

## The Compassionate Lord

Mark 1:21-45  
Small Group Notes

### INTRODUCTION

In this passage, Mark presents Jesus to us as the Compassionate Lord. His authority is seen in His teaching, His power over the supernatural forces, and His ability to heal disease. He truly is Lord of Lords, yet He is a compassionate Lord. Mark wants us to know who Jesus is and to follow him as our compassionate Lord.

**Main Idea:** We must follow Jesus, our compassionate Lord.

**Read:** Mark 1:21-45

#### Questions:

- In Psalm 9:9-10, the psalmist says that those who know the name (character) of the LORD put their trust in Him. Discuss as a group what is it about Jesus in your personal walk with him, that makes you want to trust in more and more? How does this change our motivations for following Jesus?
- As we enter the Thanksgiving season, share something about Jesus that you are thankful about.

### DIG AND DISCOVER

Pastor Mark shared five reasons from Mark 1:21-45 that we must follow Jesus as our compassionate Lord.

#### Five Reasons:

##### 1. He is our authoritative Teacher (21-22)

Jesus does not pass along the oral traditions of the scribes, rather He speaks as one with authority directly from God. When He speaks God is speaking.

How can we more intentionally follow Jesus as our authoritative teacher? All of Scripture centers around Him, the one who fulfills the and deepens the law to the heart.

##### 2. He is our victory over supernatural forces. (23-28)

Jesus confronts the defiling spirit in the synagogue, and only needs to say, "Shut up! Get out!" and the demon must leave. Unlike other rituals of the day, Jesus doesn't need to know the name of the demon or perform an extended exorcism ritual, He speaks, and the demon obeys.

How do we avoid the two extremes of either dismissing the reality of spiritual warfare or becoming infatuated with the supernatural? Read Paul's balanced approach in Ephesians 6:10-20.

##### 3. He is a compassionate healer. (29-31)

Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, by taking her by the hand and restoring her to complete health. We can see Jesus' authority over disease, but also His compassion when healing. He cast out demons with a word, but when He heals, He touches the sick.

Discuss the following quote that helps us understand the miracles we see in the Gospels: "*Jesus primary mission is to proclaim the good news of the kingdom. The exorcism and healings are not showy displays of power for self-aggrandizement, but evidence that the*

*power of the kingdom of God is breaking into human history through the Messiah's words and deeds.”<sup>1</sup>*

How do we avoid the extremes that lead to the error of either a lack of faith that God can heal today or a belief that if we have enough faith God will always heal? Consider James 5:13-16 and Paul's thorn in the flesh in 2 Corinthians 12.

4. He is our example of dependence and dedication to the Father. (32-39)

Jesus moves away from becoming a localized celebrity or seeking to please the crowds that are amused by his miracles. His lifestyle is one of daily dependence on the Father and complete devotion to Him.

Consider the busyness of Jesus and the demands placed on Him by the crowds and His followers. Do you believe that He is able to help us follow His example of stepping away from the busyness to be with the Father and follow His will?

5. He is the One who is able to restore all things. (40-45)

Jesus truly is the great physician. He has power over disease and can restore all that is broken in our lives. His healing of the Leper by touching the untouchable again shows His power and His compassion for one who was defined by his disease and the social separation that followed. Jesus completely restores this leper; can He not also restore our brokenness? How should we demonstrate this same kind of radical love and compassion as a church in our ministries? Who are the

untouchables that God may be calling us to bring His love to?

### **CLOSING**

Is there any specific way that God is speaking to you through His word this week?

How can we pray for each other this week?

Is there a small step of obedience that you would like to take?

Consider the following quote from Christian Artist, Toby Mac, who lost his 21-year-old son this week. Perhaps, pray for him and his family and any one in your group who may be going through grief.

*“We don't follow God because we have some sort of under the table deal with Him, like we'll follow you if you bless us. We follow God because we love Him. It's our honor. He is the God of the hills and the valleys. And He is beautiful above all things.”*

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<sup>1</sup> Zondervan Exegetical Commentary