

## **JESUS: THE ALL ACCESS PASS**

**Mark 1:33-34** *The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases.*

**Luke 19:10** *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

### **1. JESUS HAS AN OPEN DOOR FOR ALL.** *"The whole town gathered together at the door."*

The news of such power and compassion could not be overlooked and ignored. It had to be searched out and sought. It would be foolish to ignore the possibility for help if help was available for the asking. Jesus was present and power was available. It was simply a matter of *gathering* at His door for help.

### **2. THE CROWD IN THE STREETS INCLUDED THREE PRIMARY GROUPS:**

- the desperate who needed help
- the family and friends who brought the desperate
- the observer

Jesus helps the person out in the street. He helps all. You can claim His power if you come to Him.

**Matthew 11:28** *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

**Hebrews 7:25** *Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

**Revelation 22:17** *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

**Isaiah 55:1** <sup>1</sup> *"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.*

## Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> Read Mark 1:29-39

Jesus Christ cares for the individual and the home. In fact the whole thrust of His heart and purpose in coming to earth was "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). His care, presence, and power are available to any individual who will invite Him into their home. This glorious truth is clearly demonstrated in this event which took place in Peter's home. The lesson breaks out in the follow way:

1. The worship of Jesus brought His presence (v.29).
2. The presence of Jesus brought hope to a house (v.30).
3. The presence of Jesus brought healing and help to a house (v.31).
4. The presence of Jesus brought devotion and service to a house (v.31).

Read Mark 1:29. The worship of Jesus brought His presence into a house. It was the Sabbath, and Jesus and His disciples had gone to the synagogue to worship and teach (Mark 1:21-22). The service was now over, and Jesus had apparently entered Peter's home to have lunch. Peter had probably invited Jesus to lunch. The main meal on the Sabbath came right after worship or twelve noon, which was the sixth hour (the Jewish day began at 6 a.m.).

There is an interesting picture here. Think of this: Worship brought Jesus into Peter's home. Peter and the other three apostles had followed Jesus to worship. Upon leaving worship, Peter invited the Lord to be a guest in his home, and Jesus accepted the invitation to fellowship with him and his family. When a person truly worships the Lord and invites Him into their home, the Lord will enter and fellowship there. He willingly becomes a guest of anyone who extends the invitation.

**Revelation 3:20** *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

Secondly, when a person truly worships the Lord, that person is assured of Christ's presence. Christ will live with that person no matter how humble the person's home or dwelling is. If the dwelling is nothing more than a piece of ground under the open sky, the Lord will live with that person.

**Matthew 28:20** *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**Hebrews 13:5** *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

Thirdly, the person or family who worships is more likely to have the presence of the Lord in their home. Worship and faithfulness to God instill a sense of God's presence in the home more than any other thing.

**Matthew 18:20** *For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

**John 14:21** *Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

## Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> Read Mark 1:30-31

The presence of Jesus brought hope to a house. Peter's mother-in-law "lay sick of a fever." It was a *great fever*, a burning fever which gripped the woman (Luke 4:38). The area was known for its swamps or marshes which were infested with disease-carrying insects. Note two things.

**1. The very moment that Jesus entered the home, hope was kindled.** "Immediately they told Him of her." There was a life-threatening sickness, a serious need in the home. One who had the power to help was a guest in the home. Hope that was grounded in someone who is substantial.

**2. The family believed that Jesus cared and could help.** Note something: they had not known Jesus long. He was just beginning His ministry, yet they had already learned of His immense compassion and love, and His care and interest for people. Through this experience and many others yet to come, they were to learn to bring all their problems and sufferings to the Lord. Knowing of His care for people was bound to arouse the hope that He would help.

**Matthew 20:28** *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

**Hebrews 4:15-16** *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.*

<sup>16</sup> *Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

**1 Peter 5:7** *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

**3. Jesus' response to the request was immediate.** They told "Him of her [sickness]" and He immediately went to her bedside. He did not ask questions or lay down conditions. He was a guest in Peter's home, and Peter had surrendered his life to the Lord—all he was and had, including His home. Jesus loved Peter for his surrender; therefore, when Peter had a need, the Lord *immediately came* to meet that need.

