



HITTING THE MARK

LIVING A TRANSFORMED LIFE



Following the One with Authority

Mark 1:16-39

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Who is Jesus?

- Son of God (Mk 1:1)
- The One for whom John the Baptist paved the way in fulfillment of OT prophecy (Mk 1:2-8; Isa 40:3)
- The One beloved by God, with whom God is well-pleased (Mk 1:11)
- The One preaching the gospel of God and saying that “the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mk 1:14-15)



16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. 19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him. 21 They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach. 22 They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.



23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, 24 saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are- the Holy One of God!” 25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” 26 Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. 27 They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” 28 Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.



29 And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. 31 And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them. 32 When evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. 33 And the whole city had gathered at the door. 34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.



35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. 36 Simon and his companions searched for Him; 37 they found Him, and said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.” 38 He said to them, “Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.” 39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.



A) The Call to Discipleship- the Calling

- Jesus' ministry begins with the calling of Simon, Andrew (1:17-18), James, and John (1:19-20)
- “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men” (1:17)
 - Follow Me: Go behind Me as my disciples
 - 1 Tim 1:12 “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into His service.”
 - Fishers of Men: Sea often represented evil, sin, and death in OT (e.g. Isa 57:20 “But the wicked are like the tossing sea”)



A) The Call to Discipleship- The Response

- “Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.” (1:18)
- “Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.” (1:20)
 - All four left behind their occupations, and James and John left behind their father
 - God does not call everyone necessarily to leave behind their occupations and their families in this way
 - God is after our hearts: our hearts must be for His mission and His purpose, however it may manifest itself in our lives
 - This is submission of the heart to stay, or the submission of the heart to go, both on account of Jesus’ person
 - Which is His calling for you? And are you ready to follow? Are the treasures of your heart not in the world but in Christ? These are the important matters

Summary: Jesus’ call to discipleship is a calling to put Jesus and the gospel message as the central purpose of all the things which we do in our hearts.



B) Jesus' Authentic Authority (Mk 1:21-34)

- Jesus' ministry shows that His message and His authority are both authentic
- Jesus' authentic teaching: "He was teaching them as One with authority and not just as the scribes." (1:22)
- Jesus' authentic power:
 - Witness of the unclean spirit: "You are the Holy One of God!" (1:24)
 - " 'Be quiet, and come out of him!' Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him" (1:25-26)
 - Healing of Simon's mother-in-law: "taking her by the hand, the fever left her" (1:31)
 - Healing of many with diseases and unclean spirits: "And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons" (1:34)



B) Jesus' Authentic Authority (Mk 1:21-34)

- People's reaction:
 - Amazed: "They were all amazed, so they debated among themselves, saying, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him!' " (1:27)
 - Flocking to Jesus for healing: "The whole city had gathered at the door" (1:33)

Summary: Jesus, the Son of God, indeed has authority over all things. His calling and message are true. His disciples need not fear knowing Jesus' authority

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into His service." (1 Tim 1:12)



C) Jesus' Authority and Our Mission (Mk 1:35-39)

- Prayer: “In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.”
 - Mark mentions Jesus praying in darkness and solitude 3 times
 - Here, when large crowds of people are looking to Him for healing miracles
 - After the miraculous feeding of the five thousand (Mk 6:45-47)
 - At Gethsemane just prior to His arrest (14:32-41)
 - Each time, Jesus is faced with the temptation to achieve His messianic mission in an easier, less costly way
 - What is Jesus' messianic mission and what do we mean by less costly?



C) Jesus' Authority and Our Mission (Mk 1:35-39)

- Jesus has come into our world in the flesh for the purpose of accomplishing the Father's will through the cross
- And Jesus knows full well the physical suffering and separation from the Father that He will experience in taking on the sins of man
- By doing so, Jesus would indeed rule (e.g. after the resurrection, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" Matt 28:18)
- In the face of temptations to achieve that status without going to the cross, Jesus prays so that His heart may remain focused on and steadfast in the mission, the salvation of men, **impossible without His holy sacrifice**



C) Jesus' Authority and Our Mission (Mk 1:35-39)

- How does Mark 1 fit into these temptations?
 - Jews expected a Messiah, and Jesus' miracles (rightly) suggested that He might be the One prophesied in OT
 - But Jesus' kingdom was spiritual at heart, never meant for a physical (healings) or political (center)
 - His miracles confirmed the message of the OT and of the gospel: salvation not only for Jews but for all men through the cross, a holy sacrifice acceptable to God so that people from all nations could be saved
 - ("by [the Jews'] transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous" Romans 11:11)
 - If the Jews accepted the witness of the unclean spirits or elevated Him before His time, before He could go to the cross, He fails to accomplish the Father's will



C) Jesus' Authority and Our Mission (Mk 1:35-39)

- Jesus places the Father's will for Himself above all
- Thus when He sees people coming to Him for physical healing even after His witness, He goes elsewhere: "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for." (1:38)
- He came to preach the gospel for the true salvation of men, graciously witnessing to His heavenly nature and Messianic person through His miracles

Summary: We must be similarly focused on the mission. We must not be distracted but watchful and in prayer that our hearts remain focused, just as Jesus.



Conclusion

- Calling: Jesus has called us purposefully to be His disciples and to follow in His mission to preach the gospel
- Authority: His authority is true and gives us hope, peace, and strength for the fulfillment of the mission, and we must submit to it in our lives
- Centrality: The gospel must be at the center of our lives and the things we do and say
- Prayer: It is a monumental program and mission! We must be watchful in prayer to avoid distraction from our missional purpose in our hearts and to rely on God for the strength to submit and to endure (just as Jesus did!)



Small Group Discussion Groups

OIF Stage

Michael

Calvin

Pastor Ridge

Pastor Paul

Josh

Johannes



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Discussion Questions

1. Share one example where your recognition of (and submission to) Jesus' authority impacted your faith (e.g. in a decision that you made or a thought that you had).
2. What distractions or temptations commonly shift your focus away from His mission?
3. Why is it important for us to come to God in solitude to pray during the day? Pray for each other (if you have time) in your groups and also throughout the upcoming week.