

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

10-14 Oct 2011

LESSON 2 GOD'S SERVANT BEGINS HIS WORK

INTRODUCTION:

What friends would you call to assist you if you were in trouble?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note. The people in Capernaum were amazed at Jesus' teaching because he taught as one with authority. He said and did many things that encouraged people and made some people react negatively and even angered them. He began casting out demons and healing the sick. His claims of authority and his lack of conformity to the religious status quo disturbed religious leaders to the point that early in His ministry they wanted to kill Him.

Read Mark 1:40-45

1. Why was it significant that Jesus touched the leper before He healed him?
2. What human emotion does Mark bring out in Jesus? Vs. 41 How would that speak to his primary audience of Gentiles (mostly Romans)?
3. What strict order did Jesus give the leper? Why? What did the man do instead?
4. How did his disobedience affect Jesus' ministry? Vs. 45

Read Mark 2:1-12

Note: Most people thought that physical maladies were caused by sin. In Old Testament times blasphemers were stoned to death.

5. Where and why did the crowd gather?
6. How and why is Jesus' preaching interrupted?
7. Describe the thoughts of the teachers of the law?
8. Why did Jesus heal him? How did the people respond?

Read Mark 3:1-6

Note: The Pharisees' concept of faith centered in the word "ritual." As long as they did the right thing at the right time, they felt themselves to be orthodox and acceptable to God. Jesus taught that man's highest expression of faith was not in ritual but in service. The Sabbath as an institution should not receive top priority. The Sabbath was made for man, not vice versa.¹ The scribal rule the Pharisees followed permitted healing on the Sabbath only where life was in danger, which certainly was not the present case.²

9. How does Mark set the scene to show rising opposition to Jesus?
10. Why didn't the leaders answer Jesus' question? Vs 4
11. Why does Jesus heal on the Sabbath rather than wait until another time? Acts 15:10
12. What was the result of this healing?

APPLICATION

What "traditions" or circumstances in your life prevent you from getting to know Jesus in a more intimate way? What can you do to work through them?

¹ Paschall, F. H., & Hobbs, H. H. (1972). *The Teacher's Bible Commentary: A concise, thorough interpretation of the entire Bible designed especially for Sunday School teachers* (620). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

² Brooks, J. A. (2001). *Vol. 23: Mark* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (68). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.