

Sermon Series:
Who is this man? - The Book of Mark
Sermon Title:
Hit the Ground! [Sermon #7]
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Have you ever had a day that was so busy that you just couldn't wait for it to be over....only to find that the next day would bring no relief? I'd say one of the most stressful things a person can experience is busyness! People needing you. Being tired. Needing a break. That's where we are at our weakest.

Well, Jesus has just had one of those days. You remember that he starts off on Saturday morning and goes into the Synagogue and he is teaching. While he is teaching a demon possessed man starts yelling at him. "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." Jesus casts out the demon and the service is over.

He goes from there straight over to Simon's wife's house to eat lunch. While there, they show him Peter's mother in law, who is sick with a fever. Jesus heals her. They keep eating and have some fellowship together that day. As 3 stars appear in the sky, remember there is no electricity, the Sabbath is over and the Bible says that ALL who were sick or demon possessed came to be healed. The WHOLE city of Capernaum was gathered at the door. He healed many and cast out many demons.

IT WAS A BUSY DAY. It must have gone on way after dark.

In fact, if we take a look at Jesus' ministry in the first several chapters of Mark, we will see that things are quite crazy. Jesus and the disciples are super-busy.

In Mark:

1:28- his fame has spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

1:33- the whole city, which Capernaum was the largest in the area, is at the door.

1:37- Everyone is looking for Jesus.

1:45- people were coming to Jesus from every quarter

2:2- There are so many people that people have to tear a hole in the roof to get their friend healed.

2:13- All the crowd was coming to him

3:9-10- Jesus says to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, 'LEST THEY CRUSH HIM', and people with diseases PRESSED around him to TOUCH him.

3:20-21- There are so many people that they can't even eat and his family hears of it and they say, "Jesus has lost his mind."

4:1- A VERY large crowd has gathered so that Jesus has to teach from a boat in the water.

5:24- the large crowd THRONGED (Swarmed) about him to touch him.

5:31- the crowd is 'PRESSING' on him to touch him.

6:31-33- 'Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.' For many were coming and going and they had no leisure even to eat. {How did that turn out? The people ran there on foot along the shore and beat the boat to the other side. 5000 men and their families}

So, LET THAT SET THE STAGE FOR WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE JESUS. Feel the stress in your chest.

It's busy. It's tiring. He's a rock star and there's no privacy, nor is there any free time.

He's just had a very long day at the office.

Mark 1:35-39

35 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. 36 And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, 37 and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." 38 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." 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Here we see:

I. THE POWER BEHIND JESUS'S MINISTRY.

4 times in Mark we have Jesus going out to a desolate place, into the wild to PRAY TO GOD THE FATHER and I might add....fight temptation of the devil.

In the very beginning....in **Mark 1:12**- in the wilderness /40 days
Beginning of his public ministry **Mark 1:35-39** -here

In the middle of the book- **Mark 6:46**- at the feeding of the 5000
(John 6:15) where the people want to 'take him and make him
king.'

At the end....in....**Mark 14:32-35**- Garden of Gethsemane, before
crucifixion.

*The initial tempting by Satan.

*Here as he gathers his first crowd.

*When they want to make him King.

*In his darkest most difficult hour.

WE...SEE...HIM....ALONE....PRAYING!

It was a long day. A huge crowd had gathered and then went home. Now, they are ready for more. Jesus has sneaked away to be with God the Father, while it is still dark. No one has seen him. No flashlight. No electricity. As day breaks, Jesus is nowhere to be found. They think he has left. Peter and the boys frantically look everywhere for him as the people start to gather again.

*Peter's words actually have a slight rebuke to them. The Greek word is that everyone is 'hunting' you....as if to say...'Where have you been Jesus?' Everyone is down there and this is a great opportunity. Why are you out here? This could be the beginning of something great. IT'S STARTING!!!!'

There is the enemy tempting him to 'TAKE THE EASY WAY'. Can plant a mega-church right there in Capernaum.

Yet, we see Jesus **PRAYING**. He is getting kingdom perspective. He is recharging. The power comes from prayer. In the most important moments in Jesus's ministry on earth....we find him

praying. This is where Jesus gets his power for ministry. On his knees.

In his praying....he must have been encouraged in:

II. THE PURPOSE OF HIS MINISTRY.

Jesus's response to Peter and everyone else's expectation to plant a church in Capernaum, was rather simple:

“Let's leave here and go 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 many demons.’

Jesus knew that the crowd in Capernaum and many others were not that interested in his preaching but in his miracles. In the gospels you see it time and time again....many just want what Jesus can do for them.

The purpose of Jesus' ministry was to PREACH the good news so that people would believe in him and his work on the cross. He was continually focused & empowered THROUGH PRAYER, to go to Jerusalem, where he would be the lamb of God slaughtered for the sins of men.

APPLICATION:

1. Before you ‘hit the ground running’ each day, HIT THE GROUND! Before you get busy with your day, get busy praying.

Why? Cause if you’re like me, you wake up with the wrong perspective about every day. Life is busy. How can you untangle your mind and heart from the weeds of the world? Bible reading & PRAYER.

If Jesus needs to pray, don’t we need to pray?

*The only way we can tell good things from right things is through prayer. **Staying in Capernaum looked like a great idea.**

Everyone thought so.

It wasn’t the right thing to do.

The obvious isn’t always the right thing.

Hit the ground. Hit your knees in prayer.

2. Practical help in following Jesus’ example?

- Go to bed in order to get up early.
- Have a set time and have a set {desolate} place.
- Let the Bible shape your praying. Pray scripture. It’s too easy for your mind to wander.
- Develop a prayer posture. Hit the ground. Humble yourself.
- Get help from a brother or sister. “Ask me if I am getting up and praying. I’m having a hard time. Help me.”