

STUDY TWO MARK 1: 14-45

Remember, imagine you are still reading Mark's gospel with an unbeliever.

Recap what learnt last study. Read Mk 1: 14-45

In this study, we will continue to discover Who IS this Jesus, The Messiah/ Christ, Son of God and what He has come to do.

Q1 Unpack this start to Jesus' ministry. How does Jesus' proclamation relate to last week's study of Mk 1: 1- 13? How is Jesus' call related to the essence of John the Baptist's preaching?

Q2 What impresses you in Jesus' call of His first 4 disciples?

Do the fishermen have more than one possible response? Why?

* See note below

Q3 How do the people in the synagogue react to Jesus' visit in Mk 1: 21-28? Why?

During this episode in the synagogue, what is Jesus revealing about Himself?

Q4 The cries of the impure spirit declare what? See also Mark 3:11

Q5 Read 1: 29-34. What do these incidents have in common with the preceding verses?

Q6 As you read Mk1: 32-34, who do you see gathered at the door of Simon's house?

What does this picture reveal about the world we live in? Into this world comes Jesus.

Q7 In v 35-39, is it surprising that Jesus the Messiah, Son of God needs to pray?

Q8 What do Peter and the disciples' exclamations reveal?

Could Jesus have had a satisfying career as a miracle worker?

Why not?

Q9 Read Mark 1: 40-45. Leprosy was a dreadful condition in the first century; for Jews, physically, spiritually and socially (see Leviticus 13: 38-46) Explain.

What type of person in our society would *you* feel most uncomfortable associating with? Why?

Q10 ** see note below re v41.

What can you learn from Jesus?

Q11 If the leper had obeyed Jesus' strict commands, what would have been restored to him? What effect did his actions have on Jesus?

Q 12 What has this study revealed to you about Jesus' Authority and Who He is? Have you been challenged in any way?

NOTES

* As you read Mark, notice Mark's favourite adverb 'Immediately' or 'at once'. Used 9x in Chapter 1 and 41 x in the whole Gospel. See how it focuses and emphasises words and actions, moving the narrative forward.

** NB The NIV unfortunately, translates 1:41 as: 'Jesus was indignant'. Perhaps expressing, how Jesus was righteously incensed over the man's suffering and the ravages that sin brings to our world. The majority of other NT translations show Jesus was moved or filled with compassion.

Prayer in your groups

Thank the Lord Jesus for coming to deal with the mess our world is in.

Thank Him that in Heaven, our bodies, affected by our fallen world will at last, be perfect and healed.

Praise Him for His staggering authority, power and compassion.