can be alone from others and without distractions from things around you.

How could your time with God be even better?
Use some outward helps to your prayer life:
- You might want to create a dedicated place free from hindrances
- You might want to imagine "Jesus is waiting for me."
- You might want to try while everyone else is asleep: it's quiet, still, and easier to listen well to the Word.

Priority 2. FAITHFUL COMMUNITY

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Mark 1:36-37

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Jesus has surrounded himself with faithful people. For you and I, that might be our families at home; but for Jesus, it was the people that were on a mission with him. Those following him and sharing in his work.

This priority of community is one of the reasons we encourage you to be involved in an intentional small group. A group of people you reach out to and can commit to and walk through life together.

Priority 3. SPECIFIC MISSION
Mark 1:37b-39

All the people in the area were seeking Jesus for most likely more healing. Instead of saying, "Sure. I'll be right there." Jesus says NO…. We need a change of venue - Let's go over there.

Jesus knew his mission: – and it wasn't to heal more people or to cast out more demons. Those miracles were an outcome of what was happening as Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God had arrived!

Jesus was fulfilling the father's plan – he proclaimed it when he read the Isaiah scroll. Isaiah 61.1-2a

That's Jesus' Mission, and He knows that there are over 204 cities in Galilee alone. Jesus has to make this proclamation in an area. Moreover, while he's doing that – he's visiting the – synagogues he's - casting out demons, and even though this verse doesn't say so – we know he's healing people too!

For you and me, Jesus is an excellent example for us to be sharing our faith in our own hometown or county.

We can do all sorts of good activities that are godly and Christian but don't miss out on the actual mission—telling others about God's desire for their salvation!

How does this passage speak to you?
If we're not very careful, the enemy gets us to forget that our battle is not against flesh and blood – but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Without the Master's Priority:
- I remain in rebellion. I fight against finding and making disciples.
- if we do not have the master's priority: lost people continue to corrupt the world and one another
- lost people are walking quietly, sometimes peacefully, into a future of eternal separation from God.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**

- **Jesus knew the importance of prayer in His own life. Do you have a dedicated prayer time? Explain**

- **What challenges do you face when establishing a consistent prayer time? How do you overcome those challenges?**

- **Do you have a support system of people to help you in your Christian walk? How did you decide who is in that support system?**

- **What value does their support add to your life?**

- **What is the primary way you share your faith with others?**