

Mark 1:29-45 He's Here!

Get on the Bus: *Well it's a joy to be back with you after being with our plant in Philly last week – We have before us a wonderful text that indeed begins to answer the question, “Who is this Jesus?” – And that question is of utmost significance for you whether you have been a Christian for years or whether this is your first time at a Christian gathering because whether you realize it or not your future hinges on how you answer that question!*

Pray

Intro – *There is something wrong with the world – We don't have to observe the world long to see it as even just a week ago earthquakes erupts in both Hemispheres killing many – We live a world filled with sickness, death, pain, disasters, and in a world filled with grave plots which proclaims loudly to us the World in which we live is under a curse*

- C.S. Lewis in his classic book (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe) describes the curse in Narnia as a place where it is – *“Always winter but never Christmas” as the land lays under a curse and under the power of the White Witch – And this is so in our world (gen 3 here? Or at end, aslan on move here or at the end?)*
- **Transition to the text:** *Here in this text we get just a taste of one who seems at least momentarily to have power to turn aspects of the curse back!*

Context – *As we saw last week Jesus has called his first disciples and has begun his public ministry which culminates climatically in him both teaching with authority and then demonstrating that authority by casting a demon out of a man – And now we move to a text where He will continue to demonstrate His authority in several more scenes of His power that are sandwiched around Him praying*

- So what I want us to see this morning is 3 scenes that reveal some answers to the question of our series: *Who is this Jesus?*

(READ V. 29-31) Scene 1: This Jesus has power over sickness and demons

These events take place immediately after Jesus has cast out the demon in the Synagogue as they move from a public setting to a private one likely for a big meal that was customary after service – **So our first big lesson of the text is: we should eat big meals after service, I mean what would Jesus Do?**

- Just kidding/sort of – *But seriously we can identify here and we should because these scenes involved real people in real places – This is not some fairy tale as Jesus really did leave a service and head to a friend's home (I have actually seen this home and Synagogue in Capernaum)*
- And when He arrives He is made aware that Peter's MIL is sick with a fever – **Now another side note:** *Yes this means Peter was married which should give hope to us all that desire marriage this morning I mean if the guy Jesus calls at one point “Satan” can find a spouse the odds trend up for us!*

(V. 31) How does Jesus respond now: In a scene that is not dramatic or spectacular like the previous miracle – As one preacher called it a humble miracle revealing the Savior's common care for people with common needs – He simply takes her by the hand and RAISES HER UP (a common term used for Jesus' healing throughout Mark's account) and the fever leaves!

- There is no funny business here or health-wealth nonsense – *There are no incantations or high-priced handkerchiefs or prayer cloths she needed to buy – He simply takes her by the hand and lifts her up and she is healed!*
- And the totality of the healing is striking as she immediately begins to serve them – *She has been healed to the point that not even the fatigue or after affects of the fever have a hold on her and she begins to help with the meal and serving this Jesus – And what a guy He even heals MIL's and His fame begins to spread!*

QUICKLY!!!(READ V. 32-34)

Now it is roughly 6pm as the Sun has gone down which signified that the Sabbath was over and people can now come to Him freely with their needs – *And Jesus does not disappoint as He heals many both through casting out demons and healing of various diseases* – The kingdom is dawning in the person and work of Jesus Christ as we get a picture of the comprehensive work of Christ's healing ministry!

- **I just imagine this sort of single file line like in elementary school with no cutting as they line up out the door as we get a glimpse of the totality of Christ's healing ministry – *And we see that He is not only concerned with the physical but also the spiritual as He casts out demons as Jesus demonstrates not only is He to be ruler of our lives but also liberator!***
- **And we get a glimpse here of Jesus' power over supernatural evil in a demonstration that goes beyond anything of it's kind – *There is not record of a prophet or priest casting (TONY?) out demons in the OT and yet Jesus is doing it constantly* – I think giving His disciples a foretaste of what He will later tell them THAT HE WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it and they now get an object lesson that the Kingdom of God is dawning and the powers of hell cannot stop it!
 - o **I went to see a Carmen concert when I was younger (confession is good for the soul – HOW TO DESCRIBE CARMEN?) – *And he had this song that seemed to indicate that the battle between Jesus and the spiritual realm was like a 15-round boxing match where Jesus was on the ropes at time but ultimately victorious – let me be clear about something when it comes to Jesus vs. the powers of darkness it is no 15-round battle, it is no contest (JESUS AT THE CROSS ISN'T ALMOST LOSING CHRISTIAN, HE IS WINNING and no one takes His life from Him, He lays it down! Have confidence this morning!*****

