

Mark

Lesson 2

Chapter 1:14-2:10

Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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Lesson 2, Mark 1:14- 2:10

The Son of God Has Authority - to Cast Out Demons, Heal the Sick, and to Forgive Sin

Opening Prayer

Introduction

Mark continues his gospel with Jesus' baptism and with accounts of Jesus' ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing. Mark 1:14 begins with after John was put in prison begging the question – what has happened between the wilderness and John's imprisonment? As it turns out, a lot!

Jesus returned to Galilee and then went to Jerusalem, where he overturned the money changer's tables. Then he had a night-time encounter with a pharisee named Nicodemus and spoke to him about the need to be born again by the Holy Spirit to enter God's kingdom. Returning from Jerusalem, Jesus stopped by a well in Samaria to reveal he was the Messiah. He could give the gift of living water, a term used by the prophets to denote the Spirit of God flowing to his kingdom from Zion. When Jesus returned to Galilee, he attended a wedding where he changed water to wine, healed an official's son, and declared in his hometown of Nazareth that he was the Messianic fulfillment Isaiah 61:1-2. The people Nazareth tried to murder him by throwing him off a cliff. Consequently, Jesus moved his ministry to Capernaum.

Mark's account of Jesus calling his apostles reads like it was their first encounter. However, the Apostle John records that Jesus first encountered his disciples, where John the Baptist was baptizing in the River Jordan [John 1:35-51]. Andrew and Peter were disciples of John the Baptist and followed Jesus when John identified him as the Messiah. Andrew called Peter, Philip called Nathaniel, and Jesus called them all to follow him.

Read the account of the disciples' calling, Mark 1:14-19 - Bold, Luke 5:1-10). Verses from Mark and Luke are merged into one account, highlighting the additional details in Luke. Verses from **Mark are bold**; verses from Luke are un-highlighted.

Mk 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

^{Lk 5:1} One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, ²⁴ with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, ² he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

Mk 1:16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

Lk 5:3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

Lk 5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down ²⁵ the nets for a catch."

Lk 5:5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

Lk 5:6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. Lk 5:7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. Lk 5:8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" Lk 5:9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, Lk 5:10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon,

Mk 1:17 **"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."**

Mk 1:18 **At once they left their nets and followed him.**

Mk 1:19 **When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.**

1. Mark and Luke emphasize two different aspects of the same account. What was the main point Mark was making in the account of the calling of the disciples?

Mark (and Matthew) skip the entire miracle and focus on the immediate response of the disciples.

2. How was Luke's emphasis in the story different from Mark's primary focus?

Luke emphasized the miraculous catch of fish. The miraculous catch of fish was another demonstration to the disciples that Jesus was the Messiah, Lord over creation. Simon and the others with him were professional fishermen; they recognized Jesus' divine power in the miraculous catch. They had heard John the Baptist's testimony, saw Jesus turn water to wine, and likely witnessed other miracles while in Jerusalem. Now he was calling them [again] to follow him.

3. What was Jesus doing by the Sea of Galilee?

Jesus was preaching and teaching.

4. How was Jesus' message (verse 15) similar and different from John the Baptist's?

¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Both John and Jesus preached the message of repentance. John said the day of the Lord was coming. Jesus said it was here! Jesus told people to believe in him that he was the good news bringing the kingdom of God.

5. Verses 4-6. Peter worked hard all night but needed to learn a valuable lesson about his labor – a lesson we also need to learn. How would you summarize this lesson? (See also Proverbs 16:9; "the heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.")

The scriptures make it clear that our success is a gift from God. Peter was an expert fisherman and worked hard all night but God had another plan for his life, so his success was blocked. We often attribute success, promotion, and salary to our hard work, but the reality is that God deserves all the glory. Hard work is no guarantee of success either. Many people work hard for little monetary gain. As Solomon noted in Proverbs, we make our best plans, but God establishes our way.

6. Peter modeled a disciple's response (fill in the blank):

1. When Peter began his encounter with Jesus on the lake, his faith was **weak or being tested.**
2. Peter responded to Jesus' word (or call) to **follow or obey** him.
3. God did a mighty work, and Peter's faith was **strengthened.**
4. Jesus was working to shape Peter into a different man who would **lead or build** his church.

7. Verse 9, Peter and his companions were astonished when they recognized that the miraculous catch was God's work and not their own. Have you ever been astonished by God's work?

