

Mark 1:29-39 — Jesus Has Authority Over Disease and Death.

October 28, 2018

At CrossWinds, we are studying the Gospel of Mark. The big theme of the first half of Mark is that Jesus is our king. He is the Son of God. John the Baptist announced Jesus was coming as the king. At Jesus' baptism, God the Father verbally affirmed Jesus as the Son of God. At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit visually descended upon Jesus, claiming him as the Son of God. There were many claims in the opening verses of this Gospel about Jesus being the Son of God. It is one thing for people to make claims about Jesus, but can Jesus support those claims? Can Jesus live up to the claim that he is the very Son of God, the king of the universe?

Last week, we began a new section in the Gospel of Mark where Jesus began supporting those claims made about him. Last week, Jesus proved he is the Son of God by demonstrating his authority over the spiritual world by casting a demon out of a man that was in the synagogue with only a word. You and I can't cast out a demon with the authority of our words. Only Jesus can cast out a demon with the authority of his words. As we said last week, only Jesus can make a demon scream.

This morning, we pick up our study in Mark 1:29. We will study the next 10 verses. Incidentally, what happens in these verses takes place on the same day as what we studied last week. Last week, we saw Jesus teach in the synagogue and cast out a demon before lunch. Today, we see that everything Jesus does in these verses is what happens after lunch. He had a busy day. If you think your

day is busy, Jesus' day was busier. What I find amazing is he did this all without Red Bull or Starbucks.

Read Mark 1:29-39

If Jesus is the Son of God, he needs to have more authority in this world than just the ability to cast out demons. He needs to be able to save people from the consequences of sin in the physical universe, not just the consequences of sin in the spiritual universe. The Bible tells us we were never created to die. Death, sickness and disease came from sin being introduced into this world.¹ They are a consequence of Adam and Eve's sin. The nature channel may tell you that death and survival of the fittest is a natural part of life but it is wrong. Death in this world is an enemy introduced by sin. If Jesus is the rightful king of this earth, he needs to have the ability to roll back the influence of sin upon creation. If Jesus will ultimately raise people from the dead in a resurrection body, he needs to demonstrate that he has the power to turn back the effects of the curse of sin on a regular human body now. Last week, we saw Jesus' has absolute authority over the demonic world. This week, we see Jesus has absolute authority over the curse of sin on the physical world that leads to sickness, disease and death.

Jesus proved his authority as the Son of God by his healing power.

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Mark 1:29 (ESV)

Let's set the scene. Simon, Andrew, James, and John were all fisherman in the city of Capernaum. They worked for the same company, the Sons of

¹ Romans 5:12

Zebedee fishing company. We tend to think of them as poor men with fishing poles. That is the wrong picture.

These were not poor men. They were business men.

Fishing was a huge industry at the Sea of Galilee.

Capernaum was located at the crossroads of two major

roads, one being a Roman highway known as the Via Maris. These men caught fish. They salted fish. They shipped fish to other parts of the world using the highway. This was big business. The Bible tells us Peter and Andrew were originally from Bethsaida, which is a small town on the Sea of Galilee. They moved to Capernaum because their growing fishing business demanded easier access to highways so they could then export their fish. That is why they lived in this city.



It says, **“And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew...”** It sounds like Peter did not have much of a commute to get home from the synagogue to his home since they arrived immediately. There is literally truth to these words. Archaeological excavations of Capernaum have unearthed the synagogue in the city, and archaeologists have unearthed the house where they believe Peter lived. Peter’s house is literally a stones throw from the synagogue. We are talking a one- or two-minute walk.

What was Peter’s house like?

Peter’s house is interesting. It was not a small house. It was part of a larger complex with windows and doors that were part of a walled-off courtyard. You pass through the entrance to the courtyard of Peter’s property and there are

multiple small buildings in the courtyard. These buildings were used by family members and relatives. Peter's property was a walled-off parcel of land in the city that had multiple small houses on the property. This means everybody came to Peter's house for the holidays because his property was big enough to host them and he had plenty of places for people to sleep. Excavations of Peter's home reveal it had three hearths for cooking. That means it had three kitchens. It was quite a complex. We think of Peter as a poor fishermen. He was not a poor fisherman. He was a successful businessman in the fishing industry and was much higher up the economic food chain than most in the city. If you have a house with three kitchens, you know the business is good. The buildings on his property were all originally built of black basalt stone, which was common in that area. They had a thatch roof. Perhaps one of the reasons Peter invited Jesus and his friends to lunch is because Peter had plenty of room to have everyone to lunch.

