



# **JESUS: The Servant of God**

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

## **The Gospel Heals**

**Mark 1:29-45**

**Message #3**

**Sermon given on October 12, 2025**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Gospel Heals

**Mark 1:29-45**

## Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 1**
- Today, we begin a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The Gospel Heals**
- In the last teaching Jesus performed a miracle by delivering a man from demon-possession.
- Mark's gospel then moves on to the next things Jesus did.
- **Mark 1:29-31**
- They believed Jesus could heal her and they told Him of her need.
- One of the roles of the people of God is to love other people enough to bring their needs before Almighty God.
- This is especially true for those who cannot or will not go to God themselves.
- By faith they told Jesus of her condition.
- Luke's gospel tells us that Jesus rebuked the fever.
- Jesus had just rebuked a demon and cast it out of a man.
- Now He rebukes a fever and casts it out of Peter's mother-in-law.
- Jesus has total authority over everything, both spiritual and physical.
- This is something we must believe when we pray.
- Our prayers should declare the infinite power of God.
- Jesus even challenged His disciples to pray big prayers. **Mark 11:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*."

- My encouragement to you is that you try praying for humanly impossible things.

- The verse ends with ‘she served them.’
- That’s what she would have done if she hadn’t had the fever.
- Her healing was so complete that she did have the fatigue that is common after having a fever.
- Word spreads quickly that Jesus has the power of God to heal.
- **Mark 1:32-33**
- ‘At sunset, when the sun had set’ – The people waited until sunset to come for healing so that they did not violate the Sabbath regulations.
- The Sabbath was a holy day of rest for the Jewish people.
- Over time, rules and regulations controlled what people did on the Sabbath.
- One of the things you couldn’t do on the Sabbath is heal someone.
- This was not God’s intent for the Sabbath and Jesus choosing to heal on the Sabbath will be a source of aggravation to the religious Jews.
- **Mark 1:34**
- It seems that everywhere Jesus went people came to Him to be healed.
- It also appears that demon-possession was fairly common.
- It might be fairly common around us also, we just don’t have the spiritual discernment to see it.
- Some of the things we diagnose as mental health diseases could be demonic possession.
- Jesus could see the problem clearly and He cast every one of them out.
- Jesus had the authority to prevent the demons from speaking.
- They knew He was the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah of the Jews, the Savior of the whole world.
- Jesus didn’t want His reputation associated with their reputation.
- They were demons doing the work of Satan tormenting and causing harm to people made in the image of God.
- Jesus came to deliver people from every form of bondage.
- This is one of the reasons our own reputation is so important.
- God calls us to testify to others the gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus.
- Our reputation is how the world sees and describes how we express our faith.

- Our reputation is not what we say we are, but what we actually are in the way we live.
- We were created in the image of God, and we are to carry God's image out into the world.
- God is holy, and He calls us to be holy as He is and His Son Jesus is.

### **Ephesians 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup>**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...**

- There was an endless stream of people who needed a touch from Jesus.
- There still is. He may want to touch their lives through you.
- **Mark 1:35**
- Jesus was a very busy man.
- He was so busy that He had to get up very early in order to have time to pray.
- If Jesus, God in the flesh, needed to get up early and find an isolated place for uninterrupted prayer with the Father, how much more do we need it? **William MacDonald**

**"Prayer should not be a matter of personal convenience but of self-discipline and sacrifice."**

- Lack of prayer may explain why many Christians lack spiritual power and growth.
- **Mark 1:36-38**
- The people of Capernaum wanted more of what Jesus was giving.
- Jesus knew the danger of fame and popularity.
- The more popular He became, the more they wanted to crown Him king.
- But Jesus knew the cross came before the crown.
- He had also spent time in communion with the Father in prayer and knew what God wanted Him to do that day.
- There were probably more people who needed to be healed and delivered from demons in Capernaum.
- That wasn't what Jesus was on the earth to do.

- He did it while He was here to help relieve a little of the misery sin inflicted upon this planet and its inhabitants.
- Jesus was here to preach the gospel of salvation and then be the sacrifice that takes away the sins of anyone who will believe.
- **Mark 1:39-40**
- Leprosy was a terrible disease in the first century.
- Little was known about it and there was great fear of it spreading to others.
- Someone with leprosy was driven out of society and made to live alone or with other lepers.
- **Mark 1:41**
- Jesus was well-aware of the suffering of this man.
- He knew of his isolation and hopelessness.
- Leprosy was usually a death sentence, but death usually didn't come for years, maybe decades.
- In a breathtaking display of compassion Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.
- It was forbidden to touch lepers.
- Anyone and anything a leper touched was defiled and made unclean.
- I can imagine the gasps of horror as the people around them witnessed this act of compassion.
- Jesus, the Holy Son of Man could touch sinners and not be touched by sin.
- **Mark 1:42-44**
- Jesus told the leper not to tell anyone.
- Jesus healed every person He came into contact with but that was not His purpose for coming to the earth.
- He came to preach the gospel and die for the sins of the world.
- Every healing Jesus performed was a temporary solution to a physical problem.
- Jesus came to bring eternal spiritual healing to people.
- Every person Jesus healed would eventually get sick and die.
- What Jesus brought was eternal healing from the problem of sin.
- Jesus told the healed leper to go to the priest.

- This healing would be a witness to the religious people that a significant miracle had taken place.
- Jesus didn't want the former leper talking about it because Jesus had not come to do a healing ministry, but He wanted the priests to know because they were the ones responsible for preparing people for the arrival of the Messiah.
- This miracle is one of the pieces of evidence of the Messiah.
- **Mark 1:45**
- Jesus did not come to the earth so that they could be relieved of their physical miseries.
- He did it but that was not His purpose.
- Physical healing is a temporary ointment to an eternal problem.
- Physical healing does not prevent death, only delays it. **Hebrews 9:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

- Everyone will eventually die.
- Jesus came so that we would not have to experience what Revelation describes as the Second Death, to be cast into the lake of fire, the place of eternal punishment for those who rejected Jesus, the Healer of our soul.
- If you are a Christ-follower today, you have already received the greatest healing of all, the forgiveness of sins through faith in the shed blood of Christ on the cross.
- That doesn't mean we shouldn't seek Him for physical healing.
- But we should ask ourselves why we want to be healed.
- There is nothing wrong with asking God to relieve our suffering or to prolong our life but there is a higher motivation than that.
- The apostle Paul wrestled with that as he sought relief from the Lord from some kind of ailment. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. <sup>8</sup> Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- We don't need to be healed to glorify God.
- It is not wrong to ask for healing but if God says no, accept it and praise Him.
- From a Roman prison Paul contemplated the reality that he might not be released. **Philippians 1:19-26**

<sup>19</sup> For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, <sup>20</sup> according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. <sup>22</sup> But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup> For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better. <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. <sup>25</sup> And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, <sup>26</sup> that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

- The reason we should want to be relieved of our misery or to prolong our life ought to be to further serve Christ and glorify God.
- Thankfully, God heals people because He wants to, but as our faith grows, we want Him to do it for better reasons.
- We will be doing Communion this morning.
- We should take a moment and reflect on the things we heard this morning.
- **Pray – Communion - Last Song**