

Mark 1:32-38 Discussion Guide

TEXT - Read Mark 1:32-38 (ESV)

³²That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out."

- What sticks out to you in this text? Any questions that come up?
- What is going on in this text (summarize the main points)? What is the context for the text?
- How does this text connect with the Gospel? What Gospel themes do you see in the text?

THEOLOGY - What do we learn about God from this text?

- What attributes or aspects of the character and nature of God do you see in these passages? What else can we learn about God from the text? Take a moment to list these out together.

LIFE

- Jesus often healed with a touch. How has Jesus touched you? What affect did it have?
- The demons were silenced because they would not proclaim Jesus as Lord. Who do you proclaim Jesus to be?
- Jesus thought prayer was so important that He sacrificed sleep to pray. What do your actions show about the importance you place on prayer? What are you going to sacrifice to spend time in prayer?
- Jesus healed many and exorcised demons from many. The disciples wanted Him to continue but He reoriented His disciples' thinking to what was most important: sharing the Good News. Who can you help heal by introducing them to our Lord and Savior?

PRAYER

- Pray in response to what God revealed to you in this text. If there is sin, confess it to him in prayer. If there is a need, petition God in prayer. If there is encouragement, praise God and share with others.
- What is one personal need you have that we can pray for you as a group?
- Pray for one friend, family member, or coworker with who you want to share the love of Jesus with.

Commentary on Mark 1:32-38

v. 32-33 When the sun had set: Jesus was ministering after sundown, ending the Sabbath day ([Mark 1:21](#)). Free from the Sabbath restrictions on travel and activity, the people came to Jesus to be healed. People could not carry their sick relatives on the *Sabbath. The *scribes said that to carry something was 'work'. The *Sabbath ended when the sun set on Saturday. Then they brought their sick friends and relatives to Jesus.

v. 34 Then He healed many: It was a busy day, and then Jesus ministered after nightfall to the whole city that had gathered together at the door. Jesus worked very hard to serve the needs of others and always put their needs before His. Jesus would not allow the evil *spirits to speak. They knew that he was the *Messiah. Jesus wanted people to discover for themselves who he was. They would follow him for the wrong reason if they thought of him as a political leader. Jesus was a *Messiah who would suffer to free them from *sin. He wanted to show people that.

v. 35 Now in the morning: After a long day, we would certainly excuse Jesus for sleeping in. Yet He, having risen a long while before daylight, made *less* time for sleep and *more* time for prayer. Jesus had helped crowds of people.

“Look no man in the face till thou hast seen the face of God. Speak thou with none till thou hast had speech with the Most High.” (Spurgeon)

He prayed: Jesus did not need to pray because He was weak but because He was strong, and the source of His strength was His relationship with God His Father. Jesus knew that pressure and busyness should drive us *towards* prayer, not *from* prayer. He needed to pray to God in order to receive new strength and peace of mind. He also needed God to guide him. He must decide whether he should continue to work in Capernaum. He needed to know if it was right to move to other places.

A solitary place: Jesus knew the importance of solitary time with God. While it is good and important for us to join with others in the presence of God, there is much in our Christian life that can only be learned and experienced in a solitary place with God.

v. 36 Searched for Him: This was early in Jesus' relationship with His disciples. As they got to know Him, they learned that whenever they could not find Him, He was probably off in solitary prayer.

v. 37 Everyone is looking for You: The disciples probably thought Jesus would be pleased at His popularity and would want to spend more time with the crowd He gathered and impressed the day before.

v. 38 Let us go into the next towns: Jesus did not stay in that town and “ride” the crest of His popularity there. He knew His ministry was to preach all across Galilee. His ministry was not being famous or enjoying the fame.

The clear emphasis on Jesus' ministry is preaching: for this purpose I have come forth. The healing and miraculous ministry of Jesus was impressive and glorious, but it was never His emphasis.