A question we must answer: Why does Jesus not permit the Demons to speak – *Now that's power as most of you cant even get your kids not to say something embarrassing and Jesus can command demons not to talk – My brother told me this week that his little boy Judson who isnt quite 3 was walking through Dollar General saying "well lets just say he kept saying a part of the human anatomy that little boys are fascinated with and it wasn't registering with Ashly who was on the phone until his sisters cam to Ashley and said mom he is saying this all over the store! Well unlike Judson these demons listened!*

- **Why does He ask this – After all the Demons are more orthodox than the religious teachers as they actually know who He really is and actually believe it – **Well for at least 2 reasons:****
 - o **1) He does not want to yet fully reveal who He is – *As we will see along the way there are FALSE CONCEPTIONS ABOUT WHAT SORT OF MESSIAH He will be and even among His own disciples and so He doesn't want the demons to add to that confusion of looking for a military messiah!***
 - o **2) He likely doesn't want to associate Himself with the testimony of demons!**
 - o **So what a day – The Disciples must be thinking what will tomorrow hold and they again will be stunned by it!**

Two Points of Application:

- **1) *As believers we must also be concerned about both people's spiritual and physical well-being (more on this in a minute***
- **2) **Again put yourself in the story: *Imagine you had a loved one with some ailment wouldn't you want to take them to Jesus for healing – Well in a much greater way shouldn't you want to bring them to Jesus for an even greater spiritual healing (contemplate this week in GG how to go about that!)*****

(READ v. 35-39) Scene 2: This Jesus is about prayer and preaching – Now we see something of the priorities of Jesus and how He handles success!

- **Jesus now gets up early the next morning to get alone and pray with the Father – *Jesus after a night of much work now finds time for intimacy and communion with the Father* – Spoiler Alert**

here: *In order to find time to commune with God in our busy lives some times we are going to have to get up early or stay up late and not let another Netflix show roll over... I mean I've heard that can happen!*

- **Jesus has just come out of a time of busyness and success with lots going on – *And if we were honest we would say that in those times we let prayer get squeezed out, not so with Jesus – He is one who is diligent about communing with the Father***

We have no idea what He prayed about (possibly the previous day and for wisdom from there) but we do see in this powerful King a leaning in to and dependence on His father – ***Three Times in Mark's gospel Jesus is recorded as praying and all are before pivotal moments in His ministry where He will need strength and refreshment for the Work:***

- **First one is here after initial success, Second one is in the middle of the gospel when the people want to take Him by force to make Him King, and the Third one is in Gethsemane – *And strikingly in all 3 cases He is alone* (twice literally alone and once practically alone as His disciples fall asleep) *and this recalls His wilderness experience and both His dependence on God and determination to do the Will of the One who sent Him***
- **Fight the urge to immediately apply this to you but instead take this as a moment to admire Christ – *And then as we behold Him let's pray that we will be made like Him in everything, including our desire to be in communion and fellowship with the Father and our dependence on Him for our task!***

(V. 36-37) Now along comes Peter and as is His habit with His foot in His mouth – ***Every scholar and preacher thinks this phrase from Peter has consternation in it towards Jesus – Essentially Peter is rebuking Jesus and saying lets build on your popularity: "We have a great crowd forming what in the world are you doing out here everyone is looking for you!"***

- **Jesus' response must have floored Him – *His response to Peter telling Him a large crowd is looking for Him, "Lets move on then!"* WHAT? WHO IS THIS MAN?**
- **Why? (And I will give a fuller answer in just a moment) but He gives the answer in the text, "that he may preach for this is the reason that he came (NASB) – *It is possible that in Jesus' word and deed ministry that His deed ministry was beginning to eclipse His word Ministry – One commentator pointed out: "When simply sought as a miracle-worker Jesus deliberately departed to teach elsewhere!"***
- **Jesus would not let His popularity deter His main ministry of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and of repentance and faith and so He moves on – *But notice that does not stop Him from Deed ministry (JESUS DOESN'T PIT THESE TWO AGAINST EACH OTHER) even in this text – This leads me to believe He did not go out seeking deed ministry it just flowed out of Him while He was doing Word ministry and so it should be with us!***
- **Jesus didn't have to work to be a man of word and deed it just flowed out of Him – *That is what we need to cultivate as well that as we go about word and deed flow out of us and all of this like our Lord flows out of a life of communion with God! – And in our day in age when we have in many ways and rightfully so recaptured a concern to do justly and love mercy this cannot be without an equal amount of love and delight in the Word which is able to make one wise to salvation!***

(READ v. 40-45) **Scene 3: *This Jesus has compassion on the unclean*** – What a scene we have here!

