

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S4E17

Go And Show Yourself - (Mark 1:39-45)

Description – Why does Jesus tell some to tell how they were healed, and others he warns to be quiet and not tell anyone they’ve been healed? Join us today as we look at this account from Mark 1 after Jesus heals the Leper.

Today we’re continuing to look at the messianic miracles, but the question arose last time, why does Jesus sometimes say to those he healed not to say anything, and to others, he allows them to talk about what happened?

Mark 1:39-44 (CSB)

³⁹ He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. ⁴⁰ Then a man with leprosy came to him and, on his knees, begged him, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” ⁴¹ Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched him. “I am willing,” he told him. “Be made clean.” ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ Then he sternly warned him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ telling him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.”

There’s a lot happening here, Jesus meets the leper, heals him, but look at what Jesus said to the man in 1:43-44

The short answer is, it depends on what the healing miracle was for. Remember, Jesus didn’t heal everyone.

Three things to consider:

1. Where (Locationally) does Jesus heal?
 - a. On the west side, in the Jewish side, Galilee, Capernaum, Jerusalem, etc, he normally tells them not to say anything.
 - b. On the east side, in the decapolis and then in samaria, he normally tells them to go tell everyone.
2. What is the purpose of the miracle?
 - a. Is it a general healing? Like for the centurion, that shows the healing and the gospel aren’t just for the jews, but for the gentiles as well.
3. Jesus sends them to the priesthood to be examined according to Mosaic law
 - a. Leviticus 13 and 14

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The religious leaders would ask three questions:

1. Did the person really have leprosy?
2. If so, Is this person now healed?

3. Who healed the leprosy and How did they heal the leprosy?

You'd expect the religious leaders to say, "WOW! It's a healed man, its a miracle! Let's celebrate!"

Instead, they feel threatened, and they begin to send more delegates to Jesus to see who he is and what he's doing. (Remember this is in the investigative phase of Jesus's ministry).

Notice what happens as the cleansed leper goes to share what happened to him:

Mark 1:45 (CSB)

⁴⁵ Yet he went out and began to proclaim it widely and to spread the news, with the result that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. But he was out in deserted places, and they came to him from everywhere.

Imagine being this man, having this healing happen to you. What would your reaction be? How could you not tell everyone about what God has done for you?

After Jesus sends the man to the religious leaders the alarm bells are going off, and the pharisees and religious leaders are in full investigative mode with Jesus.