Incidentally, you can see Peter's house today in Capernaum. The Catholic Church memorialized this site. It built a building over the spot believed to be Peter's home. You can see in the photo.



The building looks like a flying saucer supported on its edges. The grey beam in the top of this photo is one of the support beams of this flying saucer house suspended over Peter's home. Why did was this built? I think it is so people can look inside Peter's house without

actually being inside Peter's house. I know the mess in my house when we have half a dozen people for dinner. I imagine Peter's home would be destroyed after thousands of tourists walked through it each year. I haven't been there to see this for sure. I didn't have time to finish researching this for today but it makes sense.

How can we know they identified Peter's house?

In Capernaum, Peter's house was turned into a first-century church because on the walls are devotional graffiti written into the plaster in Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Aramaic. These writings date back all the way to the first century. People obviously know where Peter lived. People turned his home into a place of worship from the earliest moments of Christian history. On the confidence scale, archaeologists are highly confident this is Peter's home. It is not a tourist trap to take your money like many other sites in the Middle East.

Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. Mark 1:30 (ESV)

This teaches us is that Peter was married. Paul said that Peter and the other apostles were married guys, not single guys. That reframes our thinking a bit about the apostles. They were not bachelors. They were family men. Look what Paul said about Peter and the other apostles in his first letter to the Corinthians.

Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? 1 Corinthians 9:5 (ESV)

Cephas is another name for Peter in the Bible. Apparently Peter had a wife and she traveled with him on mission trips in the later part of his life. If Peter had any children — and tradition says he did have children although it is not in

the Bible — when his wife traveled with him, his children would have been old enough to have been on their own.

At this point, Peter lived in Capernaum with wife, children and mother-in-law in a big home. Unfortunately, his mother-in-law was sick. This may have been another reason Peter invited Jesus to lunch. Luke 4 tells us Jesus had already done miracles before this point. Peter was probably hoping Jesus could do something to help his sick mother-in-law.

While Mark simply said Peter's mother-in-law had a fever, in Luke 4:38, which is the parallel account to what we are studying, we have more detail. Remember Luke was a doctor so he gave us more of a medical description. Luke said Peter's mother-in-law had a high fever. In Greek, he literally called it a mega fever. That is not just the kind of fever that happens with the flu. This is the kind of fever that happens when your body is fighting a severe, life-threatening infection. It appears Peter's mother-in-law was fighting a severe infection someplace in her body. We are not accustomed to seeing this. In the ancient world, they didn't have penicillin. Their medicine was nothing like what we have today. When someone had a severe infection in the ancient world, they languished and the body was eaten away as they boiled with fever. Many times in the ancient world, infection did not go well and people lost their lives. If you have experienced the pain of infection in a cut or in a finger, you have a sampling of what this woman was experiencing throughout her body.

Peter and his wife were obviously concerned for this woman. She was the matriarch of the family. Mark said that as soon as they brought Jesus over to the

home, they told him about her. There was no lunch for Jesus without first seeing if he could help her. This was a desperate situation. In Luke 4:38, which is Luke recording the same event, Luke said they asked Jesus, “Can you heal her?” You can almost hear the desperation in those words. You can picture Peter’s wife pushing Peter to Jesus and her voice begging Peter to ask for Jesus’ help. The mother was not well.

And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. Mark 1:31 (ESV)

The picture is, this older woman was laying down. She was in bed. She was so sick and so weak she could not get out of bed to greet them. Jesus simply stood over her, took her hand and pulled her out of bed. As he lifted her up, he lifted the fever and the infection out. It was that quick. Luke 4 provides a few more details for this shocking healing.

