



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

A Lesson in Mission Management February 6-8, 2021

Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. ³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

1. What was your worst childhood illness? What did it take to cure you? **Answers will vary. Explore the suffering and subsequent relief.**
2. Why do you think Jesus performed miracles in his day?
 1. To substantiate his claims of divinity (John 14:11)
 2. To gather an audience for his message.
 3. Because he had compassion on those who were hurting
 4. To strengthen people's faith in him (John 2:11)
3. Was there any downside to Jesus' miracles?

Jesus' miracles led some to want to make Jesus an earthly king (John 6:15). Some accused Jesus of being empowered by Satan (Matthew 12:24)

4. What impact does Jesus healing ministry have on your life today? **It confirms that Jesus is God; he cares for me; he has the power to heal me, even if, in love, he chooses not to heal me, but use my ailment for a higher good (cf. 2 Cor. 12:7-10)**
5. Do you see any irony in v. 30, in light of Rome's claim that Peter was the first Pope? **Yes, if Peter was the first pope and he was married (he had a mother in law), why doesn't the church allow priests to marry? If it was good enough for Peter...**
6. What do you think Jesus prayed for in v. 35? Why so early in the morning? **As true man, Jesus could have asked God for mental and physical strength; guidance regarding which of a number of "good" things he should concentrate on (e.g. healing, preaching); where should he go next; thanks for sustaining him so far, etc. As true man, he wanted to prioritize his time with his Father; less distractions before dawn.**
7. Are you more like Mary or Martha (cf. Luke 10:38-42)? In what way? **This is an opportunity for an honest self-assessment. Chances are, we are some of both. We may see ourselves in other's descriptions, too.**
8. List one practical step you can take/have taken to prioritize your quiet time with God. **Do it first thing in the morning. Set a routine; Use a bible app like YouVersion for Bible reading. Pick a partner and discuss/apply what you read. Have a dialog with God (speak through prayer; listen to His Word). Remember Luther's words: "I have so much to do today that I'll have to spend twice as much time in prayer to get it all done."**
9. Include a prayer for someone in need of Jesus' physical, emotional or spiritual healing. **Don't be afraid to include yourself. What do you want your group to be praying on your behalf?**
10. When you don't finish your to-do list, you can be sure that Jesus finished his (John 17:4). Why is this important to you? **Anytime we discuss setting priorities in our lives, we see where we have failed to manage our time well. It's comforting to realize that Jesus lived and died to not only erase our mismanagement; He also gives us his righteousness. In God's eyes, we are as faithful as Jesus is! His prayer life becomes our prayer life. PTL!**