When I first moved to Houston, Texas, I went to a small church of 10 to 15 families who met in a school gymnasium. Though small in number, they had a vision of starting a new church. They contacted the synod office and asked for a mission pastor and budget to purchase a building in a rapidly growing area of the city. After months of prayer, a suitable church building was found and purchased. Every family who moved to a neighborhood near the church within the past six months received an invitation to join us for worship on our grand opening. Follow-up phone calls invited the neighbors to the new church if they had not found a church family. On the morning of the first church service, the pastor found 200 people waiting at the door! It was an "instant" church of a group of strangers! God's work was astonishing.

8. Verse Luke 5:5. How do we apply Jesus' calling to our own lives? – Because you say so, I will...

**...continue to be faithful despite adversity, sickness, trial
...not disbelieve in your goodness**

...continue to pray
...flee from sinful entrapments

Jesus, The Son of God, Has Authority over Sickness and Demons

Mark begins accounts of Jesus' healing ministry in Capernaum, demonstrating Jesus' authority over sickness and demons as the Son of God. Jesus' healing ministry served three purposes: to show that he was the Messiah and to bring people to faith; and to demonstrate God's outpouring of grace, compassion, and love for his people; and to fulfill prophecy. Isaiah 35:5-6 states explicitly healing the blind, deaf, lame, and mute are signs of the LORD's coming. There was no set pattern or formula in Jesus' healing ministry. He frequently healed with a touch, a word, or with an object. Sometimes a person had faith in Jesus, sometimes not. The only common factor was Jesus's power over sickness and death and the accomplishing of his Father's will.

PowerPoint of Nazareth and Capernaum

Read Mark 1:21-45, the accounts of Jesus' ministry in Capernaum, Galilee.

Mk 1:21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Mk 1:23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

Mk 1:25 **"Be quiet!"** said Jesus sternly. **"Come out of him!"**

Mk 1:26 The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

Mk 1:27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

Mk 1:28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Give a quick summary of this account. This story demonstrates how faith is different from knowledge. Even the demons know Christ and fear him, but their knowledge lacks trust, faith, and love, and so is worthless to them – Sounds like Paul, "without love, I gain nothing" 1Corinthians 13:3.

Jesus Heals Many

Mk 1:29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

Mk 1:32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.

³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

[Luke adds] Lk 4:41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

[Matthew adds] Mt 8:17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

9. How did Jesus heal Peter's mother-in-law? Was this a "faith healing"?

Jesus simply went to her and took her hand to help her up, and the fever left.

10. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all include this healing. What makes it so significant?

The healing of Peter's mother-in-law shows Jesus' power and compassion but she also models the response to grace for us.

Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place

Mk 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mk 1:36 Simon and his companions went to look for him,

Mk 1:37, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Mk 1:38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

Mk 1:39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

A Man With Leprosy

Matthew 8:1 adds, "When he came down from the mountainside (following the Sermon on the Mount), large crowds followed him."

Mk 1:40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

Mk 1:41 Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

Mk 1:42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

Mk 1:43 Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning:

Mk 1:44 "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

Mk 1:45 Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

11. What were lepers required to do by law (Leviticus 13:45-46)?

Lev 13:45 **“The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’** Lev 13:46 **As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp.**

12. The leper was healed because of his faith and Jesus’ word/power and compassion.

14. What was the purpose of sending the man to the priest after the healing? See Leviticus 14:1-11

The priest would examine the leper, sacrifice animals as an atonement for him, examine him again after a week, and restore him to the community.

15. Jesus frequently told people not to tell others but rarely said why. What was the result of the man’s testimony?

Jesus was so overwhelmed by crowds that he could not openly stay in a town. He had to be outside in the country.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic, The Son of Man has Authority to Forgive Sin

Mk 2:1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.

Mk 2:2 So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

Mk 2:3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.

Mk 2:4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

Mk 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, **“Son, your sins are forgiven.”**

Mk 2:6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,

Mk 2:7 **“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”**

Mk 2:8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, **“Why are you thinking these things?**

Mk 2:9 **Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?**

Mk 2:10 **But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . .”** He said to the paralytic,

Mk 2:11 **“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”**

Mk 2:12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, **“We have never seen anything like this!”**

16. In the context of these healings and your own experience, discuss the role of faith in healing.

Mother in law – showed the response to Jesus' grace and compassion.

Leper – showed the role of faith in the healing.

Paralytic – the faith of others, fulfillment of scripture, Jesus has the power to forgive sin (only God has the power to forgive sin, Isa 43:25).

Isa 43:25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Applications

1. God’s grace and mercy are present in all healing
2. Our faith in healing is in God, in his power and compassion
3. We submit to God’s will and timing
4. God’s grace is not dependent on our faith
5. There is a spiritual danger when we think healing is dependent on our faith or another’s faith

Closing Prayer and Blessing