And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. Luke 4:39 (ESV)

Luke didn’t tell us about Jesus taking her hand but he did tell us that Jesus spoke a few words to rebuke the fever. Just as Jesus’ words were so authoritative that he cast out a demon by merely speaking a word, Jesus’ words are so authoritative that he cast out disease and sickness with just the authority of his words. Simply by the authority of a few words this woman was healed instantly and completely.

Think about this for a moment. The power of Jesus’ words are so great that a fever obeys. A life-threatening infection is instantly eradicated from a body and all the symptoms and fatigue from the lengthy battle instantaneously disappear. Jesus has total authority over the spiritual world. He demonstrated it

by casting out a demon with a mere word. Jesus has total authority over the physical world. He demonstrated that by rebuked the high fever and infection in this woman's body. It was gone in an instance with all the symptoms and consequences of her disease disappearing.

Now the next part is critical, **she began to serve them**. Grandma instantly kicked into grandma mode, which is loving people through her cooking and her famous family recipes. Her version of showing love, like many grandmothers, was cooking for her family.

You and I know that when we have languished with a fever because of the flu, when our fever breaks, we need of time to recoup and gain our strength. We need chicken soup and toast and a few days of rest because we are wiped out. This lady was fighting a severe infection and facing death but she was so completely restored that she had enough energy to make a Sabbath dinner for four hungry fisherman, plus her family, plus Jesus and whoever else showed up that day. She did this all without a microwave, without an ice box and without frozen pizza. This was an amazing woman. It is hard enough to make a meal like this when you are healthy! It is a miracle on a different order when you are facing death one moment but then you are not just healed but you are strengthened to the point of being able to make this kind of a meal the next moment.

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. Mark 1:32–34 (ESV)

Apparently, it didn't take long for the news of Jesus casting out a demon in the synagogue and Jesus instantly and completely healing Peter's mother-in-law to travel through town gossip. Remember this is before Snapchat and Instagram.

Why did people wait until sundown to bring the sick and demon-possessed to Jesus?

The rules of the Sabbath were that you could not travel more than a small distance on the Sabbath, but when 6 p.m. arrived, or three stars were visible in the night sky, the Sabbath day was over and you could travel again. As soon as the day was over, everybody in the city carried their sick loved ones and family members to Peter's house after dinner. It was a good thing Peter had a big house because they were lining up at the door.

When it says, **“And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons...”** that is not implying he left some unhealed. It is saying many people came to him to be healed. Both Mark and Luke lost count of the number of people that came that night to be healed by Jesus. There were too many. They kept coming late into the night. Jesus healed them all with just a word or a touch. Jesus didn't heal them a little but he healed all of them just like he healed Peter's mother-in-law. He restored them to complete and full strength instantly. There was no period of recovery when they needed to wait to gain their strength. This continued late into the night — 10 o'clock, 11 o'clock and midnight arrived with Jesus still healing them one after the other. I picture Peter looking out the window of his walled compound hoping to see the end of the line so they could get some rest that night because this was a busy day but the line still stretched around the block.

Remember these were people with legitimate diseases — people who were lame from birth, people missing a hand had a hand regrow at the word of Jesus, people missing an eye because of an accident had a new eye appear. Jesus healed people with big sicknesses and people with little sicknesses. Jesus healed all of them with just a touch or a word.

Mark also tells us that those who had loved ones oppressed by demons brought them and Jesus cast out more demons, except Jesus would not let them publicly identify him.

Why did Jesus keep the demons silent?

I think it is a simple answer. Jesus didn't want Satan in charge of his publicity campaign. It would not go well if the demons were telling everybody Jesus' true identity. If there was too much name association between Jesus and his demonic cheerleaders, things would not go well. That is not the way Jesus wanted to share his true identity with the world.

What does the Bible say about healing?

This is a good place to take a few minutes to talk about healing in the Bible. There have always been false healers who claim to be able to heal like Jesus. They love to prey on people facing sickness and weakness. This is the way they make their money. They take advantage of those who are suffering. In my heart, they feel like some of the most evil people. Instead of helping people in pain, they take advantage of people in their pain and knowingly give them false hope. You think of people like Benny Hinn and the Peter Popoff's with their television programs. They say, "Send me your money. I will pray over your letter

and you will be healed. If you send me enough money, I will send you a prayer cloth which you can put over your place of sickness and be healed.”

