
THE STORY OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

A Bible Study Course Covering the four Gospels in Harmony Fashion

LESSON 8

MARK 1:21-39; MATTHEW 4:23-25; LUKE 8:22-39

A TYPICAL DAY: JESUS TRAVELS AROUND GALILEE AND CROSSES THE LAKE 28 A.D.

Mark 1:21-28

- John in his Gospel tells us that after performing his first miracle in Cana of Galilee Jesus together with his mother and brothers moved to Capernaum. It's situation on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and at the intersection of several important trade routes made Capernaum an ideal base for carrying the gospel into the regions of Galilee and beyond. Besides, Capernaum was also the home of Zebedee and his sons, James and John, and the home of Peter, whose mother-in-law was living with him.
1. While the people were amazed at the authority with which Jesus preached, the devil could not remain silent. He could not let Jesus' message and authority go unchallenged. When the spirit which possessed this man cried out to Jesus, who is the "us" whom Jesus came to destroy?
 2. What does this tell us about Satan and he and his demon's knowledge about God?
 3. This demon's knowledge of God did him no good. It only filled him with fear and trembling. He knew that he faced hell and the gospel was not meant for him. How does this help us to understand the difference between knowledge of God and faith in God?
 4. Jesus rebuked the demon. Why could Jesus not accept the demon's testimony about him?
 5. Explain how Jesus calling the demon out of this man confirmed the authority with which Jesus spoke.
 6. Discuss: Demons still possess people today.

Mark 1:29-38

7. What might some of the motives have been behind the disciples bringing the sickness of Peter's mother-in-law to Jesus' attention?

8. How do we know that this was truly a miracle and not just her healing normally?
9. What did she do instantly on being healed? What does that say to us about our response to God's acts of love and kindness?
10. This tells us that Peter was a married man. This also means our Lord did not demand celibacy of those who serve him, not even from the man who became the spokesman of the disciples. Explain why this is an important point for us to know.
11. It may seem strange to us that Jesus the Son of God felt the need to spend time in praying to and communing with his heavenly Father. Why was this necessary for him?
12. Self evaluation: Do you find yourself more like Jesus, who took time to spend with his Father in quiet prayer, or more like Peter and the disciples who were more concerned about action and being busy?
13. It seems odd to us that Jesus would reject the opportunity to preach to the crowd of people who had gathered and were looking for him. What reasons do you think were behind Jesus' decision to move to another town instead of preaching to the people who were gathered here?
14. Throughout all of this, what was always Jesus' emphasis? Apply this to our ministry and lives.
15. Jesus was not only focused on the people of Capernaum but the people in the surrounding cities as well. He wanted the gospel to be preached beyond Capernaum. How can we apply this in our setting?

Matthew 4:23-25

- Verse 23 is a general description of Jesus' Galilean ministry.
 - Wherever Jesus went, he proclaimed the "good news" of the kingdom. This good news we call the gospel of Christ.
16. Matthew reports the many miracles that Jesus did as he went around teaching. He also tells us how the demons and evil spirits could not resist his command to leave. Share your thoughts as to why Jesus did all these things in addition to his teaching.
 17. How does ministry to people's physical needs fit into a ministry to their spiritual needs? What opportunities might we have right here that we could take advantage of?

Luke 8:22-25

18. What is the relationship of this account to the previous few accounts we have studied?
19. The Greek word translated, “squall,” literally says “an intensive sucking wind.” We might think of a tornado. This helps us to appreciate the terror of the disciples as they see their boat being swamped.
20. Evaluate: Fear is a lack of trust in God.
21. Highlight the difference between worry and concern in a difficult situation.
22. What do we learn from this account for our spiritual walk?

Luke 8:26-39

23. The herd of pigs being tended in this story tells us many Gentiles lived in this region since pigs were unclean for the Jewish people. This is another example of Evangelism outside the Jewish people.
24. How could this man immediately know who Jesus was especially if this was a Gentile region?
25. The people asked Jesus to leave this area because he had ruined their livelihood and because they were afraid of this man who could overcome the demons no one else had been able to overcome. We see that Jesus’ miracles draw some people close to him and push those who reject him away from him.
26. Some have suggested this story shows Jesus being cruel to animals. Respond.
27. Jesus told the man who had been possessed and wanted to go with him to stay home and tell others what had happened to him. The next time Jesus comes into this region he was welcomed with open arms. What does this tell us about the work of this man? What do we learn about personal evangelism from this man?