

02

MARK 1:34-45

AN UNKEPT SECRET

THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Many of us dream about getting our “fifteen minutes of fame.” But even though Jesus was God, He didn’t care at all about being famous or popular; He was only interested in the opinion of His heavenly Father. He only ever did and said what God told Him to do and say. God’s priorities were Jesus’s priorities, and nothing could persuade Jesus to change that. Today, we’ll read about the exciting beginning of Jesus’s earthly ministry, watch Him defy human logic, and consider what He can teach us about loving others and bringing God glory. Like the man whom Jesus healed of his skin disease, we’ll discover that Jesus is a mystery too good to not talk about.



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus is too good not to talk about.



EXPLORE

scripture

MARK 1:35-45

MARK 1:35-39

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying.

36 Simon and his companions searched for him, **37** and when they found him they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” **38** And he

said to them, “Let’s go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come.” **39** He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

MARK 1:40-42

40 Then a man with leprosy came to him and, on his knees, begged him, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” **41** Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and

touched him. “I am willing,” he told him. “Be made clean.” **42** Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

MARK 1:43-45

43 Then he sternly warned him and sent him away at once, **44** telling him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” **45** Yet he went out and

began to proclaim it widely and to spread the news, with the result that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. But he was out in deserted places, and they came to him from everywhere.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE MARK 1:15

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

MARK 1:35-39

DWELL

→ What do you notice happens to your attitude or behaviors when you neglect your alone time with God? How do you get back on track?

Time alone with God is important. When things are going well, we might be tempted to skip this time, but when we do, things often take a downward turn. Jesus knew this. Things had been going really well for Him, but He still made sure He got time alone with His heavenly Father. He enjoyed this time, but He also used it to stay focused on what was most important. When He was asked to veer off course by well-meaning friends, He was able to stick to God's plan with determination.

↔ How should you respond when people ask you to do things that don't match up with God's will for your life?

MEMORIZE

Write Mark 1:15 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

PRAY

Thank God for being available to you at all times. Ask Him to make you aware of temptations to veer off course and to help you get back on track in following Him.



day 2

MARK 1:4-8

DWELL

No one would have blamed Jesus if He had chosen to ignore the man with leprosy. The man was considered unclean. People avoided him to be able to approach God in worship. However, Jesus was more concerned about doing what God wanted Him to do than about what He could get away with. Jesus reached right into the man's personal bubble and applied love where it was most needed. This is how God does things, and it's how we should do things.

↔ What kind of people do you tend to avoid helping? How do these verses challenge you?

→ Where do you need to experience Jesus's touch? How could you let this man's interaction with Jesus influence the way you interact with Him?

MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 1:15 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

PRAY

Thank God for seeing your deepest needs and being willing to meet them through Jesus. Ask God to love other people through you.

day 3

MARK 1:43-45

DWELL

We may hear phrases like “the Spirit really moved” or “God showed up tonight” in our churches and faith communities. That’s definitely what we want to happen, but God doesn’t always do things the way we want Him to. Like the healed man, we sometimes take things into our own hands and create the kind of atmosphere that makes us feel like big things are happening, when God had something entirely different in mind. The only way to make sure what we are experiencing is truly a movement of God is to obey Him and His guidance, even when we think we know best.

← What did Jesus's instructions to the man He healed tell the people who were present about His authority and motives?

↶ What kinds of questions should you ask yourself and God when you think He is telling you to do something?

MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 1:15 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

PRAY

Thank God for giving you the faith to believe Jesus is His Son. Thank Him for giving us the Bible so we don't have to wonder what He wants from us.

day 4

MARK 2:1-10

DWELL

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, people were still waiting for Him. They even brought people to Him, and Jesus didn't disappoint. Not only did He heal people, but He also forgave someone's sin! The paralyzed man and His friends weren't just curious onlookers who hoped Jesus might help them. They believed He could, and they acted on that belief. They demonstrated faith, and Jesus met that faith with forgiveness, just like He does for us. But the religious leaders missed it; they were so intent on being critical and skeptical they missed their own chance to be forgiven.

↓ Why do we sometimes ask Jesus to do small things for us instead of asking for the big things that we really need?

↻ What did Jesus prove by healing the paralyzed man?

MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 1:15 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

PRAY

Thank God for meeting your faith with forgiveness and for proving His faithfulness to you even though He doesn't have to.

day 5

MARK 2:13-17

DWELL

Jesus wasn't worried about public opinion. If He had been, He would have spent His time rubbing elbows with influential people and making religious leaders comfortable. He didn't do that. Instead, He stood on God's authority and showed the world what God was like. Jesus loved people because God loves people. Showing grace, mercy, and compassion, He spent time with people who didn't think God had time for them. He didn't participate in the same sin that these people were taking part in. Just by being with them and acting with love toward them, He showed that the gospel is for everyone.

↑ How do you think Jesus would behave in the places where you do life? What does that mean for you?

↓ How do you think the religious leaders would have responded to Jesus if He had tried to win them over? Why?

MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 1:15 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

PRAY

Thank God for loving everyone regardless of their mistakes or social status. Ask Him to show you who needs to experience His love through you.