- **To truly understand and be affected by this scene you have to become familiar with the seriousness of this disease – *This was the disease that they feared most – It was a horrible skin disease that would overtake the body with painful boils and ugly spots that was described as death by inches as the disease inch by inch attacked skin over your whole body!***
- **This would not simply have been an illness but a death sentence as the one would be ceremonially unclean – *Meaning that the person would be ostracized from the community having to stay outside of the camp (outside the city) wearing torn clothes and would in the presence of others have to cry out "UNCLEAN!" so as not to infect others with the disease – He would then have to be a beggar***

dependent upon others for charity and food and would also be cut off from the spiritual community not being able to be in the Synagogue

Put yourself in the story: *Imagine today the stigma associated with AIDS (but even worse than AIDS) as people are afraid to touch AIDS patients or even be around and also the shame/stigma/sentence it carries – That is this guy who is in a sense left without hope and without God in the world!*

- *And this man dos the unthinkable as he comes up to Jesus which would have been forbidden for a leper and instead of crying out “unclean” he cries out for mercy – **The Leper must have been hearing about Jesus and so he risks everything because he knows Jesus of Nazareth has the ability and power to make him clean if He is willing** – And notice his posture as he kneels before Jesus!*

This man has been without hope until he crosses paths with Jesus and notice the Savior’s response – *Jesus is moved with compassion (Pity) – Aren’t you glad our savior isn’t a robot but is instead a sympathetic High Priest) toward this man and His compassion moves Him to an action that is unthinkable and scandalous –*

- *Jesus reaches out and touches the unclean man (I mean some of you get on a Z-pack regiment if someone coughs in your general vicinity) – Why was this unthinkable? **Because the one that touched a leper normally also became unclean and defiled and risked getting the disease – And we know that Jesus does not need to touch someone in order to heal them but Jesus stands there in mercy and compassion which overtakes His concern for ceremonial considerations***
- *You see friend: Jesus isn’t like anyone else when it comes to this disease – **When Jesus touches the unclean He does not become unclean like them or polluted by their disease, they miraculously become clean like Him (OH I AM NOT ADEQUATE TO CONVEY THE WONDER OF THIS!) – And this touch must have ministered not only to the physical despair of the Leper but also to his emotional despair as he likely hadn’t felt the touch of another in a long time!***

Put yourself in the Leper’s shoes: *Has there ever been that time when you desperately needed the embrace of another – ILL OF COACH IMLAY: I remember a time when I had fallen in to much sin and was needing to confess it to some people I cared about and I remember running in to my HS basketball coach ahead of this...– That is what this man must have been feeling but even greater so!*

- *Only twice are Lepers healed in the OT and neither one of them is touched – **IN fact the Rabbis affirmed it was as difficult to heal a leper as to raise the dead** – And Jesus in compassion is making a clear statement that when I touch the unclean and defiled I make them clean!*
- *Brothers and sisters we must be about this ministry as well – **I read a shocking article years ago here is an excerpt from it:** “Jesus has AIDS! Some of you are angered by this statement I typed because you think somehow it implicates Jesus. After all, AIDS is a shameful disease, one most often spread through sexual promiscuity or illicit drug use... Yes, but those are the very kinds of people Jesus consistently identified himself with as he walked the hillsides of Galilee and the streets of Jerusalem, announcing the kingdom of God. Can one be more sexually promiscuous than the prostitutes Jesus ate with? Can one be more marginalized from society than a woman dripping with blood, blood that would have made anyone who touched her unclean (Luke 8:40-48)? Jesus touched her, and took her uncleanness on himself... When we stand in judgment, we’ll stand, Jesus tells us, accountable for how we recognized him in the trauma of those who don’t seem to bear the glory of Christ at all right now... I wonder how many of us will hear the words from our Galilean emperor, “I had AIDS and you weren’t afraid to come near me.” Through it all, we should be insistent in gospel proclamation. To those whose blood has become their own enemy, we should announce blood they know not of, the blood of One who can cleanse them of all unrighteousness, just as it cleansed us ” (Russell Moore)*

*(V. 43) Now Jesus gives 2 directives – 1) Don’t tell anyone about this (more on this in a second) and 2) Go fulfill the law by presenting yourself to the priest for cleansing – **Which he gives after studying I think for 2 reasons:***

- *First Jesus wants the man to go to the priests because their acknowledging him as cleansed is his way of being restored to the community*
- **Second (“as proof to them”)** – *This will be a testimony to the power of Jesus because the Jews believe only God could cure leprosy* – So this would be an undeniable messianic sign demonstrating who Christ is which later if denied will have proof that testifies against the priests who deny it!