In America, while we are susceptible to those kinds of claims from these charlatans, in other parts of the world, where there is a shortage of medical care and medical knowledge, people are very susceptible to these phony healing tricksters. In India and Africa, people languish and die from simple diseases that we could cure with an over-the-counter drug. Cults like Benny Hinn’s promise instant healing to these people when they can do nothing beside steal the money of people in distress. That is just evil.

Some people point out that the Bible talks about gifts of healing. Other people claim they have that gift and can heal like Jesus. Let me correct this. When the Bible talks about gifts of healing, it is not talking about a gift of healing like Jesus had the power to heal. If the Benny Hinns of this world had the power to heal like Jesus, they would walk through a hospital and every room would be empty when they were done by simply a touch or a word. If the Benny Hinns of this world had the power to heal like Jesus, they would empty cancer wards and AIDS clinics. We don’t see that happening because they don’t have the power to heal like Jesus. The gift of healing like Jesus was limited to Jesus and his apostles.

What made Jesus’ healings unique?

1. **Jesus healed with just a word or a touch.** He rebuked a fever or he even healed with a word from a distance.

2. **Jesus healed instantly.** In Mark 5, the bleeding woman was healed instantly. In Luke 17, 10 lepers were healed instantly. Leprosy rots off your body parts. It is a reasonable assumption that those healed of leprosy had body parts regrow instantly. There were no prayer cloths or special formulas involved. There was no lag time.
3. **Jesus healed totally.** When Jesus rebuked the fever from Peter's mother-in-law, she was instantly restored to full strength, enough strength to make a huge meal from scratch.
4. **Jesus healed everybody.** Jesus healed everybody that came to Peter's door that night. It didn't matter if you were missing a foot or missing an eye. You couldn't fail to qualify because you were too sick. Jesus healed everybody. This is just one day in the life of Jesus. He did this day after day, putting ancient doctors out of business for a period of time.
5. **Jesus healed real diseases.** He didn't heal things like power back pain or a migraine headache.
6. **Jesus raised dead people.** For Jesus, raising people back to life was no different than healing someone with an amputated foot. The Bible tells us one day Jesus went to a funeral in Nain and he walked by the casket and said to the dead man in the box, "Young man arise." The dead man came back to life. I guarantee you that you will not find faith healers of today at the mortuary or in the graveyard. They don't go to those places because they can't heal like Jesus.

7. **Jesus' healing did not necessarily require faith.** Sometimes we read about

Jesus not doing many miracles in a place because of the lack of faith of the people. Other times we see that no faith was required. For instance, when Jesus raised dead people, did the dead people have faith? In Capernaum, virtually everyone Jesus healed in Mark 1 was an unbeliever without faith.

When someone says, "It is your fault you were not healed because you don't have enough faith," that is just unbiblical.

Let me give you a brief history of healing in the Bible. The first healing in the Bible is in Genesis 20. This takes place about 2,200 B.C. From 2,200 B.C. to 750 B.C., there are approximately 20 miraculous interventions recorded in the Bible. From the time of Isaiah in 750 B.C. to Jesus there are zero. During that time sickness and disease were everywhere. Jesus came on the scene, and it was a healing explosion. Every day for almost three years Jesus was healing scores, possibly hundreds, of people a day. No disease was too hard to cure. No disease was off limits. I love the arrest scene of Jesus as they were preparing to take him to the cross. Somebody whacks off the high priest's servant's ear as they were arresting Jesus. It was most likely Peter. Jesus stopped, picked up the severed ear and healed the man instantly and completely on the spot as they were arresting Jesus! Are you beginning to sense the overwhelming nature and overflowing frequency of Jesus' healing power?

In the later part of the New Testament, we don't see everyone miraculously healed.

Last week we saw Jesus delegated this ability to heal like he could heal to the 72, to the 12 apostles and to Paul.² As the Scriptures were written and the Bible formed, the intensity and frequency of miraculous healings associated with Jesus began to recede. You go to the later books of the New Testament and people were sick but they were not healed.

Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. 2 Timothy 4:20 (ESV)

Why did Paul leave Trophimus ill and not miraculously heal him?

(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) 1 Timothy 5:23 (ESV)

Why didn't Paul miraculously cure Timothy's frequent ailments? Why did Paul tell him to use medicine?

I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. Philippians 2:25–27 (ESV)

Why was Paul worried Epaphroditus would die? Why did Paul need to wait upon God with hopes and prayers that Epaphroditus would recover instead of simply speaking a word and healing him supernaturally?

It seems that after the time of Jesus and the apostles, the supernatural healings associated with Jesus and the apostles began to recede.

Even the apostle Paul was not miraculously healed of his own sickness.

² Luke 9:1, Luke 10:8-9

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (ESV)

Sometimes God chooses to bring glory to his name through our sickness or even through our deaths.

What does the Bible mean when it talks about the gift of healing?

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)

When the Bible talks about the gifts of healing, what is it talking about? It is not talking about healing like Jesus did where everyone is healed instantly, completely and with just a touch or word. That was unique to Jesus and is uniquely attached to Jesus.

What is the gift of healing Paul talked about in this gift list? As far as I can tell, It is a gift that those who pray for your healing find their prayers for healing answered more frequently than other people. God does respond to our prayers. God responds to our prayers for healing. God responds to the prayers of some people more than he responds to the prayers of other people.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16 (ESV)

This is one of the reasons it is good to have people praying for you when you are sick. This is one of the reasons we have a prayer chain at church. Prayer makes a difference. Many times God responds to prayer for healing.

When God responds to our prayers for healing, he can respond in a variety of ways.

1. Sometimes God brings about healing through doctors in response to our prayers. This past week, I received an update from a pastor friend of mine struggling with cancer. God used his providence to open up a seat for him to be involved in experimental treatment for a new cancer drug. So far, the drug looks very effective. It appears God is answering his prayers for healing and life and by providentially opening up doors for him to receive special cancer treatments.
2. Sometimes God brings his healings about supernaturally, without explanation, in response to our prayers. Many of us know people where the doctor has no explanation why a disease went into remission or how someone was healed. If there is a medical reason, it is beyond the doctor's knowledge. God sometimes answers prayer for healing in miraculous, unexplainable ways.
3. Sometimes God, in his wisdom, chooses not to heal but to use our suffering as a platform for his glory in our lives as we trust in him through hard times. This was Paul talking about God's power being made perfect in his weakness, not his healing. This was Job enduring unexplainable suffering instead of healing. God was using Paul and Job's suffering as a platform for his glory in their lives. Sometimes he does the same thing in our lives. Our suffering is the platform he chooses to use to bring his name glory in our lives as we display our trust in him.

4. Sometimes God uses suffering as the means of death whereby he will bring us home to be with him in heaven until the resurrection. We must remember that for Christians, death is not the bitter end. It is the better end. It is being home to see Jesus face to face, which the Bible describes as far better than anything in this life. Those who are left behind grieve. They do not grieve without hope. They know their loved ones are with Jesus, which is better by far. They know that one day in the future when God calls them home they will be with Jesus and their loved one once again.

In all these things God gets glory.

The source of Jesus' healing power was his relationship with his father.

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." Mark 1:35–37 (ESV)

We need to remember the busyness of Jesus' day. Jesus didn't start healing the entire city of Capernaum until after 6 p.m. He kept healing people late into the night. Yet, Jesus was up very early in the morning. Mark was trying to emphasize how early Jesus rose. He was up very early, while it was still dark. When it was still dark, we find Jesus escaped to a desolate place to pray. The word desolate is the same word used for wilderness, where Satan tempted Jesus earlier in this chapter. Desolate wilderness was not easy to find near Capernaum. The land around Galilee was farmed so he took a hike to get away from absolutely everything so he could find an isolated place to pray. The source of Jesus' power was the Holy Spirit, but Jesus' reliance on that strength came from his quiet time with his heavenly father. The point Mark was making is that Jesus

made a sacrifice of sleep even when he was exhausted in order to have a quiet time and quiet place for him to talk to his heavenly father.

