

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S6E11

Receiving Mercy From The Merciful One - (Mark 1:32-34)

Description – Mark’s audience was primarily Roman. So Mark is constantly comparing Jesus to Caesar, and how Jesus is superior to Caesar in every way. Today we’ll look at the Mercy of Jesus.

The Roman Caesar has very little if any mercy. If you look at him the wrong way he could have you killed on the spot.

Jesus is not like this at all. In fact, Mark 1 is just Mark’s way of defining who Jesus is.

Peter invites Jesus into his home in Capernaem after reading the scriptures in the Synagouge. Right across from the Synagouge is the house where Peter’s mother in law was healed. Early church history and archaelogical evidence points to this being Peter’s house.

Becasue she was sick with a high fever, she was unable to make the sabbath meal the day before.

Dr. Luke tells us that it was a very high fever, in fact, it could have been something very serious that could have killed her.

Luke 4:38-39

³⁸ After he left the synagouge, he entered Simon’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. ³⁹ So he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and began to serve them.

Jesus doesn’t conform to the religious norms of the superstitious Jewish ways to be healed. He goes right to her, rebukes the fever, and takes her by the hand, and she’s instantly healed.

Notice this happens all throughout the gospels. When Jesus heals someone they immediately get up and begin to wait on Jesus, or to serve Him.

Jesus says to the 12 apostles to go and cast out demons, but no where in scripture do you find chapter / verse where believers are commanded to attack the demonic realm. Ephesians 6 tells us merely to stand firm in the faith.

Mark 1:32-34

³² When evening came, after the sun had set, they brought to him all those who were sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town was assembled at the door, ³⁴ and he healed many who

were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Now, this doesn't mean that we shouldn't pray against satan and his attacks, but that's part of standing firm; that's not going on the offensive going and looking for demons.

Notice also the time the people come to Jesus. They come after sundown, meaning they're coming on the day after the sabbath has ended.

Matthew 8:14-17

¹⁴ Jesus went into Peter's house and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ So he touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and began to serve him. ¹⁶ When evening came, they brought to him many who were demon-possessed. He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick, ¹⁷ so that what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: He himself took our weaknesses and carried our diseases.

Matthew quotes Isaiah 53 here and applies it directly to Jesus.

This also ties back to our discussions on the Messiah being a suffering servant, the "Leper Messiah"

A busy day for Jesus, he heals the man on the sabbath. He preaches in the synagogue. He heals Peter's mother in law. Then at sunset (nightfall) the whole town assembles and Jesus heals those who are sick. Jesus doesn't get to sleep until late in the evening. But then what does he do? Does he sleep in after a long day of ministry? No.

Mark 1:35-38

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. ³⁶ Simon and his companions searched for him, ³⁷ and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸ And he said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come."

Jesus gets up early to go out and spend time with the Father.

Old prayer acronym: ACTS

Adoration - Praising God for who He is

Confession - Confessing sins

Thanksgiving - Thanking God for what He's done

Supplication - Praying for others

Jesus would have never had to pray the "C" of this, because he never sinned.

Jesus prayed in silence. We think prayer = talking, but it's more than that. We think it's about us trying to get our agenda into heaven.

Prayer is spending time with God. It's more a conversation between two people, a dialogue instead of a monologue.

It's not a short, selfish, shallow, self-centered conversation where we dictate our needs or wants to God.

We need to pray where we're asking, "God, what's your agenda for me?" and then you sit and be quiet.

Jesus gets away every day early in the morning to pray and commune with God the Father.

Over and over again in the gospels, often by himself, sometimes with a few of the disciples, or sometimes with all the disciples, Jesus would withdraw to the lonely places, the quiet places to spend time with God the Father.

Philippians 2 tells us that Jesus lays aside His divine prerogative to submit Himself to God the Father.

Stanley Jones said that prayer is being exposed more and more to God. Like old photography that required plates to be exposed to a light source for a time to then reflect the picture.

When the hearers

Jesus prays in the wilderness 3 times:

1. The first is here
2. The second is after the feeding of the 5,000 when he sends the disciples ahead on the boat
3. The third is in the garden of Gethsemane

All of these are at night, where Jesus is alone by himself.

V. 1:37 - "Everyone is looking for you." - trying to control the prerogative of Jesus. Trying to look for him for their own benefit.

It carries the idea that they want to control Jesus. But He shows us early on in his ministry that big crowds and popularity don't equal success in the Kingdom.

Jesus replies, "let's leave here."

He knew the crowds could be fickle, and even in John 6 he will raise the bar to follow after him.