**2. Jesus' touch was full of compassion and authority.** He loved and cared, so "He came and took her by the hand." He touched her. (Nothing can compare to a touch given from a heart of love and care. Contrast the touch of the fist, claw, and executioner.) Jesus was full of "the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:10), so He "lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her." His authority was the authority of God, and His power was the power of God.

**Matthew 28:18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**Acts 10:38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

**Ephesians 3:20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

**Jesus possessed the power to meet Peter's need**, that is, to heal Peter's mother-in-law. But note: He was able to help Peter because He was an invited guest in Peter's home. Think what Peter and his family would have missed if they had not invited Jesus into their home!

### Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> Read Mark 1:29-39

The power of Jesus' touch is enormous.

- **His touch has the power to cleanse from sin.** **Matthew 8:3** Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.
- **His touch has the power to give sight to the blind.** **Matthew 9:29-30** Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you";<sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."
- **His touch has the power to bless.** **Mark 10:13** People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. **Mark 10:16** And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.
- **His touch has the power to heal.** **Mark 7:33** After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. **Mark 7:35** At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

In Mark 1:31 the presence of Jesus brought devotion and service to a house. Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law so that she might serve. He did not heal her to sit and indulge her own whims and fancies and pass the time of her later years doing nothing of real value. She was elderly, the mother of Peter's wife. Jesus healed her so that she might become devoted to Him and become a servant to all. And she fulfilled her purpose: "She began to wait on them."

**John 4:34** "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

**John 9:4** As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

**2 Timothy 1:6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

**Titus 2:2-3** Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.<sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

### Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> Read Mark 1:29-39

Where does the servant of God get power? This passage reveals in unmistakable terms the sources of Jesus' power.

1. Jesus' sense of prayer (v.35).
2. Jesus' sense of a world-wide mission (v.36-38).
3. Jesus' faithfulness (v.39).

**1. Jesus' first source of power was His sense of prayer.** Note three facts about Jesus' prayer life in this passage.

**1. When Jesus prayed.** He prayed "in the morning, rising up a *great while* before day." Remember the day before had been the Sabbath, an extremely tiring day. He had taught and had expended enormous energy in teaching and ministering (**Mark 5:30**). He had been up late at night ministering to the whole city that had flocked to the house where He was staying (cp. **Mark 1:21-34**). I'm sure he was exhausted. Like very muscle in His body must have ached, craving rest; yet, "rising up a great while before day, He went out into a solitary place, and there prayed."

There is another critical point of instruction here as well. Early morning prayer must have been the habit of Jesus, for the fact that Jesus prayed in the early morning hours made a lasting impression upon the disciples. Remember, this is the launch of Jesus' ministry, probably the first time the disciples had an opportunity to observe Jesus' prayer life. Mark gives a detailed description, the facts of which had probably come from Peter. Mark certainly felt that the fact was important enough to emphasize, for he not only shares what Jesus' ministry was like, he also shares what Jesus' prayer life was like.

**2. Where Jesus prayed.** Note the words "departed into a solitary place." The solitary place is not identified. It could have been someplace out in the countryside, a quiet orchard, or an abandoned building. The fact of importance is that He had a place where He could be alone with God. He needed to be alone with God. If Jesus, the Son of Man, needed so much time alone with God in prayer, how much more do we? What an indictment against so many believers and their prayer life! (Read Matt. 7:7; John 16:24; Eph. 6:18)

