

MARK

- THE STORY OF JESUS -

PART 5 - ALL YOU NEED IS JESUS- RIGHT?!

In Mark we learn ...

1. That you need Jesus
2. That meeting your needs is not your greatest need
3. How Jesus engages those who see Him as a need meeter

1. You Need Jesus

‘In him we live and move and have our being’ Acts 17:28

For by him [Jesus] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16-17



Jesus & Needs in Mark 1

- ... they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. Mark 1:22
- Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. Mark 1:25-26
- And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. Mark 1:31
- ... the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. Mark 1:33-34
- Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. Mark 1:41-42

Jesus the Miracle Worker

Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the gentiles. And, when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; and the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day. Josephus (Jewish Historian – 37-100 AD)

Jesus' Growing Miracle-Worker Reputation

- ... they were astonished at his teaching ... Mark 1:22
- ... they were all amazed ... Mark 1:27
- ... at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee ... Mark 1:28
- That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And 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. Mark 1:32-34

2. Meeting Your Needs is Not Your Greatest Need

- And 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. And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And 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."
Mark 1:34-38
- Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter. Mark 1:45



Is Jesus a Need Meeter?

The Good News: God Meets Needs

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and
forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from
the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is
renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:1-5

The Limitations of Need

We are created to be open. To be open to God, to open out towards our neighbours. We can only be whole and healthy in so far as we do this. When we are in need, when first-hand experience documents our inability to be whole beings on our own, the first thing that can happen is that we will become more authentically human. Need rips gashes in our self-containment and opens us to our neighbour. Need blows holes in our roofed-in self-sufficiency and opens us to God. But not necessarily.

For the self-willed self does not give up easily. It makes a persistent and determined stand to use these need-generated openings not to move out, but to pull whoever is trying to help it, into its service, put the neighbours to its use. If unwary, the person providing care is co-opted into feeding selfishness, which is to say, sin. Eugene Peterson

Ed Welch on Needs

“The good news for spiritual needs is that our sins are forgiven, we are adopted as children of God through faith, and we are given eternal life. The good news for psychological needs is that Christ fills us with identity, significance, personal respect, and self-worth. He makes us feel good about ourselves. But is that really the gospel? Doesn't the gospel, in a very real sense, obliterate our preoccupation with ourselves, equipping us to be preoccupied with loving God and others?”

Check Yourself

If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?

John Piper

“Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savouring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel.”

3. How Jesus Engages Those Who See Him as a Need Meeter

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And 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." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. Mark 1:35-39

Case Study - The Leper

And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter. Mark 1:40-45

Laws Regarding Lepers

The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp. Leviticus 13:45-46

