

**February 25, 2017 – Elmont Baptist Church**  
**Message Series: The Gospel of Mark**  
**Week 7: “...He Taught...He Healed...”**  
**Text: Mark 1:21-34**

We have launched into unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. By the time we are done, we will have read every verse and unpacked every passage.

Here’s a little background – the author is Mark, or John Mark. Mark served as Peter’s interpreter, and is giving us Peter’s account of the life and ministry of Jesus. This book was written about AD 53-57, making it the first of the four Gospels to be written and the fifth earliest book in the New Testament to be written.

Mark’s audience is Romans believers, and as theologian Danny Akin says, “he is telling them that Jesus is the Messiah King and suffering servant who actively ministers on our behalf and gives his life as a ransom for many.” We’re going to tackle a longer passage that could easily be two sermons, because we need to see the bigger picture here. That the mission of Jesus is authenticated and illustrated by compassionate acts of Jesus, and that we when encounter His message and compassion, there is a response required.

### **Jesus’ Words & Actions Teach us that...**

#### ✓ **Jesus had a Mission**

- **Preach & Teach the Good News** – 1:15; 1:38
- **Push back & Rebuke the enemy** – 1 John 3:8

Ultimately the mission of Jesus was to die on the cross for the sins of the world, and rise again in victory over sin and death, but along the journey to the cross, He had a mission – to proclaim the Kingdom of God, to teach and preach deliverance from sin and righteousness by faith.

#### ✓ **Jesus had Compassion**

- **Healed the sick** Luke 4:18-20;7:22; Matt 9:36; 14:14;
- **Freed the captive** 20:34; Mark 6:34; 8:2-3; Luke 7:13

The mission of Jesus was authenticated by the compassion of Jesus. He took time for people because He loves people. It didn’t water-down or change the truth He came to proclaim, but rather healing, and other miracles, illustrated the message of deliverance from sin and a changed life. There are two main healing events here, the demon-possessed man and Peter’s mother-in-law. The demon-possessed man should not have been in the synagogue, because he was “unclean”, but his affliction was

unnoticed until Jesus showed up. The teaching of the religious leaders didn’t arouse this demon because their teaching didn’t offend the enemy. Jesus also healed many people of other sicknesses. An important note – not all sickness is of the devil, or demonic. Most is just a part of living in a broken world.

#### ✓ **Jesus Demands a Response**

- **We can live in opposition** – the demon knows who Jesus is and what He came to do (1 Jn 3:8), but is still opposed to Jesus. A.W. Tozer said, “The devil is a better theologian than any of us and is a devil still.” Don’t let your head knowledge about Jesus deceive you into thinking that your heart has been changed to know and love Jesus. On another level, if you are a follower of Jesus, do you make excuses why you can live in opposition to the teaching and example of Jesus in certain areas of your life?
- **We can struggle in selfishness** – For the next year of Jesus’ ministry many people will come to Him to get from Him, but when the teaching gets challenging, they leave.
- **We can grow by serving** – Jesus is the ultimate servant. If we are growing in Him, we will develop His heart. He doesn’t serve us because we are above Him. He serves us because our need is so deep that only He can meet it.

The mission and message of Jesus and the compassion with which He served people and illustrated His message generate a response in us. We can’t look at the mission and compassion of Jesus with any seriousness and just walk away unchanged. This isn’t just about feeling bad about our shortcomings, struggles, and sin, but even more than that our response is about finding freedom and deliverance from the bondage and burdens we were never made to carry.

### **Thinking it Through...**

- ✓ **Are there areas of your life in which you have made excuses for why you can live in opposition to Jesus?**
- ✓ **Will you give your selfishness to Jesus and find freedom in trusting Him to meet your need?**
- ✓ **Is your heart growing to be more like Jesus and evidenced by a desire to serve others?**

## Storying Mark 1:21-34

This is a little longer passage than I originally planned to tackle and could definitely be broken down into two or more messages. I wanted to take time to see the big picture of connection of Jesus' teaching and His miracles. There will several other healing stories we will get to and another demon-possessed story in Mark 5 that we will use to talk about that more specifically.

### • Questions

- **Observation:** (emphasize that these are rather obvious answers)
  - What day of the week is it?
  - Where is Jesus teaching?
  - What is the people's reaction to His teaching?
  - What is wrong with the first man in the passage?
- **Interpretation:**
  - Why does Jesus tell the demon(s) to be silent?
  - Why did the religious leaders not know this man was possessed?
  - What do the words of the demon tell us about what the devil believes about God?
- **Application:** Use the "Thinking it Through" questions as needed
  - What is the danger of focusing on teaching without compassion and vice versa?
  - What teaching of Jesus do you find most astonishing?
  - What warning is there for us in the fact that the devil is a better theologian than many believers?
  - Has Jesus' power over the enemy or sickness diminished over time? What does this mean for you?