**3. Why Jesus prayed.** At least three reasons are indicated in this passage.

- a. **Jesus was tired.** The day before had drained and exhausted Him, probably to the point that every muscle in His body ached. Teaching and ministering all day sapped the strength out of His body, both mentally and emotionally. In Jesus' case it actually drained virtue out of Him (Mark 5:30). Mentally and emotionally He was utterly exhausted. At such times the body does not want to move and the mind wanders more easily, making man more subject to temptation; therefore, prayer is desperately needed.
- b. **Jesus was launching His first missionary or evangelistic tour.** Jesus sensed deeply that He had come forth to be an evangelist (Mark 1:38). Right before He was to launch His first tour there was a great need to pray. The needs of people were great and their demands would be incessant. He would be bombarded by the needs of men and by the attacks of both Satan and institutional religion. The days would be long, taxing, and exhausting. He needed the strength of God and a special anointing as He went forth launching this very special mission.
- c. **Jesus was confronted with the applause and praise of men.** This presented the same temptation that He had faced earlier: to secure the loyalty of men by the spectacular. Seeing the miracles, men were ready to follow Him for what they could get out of Him. Jesus needed His purpose reinforced and a special infusion of God's strength to withstand the temptation of men's applause and loyalty—applause and loyalty that arose from shallow and surface commitments.

### Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> Read Mark 1:36-38

**Jesus' second source of power was His sense of mission, a world-wide mission.** Note what happened. When Peter and the others arose from sleeping, they discovered Jesus was missing. They asked around, found out where He was, and followed him. The word "followed" means strongly pursued. When they found Jesus, they were emphatic, "'All men seek for thee.' They are ready to follow you. Let's help them" (Mark 1:37).

Luke shows just how strong the urging to stay in Capernaum was by adding: "The people [themselves] sought Him, and came unto Him, and stayed Him, that He should not depart from them" (Luke 4:42). The word "stayed" is strong. It means to hold back, to hold fast. They tried their best to detain Him. They were not going to let Him leave if they could prevent Him from doing so.

The force of the urgings by the disciples and the people shows just how strongly convinced Jesus had to be of His mission. He had it made, so to speak, in Capernaum at this point in time. Note that the people were stirred and motivated to follow God, and there were tremendous needs yet to be met in the city and surrounding area. A great ministry could be performed for God right in Capernaum. There was no need to go elsewhere, not in the people's mind. Jesus' response was forceful: **Mark 1:38 (NIV) Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."**

Jesus was thoroughly convinced: He must not be deterred nor sidetracked from His mission. Plenty of needs may still have existed, but two critical facts were being overlooked—facts which have been and are still being sadly overlooked by believers everywhere.

1. Capernaum and its people, at least many of its people, had already heard the gospel preached. If God's messenger (Jesus) had stayed in Capernaum, many throughout the world would never have heard the gospel.

2. The people in Capernaum could now share the message themselves. God's messenger (Jesus) was not really needed to continue the ministry. The people were much more likely to assume the responsibility and carry on if Jesus left. But if Jesus had stayed, the people would have left most of the responsibility up to Him. The people would not become the witnesses they should.

Note something of crucial importance: the exact words of Jesus. He stressed in no uncertain terms that His mission was primarily to *preach*. He set forth *the primacy of preaching* as the task of the minister. Physical needs were present. They still existed in Capernaum, and they existed in all the towns where He was now to go. He would meet as many of the needs as possible. But His primary task and mission was to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Jesus' third source of power was His faithfulness to His mission.** He preached in the synagogues throughout "all Galilee." Galilee was densely populated. There were over two hundred cities in the district. Note two facts. (1) Jesus went everywhere preaching; He went "throughout all Galilee." He left no place untouched. Note also that He preached in the synagogues using the structure of established religion. He did this as long as He was allowed. (2) He continued to minister as well as preach. Preaching was His primary mission, but while He preached He also ministered to the physical needs of people. People had physical, emotional, and mental needs as well as spiritual. He validated and demonstrated both His mission and deity by healing and casting out devils.

Faithfulness assures power. God will continue to give His power to the messenger who continues to be faithful. Likewise, He has to withdraw His power from the unfaithful messenger. He cannot give license to disobedience. A divided house cannot stand.

**1 Corinthians 4:2** Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

**1 Corinthians 6:20** ... you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.