

BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

Small Group Study Guide: Mark

Week of September 9 (Week 4)

Mark 1:29-45



Sermon Overview

Jesus was a man of uncommon authority. His words were commanding and his commands were irresistible. Jesus has authority to heal and forgive – something that was understood to be the prerogative of God alone. We also see Jesus' authority to sit down and eat with sinners. This was something which, the teachers of the law believed, was forbidden. In contrast to the Scribes, Jesus needed no authority other than His own person.

The life, priorities and mission of Jesus liberate his followers in a way that no other leader (religious or civil) has ever before or ever will. This isn't because of his charisma or creativity, but because of his identity and authority as God.

Getting Started

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1. Consider some of your experiences with those who have authority over you – work supervisors, police officers, etc. Do these interactions usually produce feelings of frustration or liberation?

Starting with God

2. Over what area of life does Mark 1:29-34 show his authority? What do we learn about the kingdom here?

3. In Mark 1:35-39, what about Jesus' reaction to his new popularity seems surprising? What do we learn here about Jesus' personal priorities?

4. In antiquity, the term "leprosy" was a term used to denote a variety of deforming and often fatal skin diseases and disorders. In many societies, lepers were "quarantined" into places where they could not contact others and spread their disease. But in Israel, lepers were in addition considered "ceremonially unclean." Even coming near a leper often made a person unfit for worship. In Mark 1:40-45, what is surprising about how Jesus heals the leper? What do we learn from the way Jesus approaches this man physically and emotionally?

Living God's Word

5. This week's passage (Mark 1:29-45) shows Jesus' life and ministry as a whirlwind of activity. Jesus' actions and priorities show a direct parallel between beliefs and actions, between going out to pray (v. 35) and going out to preach (v. 39). We see the work of Jesus is both an inward and outward work. How can you consistently arrange the priorities of your life to make sure you first attend to the inward purpose and mission of God before extending outward toward others?

Prayer

Father God, thank you for Jesus and the way he lived his life. Please guide me to live in a way that glorifies you in what I do and how I do it. Change my heart that I may believe, live and make decisions that point to the redeeming truth of the gospel. Amen.