Jesus knew how desperately he needed this alone time with his father to be led by the Holy Spirit and not led by the demands of the crowds. Three times in the Gospel of Mark, we read that Jesus went to a secluded place to pray. Jesus prayed all the time but especially took time for prayer in stressful times. For instance, he prayed all night seeking to be led by his father before making important decisions, such as the time he prayed all night before choosing his disciples. Jesus prayed before facing times of stress. Jesus withdrew to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane before facing the cross. Jesus knew he needed to take time to be quiet and listen to his heavenly father in the busyness of life, before making important decisions and when facing times of stress. This is why Jesus could say what he did in John 5:19.

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, [the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.](#) John 5:19 (ESV)

Jesus was taking time to listen to his father so he knew he was living in sync with his father. If the Son of God needed to carve out special times in prayer to make sure he lived his life according to his father’s will, we certainly need to do the same. I think it is instructive that Jesus got up early and found an isolated place and time where he would not be distracted. Each of us needs to have isolated places and times where we will not be distracted when we talk to our heavenly father in prayer so we are quiet enough to listen to the things he tells our hearts. We need to be away from our books, our video games and the television so we can hear our heavenly father’s voice.

The purpose of Jesus' healing power was the proclamation of the gospel.

And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. Mark 1:38–39 (ESV)

The disciples were thrilled with the success of that first day in Capernaum. People were gathering around again to be healed the next morning. I suspect the healings this time were not the major one but the minor one, like a hangnail and bruised finger. This is like the day after Jesus fed the 5,000, when the crowd hunted down Jesus looking for more free food. A free lunch was not the reason Jesus came. He came to preach the gospel that we might be saved from eternal destruction and a broken relationship with God through him. Healing and casting out demons is not the reason Jesus came. He came to tell people the good news that through him people can be made right with God.

God is rolling back the kingdom of Satan. The consequences of Satan and sin are also being rolled back, that is sickness and death. All who believe and trust in him are part of his kingdom. Casting out demons and healing the sick is just proof that Jesus is the king of the kingdom. It is not the primary reason Jesus came.

This is why Jesus was ready to move on to other small towns in Galilee. That way more people could know the king had arrived and more people could place their faith in him. Would Jesus cast out more demons and heal more diseases? Yes, of course. However, the reason he came was not primarily to cast out demons and provide free healthcare. It was to preach the good news of the kingdom that people could be forgiven of their sin and brought back into a right relationship with God through him. That is far more important than healthcare.

We can't heal like Jesus. We can't cast out demons like Jesus. We can tell people the good news of the kingdom like Jesus. We can tell them the king is here and the king changes lives not just for a few earthly years with healed sickness, but for this life and eternity the king reigns and we live because of him. This is why we preach the good news like Jesus preached the good news.

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:13–15 (ESV)

Application

1. **Jesus is the one behind all healing.** Jesus' healing was qualitatively and quantitatively different. He healed everyone instantaneously. While healing doesn't take place like it did at the hands of Jesus, many times God still brings healing in response to our prayers. Sometimes God brings healing supernaturally. Sometimes God brings healing through providence and doctors. Either way God is the source of that healing. Sometimes God desires that we bring glory to his name through our suffering, like Job experienced. Sometimes God's desire is that we bring glory to his name through our deaths. The Bible tells us to pray for healing, trusting God to respond with his will and his wisdom to our prayers.
2. **The busier life becomes, the more important our personal time with God becomes.** Jesus, who is the Son of God, still needed to get up early, to be alone, to talk with his Father in prayer. He needed to be away from people. He needed to be away from distractions to spend time with God so he could

be led by God. If Jesus needed this to stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in his life, we also need to prioritize our time with God so we can stay sensitive to him.

3. **More important than healing and casting out demons is proclaiming the kingdom of God.** Jesus spent a lot of time healing and casting out demons but that was secondary to his proclaiming the message of the kingdom. Healings and exorcisms demonstrate God's compassion and love for people, but Jesus's ultimate purpose was not to heal them physically for a few short years but to call them to repent of their sin, trust in him and have their lives healed forever.



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