(V. 45) The Leper disobeys the directive and speaks about it freely – *It is interesting that the demons obeyed and this man didn’t* – **But I also don’t want to be too harsh on him: I mean if you had painful boils and had been a walking outcast it’d be hard not to tell someone about how you have been healed (I mean I can’t even not tell people about my new favorite Netflix show!)**

- **But also don’t cut too much slack he disobeyed a direct order from the King who had just shown him mercy** – **Why did Jesus ask this of Him: I think there are several reasons and it seems they spring right out of the text**
 - o **1) Jesus has come to preach not merely be a miracle worker** – *And it seems the response of the crowds seems to be one of attraction and not conviction as there is no mention as the people come for physical healing of repentance* – Their greatest need is being overshadowed and so people are missing the purpose of His ministry of preaching namely that *He has come to offer His life as a ransom for many!*
 - **People were in danger of seeing bodily, temporal benefits and not eternal ones** – *It is possible to be in love with what we believe Jesus can give us and not actually in love with Jesus* (i.e. you come to Jesus to restore your marriage and then bail on the church the minute it is?)
 - *We this played out at one point it is said of Jesus, “See the World has gone after Him” and yet after His ascension there are only 120 left*
 - o **2) Connected to this, He likely wanted to avoid undue publicity that would hinder Him from preaching and time with His disciples** – *We even see this in the text as the result is He could no longer openly enter cities and has to go back out in desolate places*
 - o **3) Also He wanted to avoid a mistaken view of the Messiah** – *This was a common view among the Jews that even His disciples held that He came simply to display His power and wield it rather than to be a suffering Messiah* – *This will change He tells after the scene of His transfiguration when He says don’t talk about these things until the Son of Man has risen from the dead (indeed after that the GC is given!)*

Conclusion– Brothers and sisters something is wrong with our world it is clear – Ever since our parents in the garden disobeyed the voice of God and turned dominion over to Satan the World has been broken (3 RELATIONSHIPS BROKEN!) – But there is an ancient promise there in that Garden that God would send someone through the offspring of Eve who would crush that Serpent’s head and reverse everything that happened in that Garden

- And the rest of the OT is left wondering who will it be as generation after generation comes about and dies under sin and disease and disaster and it seems there is no one who can turn it back until we come to small towns like Capernaum and Nazareth – Where you have this man named Jesus who is doing something significant with His miracles as He is proclaiming something theological with them – He is not the 1st Century equivalent of the power team doing something impressive and then saying “see I told you I was God” no He is making an argument and He is letting the World know and Mark here is letting us know that the promised Son of Eve who is going to turn these things back and cut off the dragon’s head, HES HERE! The promised Son of Gen. 3 is now here and His name is Jesus who can reverse the curse!

And how does He ultimately do it – well this scene ends strangely does it not? Jesus and the Leper have traded places – Now the Leper is inside the camp with friends and family freely going about and Jesus is hindered and is outside the camp in desolate places!

- (RDM Scandalous here – on Throwaway?) How does Jesus overcome the curse by becoming the curse for us – Jesus by His touch of this man and by His trading places with this man just like in His baptism is letting us know that He identifies with sinners – And this cleansing points us and foreshadows a much greater cleansing that culminates at the Cross where it is said cursed is anyone who is hanged on a tree!
- There Jesus will reach out with compassion and take on our defilement take all the guilt of our sin, all of the shame of our sin, all of the uncleanness we have on Himself as He goes outside the camp to bear the reproach of the sinner (in order to provide healing and cleansing and forgiveness, no more shame – in a cleansing and healing that isn't temporal but is eternal (some of these would get sick again and all would die but if they came to Christ in faith they will forever be healed ushered in to a place where there is no more AIDS or cancer or Leprosy!) (this is your greatest need sinner!)

Unbeliever – You must see your state before God in this way like the Leper unclean and in need of cleansing as one who is sinful and deserving of Judgment – Jesus would later say it is what comes out of a person that defiles them in Mark 7 *“And he said, **1** ‘‘What comes out of a person is what defiles him.**21** For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, **22** coveting, wickedness, deceit, insensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. **23** *All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.*”* **THESE THINGS ULTIMATELY UNDO US!!! BUT FORGIVENESS IS POSSIBLE**

- But He is able to forgive you and cleanse you of all uncleanness and all unrighteousness either you will respond to that in opposition or apathy or in surrender and in crying out for mercy
- You maybe there thinking that your sin and uncleanness exceeds His compassion and you would be wrong – come with the posture of the Leper kneeling before Him asking for mercy!

Believer – Let contemplate the grace we have been shown – We were the spiritual leper rejoice today – don't live in skepticism of His love He has shown it climactically in the cross where he took on our sin, and shame, and we willingly defiled mocked and shamed for your healing – BY BECOMING SIN FOR US AND DYING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF SIN – do you think He loves you? Look to the Cross!

- And believer 3 days later He showed that He has power over the Curse but Came from dead and walking out in unlight!

In Lewis novel he talks about Aslan rolling back the curse with the words about the Jesus figure saying, “Aslan is on the move –perhaps already landed!”

- Well Brothers and sisters Mark is telling us the promised one of Genesis 3 has landed! And one day soon He will land again and lead us in to a place where there is no more cancer, leprosy, or even sin and now as we turn to the table lets long for that day for Him to land again and make all things Right –