

# He Fights For Us

During March... we will be focusing on the restoring power of Christ. It doesn't matter how far you've gotten off track. Help is here! Mark's gospel is an amazing affirmation of who Jesus is and the hope He brings. Our servant-king has come to set everything in order ... to restore ... or to make all things new. Today we will look at two passages in Mark 1 that demonstrate Jesus' willingness to take the initiative in making us new. Jesus will fight for you ... and win ... if you will surrender to Him.

## I. Mark 1.38-42 - A Leper Cleansed

- A. 1.40 - a leper comes to Jesus... *on his **knees***. In the deepest anguish.
  - 1. Luke says he fell face down and begged, 5.12. *If you are **willing** .... You can make me clean*. A supreme act of desperation. Jesus is his last, best hope.
  - 2. So he moves with boldness. He violates every social protocol.
  - 3. Matthew says the leper called Jesus **Lord**, 8.2.
- B. 1.41 NIV - Jesus' Response: *Jesus was **indignant***. *He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"*
  - 1. **Who or what is Jesus angry with?**
  - 2. Not the leper. Satan had taken what was very good ... and corrupted it through and through. So Jesus' anger here is righteous.
  - 3. Jesus was not only pained by the sight of the suffering ... but He is also moved by a strong desire to relieve or remove the suffering.
- C. 1.41c - Jesus said, *I am willing. Be made **clean***.
  - 1. He has both the power **and** desire to make this man whole again.
  - 2. This is Jesus going on offense.

## II. Mark 1.12-13 - Jesus Came to Defeat Satan

- A. 1.12 - *Immediately, the Spirit **drove** him into the wilderness*.
  - 1. "Drove" is a very strong word, meaning "to drive out forcibly."
  - 2. Jesus is being driven to the wilderness for the purpose of confronting Satan.
- B. 1.13 - Jesus does battle with Satan
  - 1. 1 John 3.8b - *The son of God was revealed for this purpose ... to **destroy** the devil's works*.
  - 2. This is the beginning of crushing the serpent's head ...reversing the curse of Eden.
  - 3. Jesus is our great and powerful king, who is:
    - a) Psalm 45.3-5 - confronting His enemies ..... *in your splendor ride **triumphantly***.
    - b) Setting up His kingdom.

## III. Will You Let Jesus Fight for You?

- A. He'll win. He's never lost. He will go on offense if you'll only ask.
  - 1. If leprosy is the ultimate illustration of sin, ...
  - 2. Then Mark is telling us that no matter what we're dealing with ... Jesus has more than enough power to make us new.
- B. Will you allow Jesus to remake you and bring you back to the glory for which you were created? Do you believe? Let that be known today.