

One of my favorite books is *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. It played a part in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

- The fictional plot is simply 24 hours in Ivan's life as a prisoner in a Soviet Gulag in Kazakhstan.
- That day, he wakes up late and is punished. After punishment he returns to his work unit that is laying bricks in the bitter cold. If he does not work fast enough, the mortar freezes before it hardens.
- Despite starvation, brutally hard work, and no hope of release, it was a good day. He stole an extra ration of food, and he smuggled a piece of metal from the worksite he hopes to form into some useful tool.
- Solzhenitsyn uses Ivan's 24 hours to inform people of the horrors of the Gulag System; its hopelessness, and the low value of human life.

Long before Solzhenitsyn, the apostle John Mark wrote a true story about a day in the life of Jesus.

Until about Father's Day, we are simply going through the book of Mark. The key verse is: 'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mk 10:45 NIV).' This one verse gives the purpose for Mark's biography of Jesus, and his outline:

'For the Son of Man' – Prologue, Mk 1:1-13.

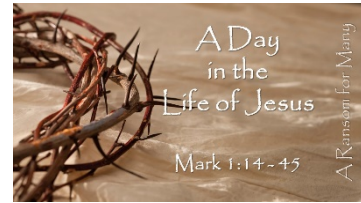
- Mark believes that if his readers really know who Jesus is, they will remain faithful to Jesus. He wants to inspire the Christians in Rome to endure Caesar Nero's the persecution.
- Though the word picture of a wilderness is associated as a bad place or situation, here in Mark it is a place of sonship, obedience, and refreshment. Just as Israel went through the wilderness to the Promised Land, Jesus went into the wilderness to be baptized, filled with the Spirit and to face temptation.
- The Son of Man now leads us towards the Promised Land. However, we are to walk in the way of service and suffering.

'Did not come to be served, but to serve' – Service, Mk 1:16-8:30.

‘And to give his life as a ransom for many’ – Suffering, Mk 8:31-15:47.

Today, we look at the Mark 1:14-45.

**A Day in the Life of Jesus**  
**Mark 1:14-45**



Why are these 24 hours is important?

### 1. Why 24 Hours?

Mark uses this 24-hour period to show the authority and power of Jesus. It is a pattern that reveals who Jesus is. We are to see that Jesus is the Messiah, God’s son through today’s stories.

Scholars who know these things say that today’s block of passages is a single story. Pastor Sargent called them sermon segments.

There are five segments to today’s story:

#### Overview

The first disciples and Jesus’ essential message, Mk 1:14-20.

- Drives out evil spirit, Mk 1:21-28 (begin 24-hour period). Mark carefully notes the passing of time here: ‘when the Sabbath came, v. 21,’ ‘as soon as they left the synagogue, v. 29,’ ‘that evening, v. 32,’ and ‘very early in the morning, v. 35.’
- Heals many, Mk 1:29-34.
- Jesus withdraws to the wilderness, Mk 1:35-39 (end 24-hour period).

Jesus’ reprioritizes the Good News, Mk 1:40-45.

By using a 24-hour period, Mark can show us some contrasts and highlight who Jesus is and his essential message.

#### Contrasts

- Rising popularity v. Jesus’ withdrawal. As Jesus delivers and heals people his popularity rises, yet he wants to preach repentance and belief in the Kingdom of God.
- People question who Jesus is v. the demons who recognize Jesus. The people are amazed at Jesus’ teaching and authority and ask, ‘what is this, v. 27?’ They do not

really recognize him. Jesus commands the demons to be quiet, because they identify him as 'the Holy One of God, v. 24.'

- Healing and deliverance v. 'Repent and believe the good news!' While Jesus heals many because he has compassion on them, he believes in this case, the healings cause them to miss his real message: repentance and belief.

Let's jump in.

## **2. First Disciples, 1:14-20.**

'Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. <sup>15</sup> "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" <sup>16</sup> One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. <sup>17</sup> Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" <sup>18</sup> And they left their nets at once and followed him. <sup>19</sup> A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. <sup>20</sup> He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men (Mk 1:14-20 NLT).'"

Jesus' ministry begins when John's ends. John goes to jail and Jesus picks up John's message: 'The time promised by God has come at last. The Kingdom is near! Repent of your sins and believe the good news, v. 15.' This is Jesus' essential message!

One translation says, 'when the time was full,' like an hourglass. God initiates his plan, the very plan the OT prophets foresaw, right on time. Jesus is God's plan.

Repentance and believing is entrance into life - God's kingdom.

For example, Simon, Andrew, and James and John, Zebedee's sons, respond to the call to become fishers of men. They recognize who Jesus is and immediately join him.

- Today, we investigate a company, we find the salary range, we go to indeed.com, and we have a process when making a career change. Here, four fishermen leave their nets and follow Jesus.
- They will pattern their life after Jesus and become fishers of men.

Now, Mark moves on to show us who Jesus is by the miracles he does.

## **3. 24- hours, 1:21-34.**

'Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the

teachers of religious law. <sup>23</sup> Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> “Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus reprimanded him. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. <sup>26</sup> At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a convulsion, and then came out of him. <sup>27</sup> Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. “What sort of new teaching is this?” they asked excitedly. “It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!” <sup>28</sup> The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee (Mk 1:21-28 NLT).”

Mark omits what Jesus preached that day in the synagogue, because we already know the essential message: repentance, belief, and to participate in the Kingdom of God.

Demon-possessed set free.

