

**Unlimited Power – Unlimited Compassion - Mark 1:21-45**

Power has a way of changing people. Throughout history, we have watched ordinary people become wealthy, influential, or famous, only to become less approachable, less humble, and less compassionate. Human power often corrupts. Jesus was completely different. Although He possessed all authority over sickness, demons, nature and sin, He never used His power to promote Himself. Instead, He used His authority to serve people, restore lives and reveal the Father's heart.

**1. Jesus Sees People Others Overlook - Mark 1:21-34**

*"And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority..."* (Mark 1:22)

*"But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be quiet, and come out of him!'"* (Mark 1:25)

Jesus entered the synagogue in Capernaum and immediately people noticed something different. Unlike the scribes, Jesus spoke with authority. In the middle of the service a demon-possessed man interrupted the gathering. While everyone else saw an interruption, Jesus saw someone who needed freedom.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think the people were so amazed by Jesus' teaching?  
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2. What does Jesus' response to the demon-possessed man teach us about His authority and compassion?  
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3. Who are the people in our community that are often overlooked or ignored?  
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**Application** - Ask God this week to help you intentionally notice one person you would normally overlook and show them Christ's compassion.

**2. Jesus' Compassion Flowed Out of His Communion with the Father - Mark 1:35-39**

*"Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed."*

After ministering late into the night, Jesus rose early before sunrise. Mark isn't simply teaching us about having a quiet time. He is showing us the source of Jesus' compassion. Jesus continually returned to His Father. Notice three important observations.

- I. **Jesus intentionally withdrew.**
- II. **Jesus prayed before daylight.**
- III. **Jesus prayed before making His next ministry decision.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think Jesus regularly withdrew to pray even though He was the Son of God?  
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2. What dangers can arise when ministry replaces intimacy with God?

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3. How can we build healthy rhythms of prayer into our daily lives?

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**Application-** Schedule intentional time with God this week before beginning your day. Allow your service to others to flow out of your relationship with Christ rather than replacing it.

### **3. Jesus Touches the People Everyone Else Avoids - Mark 1:40-45**

"Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him..." (Mark 1:41)

A man suffering from leprosy approached Jesus. Leprosy separated people from family, worship, work and community. Lepers lived isolated lives and were forced to announce their uncleanness wherever they went. Many rabbis avoided them completely. Jesus did the exact opposite. Mark tells us Jesus was moved with compassion. Followers of Jesus are called to touch lives that others avoid.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why was Jesus' touch so significant to the man with leprosy?

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2. Why do people sometimes doubt God's willingness even when they believe in His power?

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3. Who are the "untouchables" or forgotten people in our culture today?

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**Application:** Ask God to help you intentionally build a relationship with someone who feels isolated, forgotten or rejected.

**Personal Reflection:** Ask yourself:

- Am I becoming more like Jesus?
- Is my compassion flowing from my relationship with the Father?
- Who is God calling me to notice, love and serve?

#### **Three Responses to the Message**

1. Receive the Compassion of Jesus

2. Deepen Your Communion with the Father

3. Become the Compassion of Jesus to Someone Else