- As a pastor, I find it is interesting that a demon possessed man was in the synagogue. I imagine there was a tug of war inside of him, between seeking God and being pulled away.
- The demon is terrified of being in Jesus’ presence – ‘have you come to destroy us ... you are – the Holy One of God.’ When the demon says, ‘Why are you interfering with us’ probably means the entire demonic army is worried.
- Common people and the sick do not recognize who Jesus is, but the demons do.
- Jesus commands the demon to be quiet and come out. Jesus is the Holy One of God, but Jesus cannot allow this demonic testimony to stand as equal to his own. Jesus came to strip the demons of their power; he cannot give them an equal voice to his own. If someone has perjured himself in court, and discovered to be a liar, his testimony is never equal again to someone who tells the truth.

The people are amazed at Jesus’ power and authority, ‘what sort of teaching is this?’ They don’t really recognize who Jesus is. News of Jesus’ power spreads.

- One of the purposes for miracles is to accredit the message and the messenger. For example, when John was in prison, he had a moment of doubt about Jesus. Jesus sent word through John’s disciples: “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor (Lk 7:22 NIV).’ The miracles proved that Jesus was God’s special son and his message was true.

‘After Jesus left the synagogue with James and John, they went to Simon and Andrew’s home. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her bedside, took her by the hand, and helped her sit up. Then the fever left her, and she prepared a meal for them (Mk 1:29-31 NLT).”

- Note the clear timing – after they left the evening synagogue.

- Sickness is not clearly defined in the ancient world, so here fever refers to some unknown illness.
- Jesus healed her with a touch. In a few moments, when we pray for healing, you will be anointed with a little oil.

‘That evening after sunset, many sick and demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. <sup>33</sup>The whole town gathered at the door to watch. <sup>34</sup>So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons. But because the demons knew who he was, he did not allow them to speak (Mk 1:32-34 NLT).’

- ‘That evening after sunset,’ means immediately after the sabbath was over. The people delayed their coming to Jesus so they would not violate the sabbath by carrying the sick or walking too far. Here there is a clear distinction between demon possession and general sickness.
- ‘So Jesus healed many people’ means that he healed a large number of people. Another reason Jesus heals today is to attract people to the good news.
- But Jesus did not come just for people’s comfort in this life. He is happy to relieve his children of their pain, but he is more concerned with their eternal destiny, therefore ...

‘Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. <sup>36</sup>Later Simon and the others went out to find him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” <sup>38</sup>But Jesus replied, “We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came.” <sup>39</sup>So he traveled throughout the region of Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and casting out demons (Mk 1:35-39 NLT).’

- Jesus senses his real mission is getting lost, so he returns to the wilderness to reprioritize his work. Like Israel’s closeness with God in the wilderness - remember the pillar of fire at night and cloud by day, the daily manna, water from the rock - so Jesus has returned to a quiet place to pray.
- Peter assumes that Jesus’ role is that of a healing evangelist, after all its popular, but Jesus feels he must go to other towns.
- Signs are to follow the preaching of the good news: ‘And these signs will accompany those who believe (Mk 16:17 NIV).’ Healing and miracles are the byproduct and not the destination of Jesus’ message.
- Sometimes churches have Peter’s viewpoint: they like the crowds and popularity, but it can cause them to get off mission. We are called to follow Jesus closely and make solid disciples.
- v. 38 concludes the 24-hours in this story.

But Mark adds one more segment to this overall story.

#### 4. A Man with Leprosy, 1:40-45.

'A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. <sup>41</sup> Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" <sup>42</sup> Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. <sup>43</sup> Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: <sup>44</sup> "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed." <sup>45</sup> But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him (Mk 1:40-45 NIV).'

- Ancient medical terminology was imprecise. Leprosy was a catchall term for every skin disease: cancer, lesions, and leprosy. Everything associated with today's dermatology would have been clumped together under leprosy.
- The leper asks to be healed and Jesus' heart is moved with compassion. Jesus touches the man. How long had been since he was touched by another human being? Jesus heals the man. The man is instantaneously healed.
- Sometimes people are instantaneously healed, other times over time; sometimes they are healed through the medical profession.
- The former leper is told to fulfill the Law of Mose, but not to speak of Jesus' involvement in the healing. Instead, he tells everyone. Jesus' popularity grows and he is forced to withdraw deeper into wilderness.
- Sometimes we can hinder the good news with good intentions, that is why we are to obey the Holy Spirit's voice.

#### Conclusion.

Friends, recognize who Jesus is: Jesus is God's Son who came to deal with our sin problem and destroy the devil's work. Believe and repent that is why Jesus came, just look at the miracles in today's passage.

In just a few minutes, God is going to heal people here. God delights in meeting the needs of his people. Here are the reasons I know God wants to heal you this morning:

God heals to ...

- Destroy the Devil's work, Lk 13:12.
- Validate Jesus as Messiah, Mt 11:4-6; Jn 10:38.
- Validate the gospel and its messengers, Acts 8:6-8.
- Attract people to the gospel, Acts 4:6.

- To bring glory to God, Jn 9:3.
- To build our faith, Jn 2:22.
- Show that He loves us, Mt 14:14; Mk 1:41.

Let me give a word of instruction to the general audience and the prayer team.

Next week, we will look at the man whose friends brought him to Jesus for healing. It says, 'When Jesus saw their faith, he said ... "Get up, take your mat and walk." ... He got up, took his mat, and walked out in full view of them all (Mk 2: 5, 9, 12 NIV).'" They had faith for the paralytic's healing. Can you be like these friends? Can you have faith today that God will heal people?

How to Pray for others.

1. Examine your heart and motivation.
2. Ask God how to pray for this person – discern the Holy Spirit's will. This is the key to effectiveness.
3. Pray using your mind, intellect, and God's spirit within you. Use your mind and vocabulary but try to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying. This is a good time to quote Bible passages about healing.
4. Pray the prayer of faith, Ja 5:14-15.
5. Give thanks.

Pray and give final direction.

- Don't miss the real message of repentance and belief.
- Healing.