

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 1



“Ready For Harvest”

Study: John 4:27-42

Reading: III John, I Corinthians 3:1-15

Memory: Psalm 51:14

What Does the Bible Say?

When the disciples returned to the well from their shopping trip they were quite shocked to see Jesus sitting there talking to a Samaritan woman. Good Jews were not supposed to have conversations with Samaritans, let alone a Samaritan woman. They wondered in their minds what Jesus was doing, but none of them were brave enough to ask. The woman must have been amazed as she processed the information that Jesus gave her about being the Messiah. She left her jar and quickly ran back to town and began telling others about Jesus. She told them how He knew things about her that no one else knew and that she really thought He might be the Christ (vs 27-30).

While this was happening, the disciples were encouraging Jesus to eat some of the food that they had brought to Him. Jesus used this opportunity to teach them a lesson as He told them that He had food, but food that they didn't know about. Though Jesus was speaking in the spiritual realm, the disciples were thinking in a much more earthly way. They thought maybe someone had come and given Him some food to eat while they were gone. Jesus went on to describe that this food was to do the will of God with His life. Jesus seems to have been referring to the idea that life was much more than about the physical things like eating and drinking. There was a much greater purpose in life than just harvesting food to eat and repeating the cycle over and over again each year.

Most likely, this event took place around December or January when the fields were just starting to grow and the harvest would take place about four months from that time. Jesus told them that they didn't have to wait for a spiritual harvest because the hearts of many men were ready to receive the truth. They didn't need to spend their time sowing and waiting for the harvest because the harvest of souls was ready. Jesus then taught a valuable principle that is just as true today as it was back then. The person who plants and the person who harvests are all on the same team working together for the same cause and can equally rejoice and partake in the harvest. Jesus was challenging them (and us) to do our part whether it is

sowing or reaping. People that are brought to Christ are not won by men, but drawn by God. All those who had a part in their salvation, whether through prayer, financial support, plowing the ground of a hard heart, cultivating the seed or leading that person to Christ, can equally rejoice and will be equally rewarded (vs 31-38).

After hearing the report of the woman, many from the town came out to see and hear Jesus. It didn't take long for them to be convinced that she had told the truth and they believed on Jesus because of what they saw and heard. They asked Him to stay a few days and He did. Keep in mind that this was the complete opposite of what the Jewish religious leaders would have done. He taught them during this time and many believed on Him. They recognized and declared that He was the Savior of the whole world (vs 39-42).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What part are you playing in the harvest of souls? Sometimes people think that they have to be the ones leading others to the Lord, and if they aren't, they are not doing their Christian duty. Jesus tells you here that you don't have to be the one who converts others to Him. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that transforms lives, but God wants you to do your part. Sometimes you will be the one who plants, other times the one who waters and at other times you will be the harvester. Your responsibility is to faithfully carry out the tasks that God has called you to today. If you work, work in a way that pleases God so others will respect you and see what Christ has done in you. If you are going to school, live in a way that is pure and holy, allowing people to see the great difference that Christ makes. Use whatever opportunities that God gives you today to bring glory to Him.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God that He has called you to be a laborer in His fields.*
- * *Ask God to help you know your part in His service today.*
- * *Praise God because He uses people to change the lives of others.*

Thought for the day

What were the disciples surprised about (vs 27)?

Why do you think they chose not to say anything?

What did the woman do when the disciples started coming (vs 28)?

What did the woman tell the people she met (vs 29)?

What did the people do in response to the message of the woman (vs 30)?

What did the disciples want Jesus to do (vs 31)?

What did Jesus declare to them about food (vs 32)?

Why do you think we are given this contrast?

What type of food was Jesus talking about (vs 33-34)?

What did Jesus say about the harvest (vs 35)?

What do you think He meant by this?

What harvest did Jesus want His disciples to think about (vs 36)?

What was Jesus teaching by referencing those who sowed and those who reaped (vs 37-38)?

Why did many of the Samaritans believe (vs 39)?

What does this reveal about the importance of sharing your faith with others?

What caused many Samaritans to believe (vs 40-41)?

****Take note of how they believed because of His word. We will read later on how many of the Jews wanted signs and wonders and not just His words.*

What did the people relay to the woman (vs 42)?

“Believing Without Signs”

Study: Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:14-15, John 4:43-54

Reading: James 1:1-27

Memory: Psalm 51:14

When I played hockey for a club team in Wisconsin, we occasionally would travel to games. I remember one time we were traveling in different vehicles and coming to the game from different directions. I had been at the hockey rink before, but none of the other guys had been there. I had given one group directions and they found the rink with no problem, but the other group couldn't find the rink because they were looking for signs to direct them. The problem was that there were no signs and even the sign on the ice rink didn't call it an ice rink. It took them several minutes of searching and asking for directions until they finally found the place.

Today, we are going to see how many of the Jews were seeking signs from Jesus compared to the Samaritans who just believed the Word that He declared.

What Does the Bible Say?

The Samaritans were eager to hear from Jesus and many believed on Him in His few short days there, but when He traveled back up to Galilee, many of the Jews were only interested in His miracles. The people from Galilee did welcome Jesus because many had seen what had been taking place in Jerusalem and Judea and were looking for the same type of miracles to be performed in Galilee (John 4:43-45).

Though Jesus did perform many miracles, His main purpose was to preach the message of repentance to the people. He declared that the kingdom of God that they had been waiting for had come and it was time for the people to turn back to God. Most people understood this to be the physical kingdom, but Jesus was referring to the spiritual kingdom which could set the hearts of men free from the bondage of sin. He did a great deal of teaching and preaching in the Jewish synagogues and many were amazed at His teachings. His fame spread to the surrounding area and many were traveling from distant places to come and hear Jesus preach (Matt 4:17, Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:14-15).

While in the region of Galilee, Jesus traveled back to Cana and there He

received a message from a leader in Capernaum whose son was very sick. We are not told what type of leader this man was. He could have been the leader of a synagogue which was a very respected position, or could have been a man with great authority in the city. Whatever the case, the man traveled to Cana to ask Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son who was sick. Jesus declared a message to those He was teaching, describing how all that the Jews wanted was to see signs and see Him perform miracles but were very disinterested in a true spiritual change (John 4:46-48).

The man was not detoured by what Jesus said but kept persisting that Jesus come to Capernaum to heal his child. Jesus responded by telling the man that His child would not die and the man believed what Jesus said and started heading for home. While traveling home, he ran into his servants who were traveling out to meet him. They told him that his son was starting to recover and when he asked about the specifics, he found out that things changed in his son's condition at the exact time Jesus told him his son would be okay. This caused the man and those who were part of his household to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. It appears that they also believed the whole message which He had been preaching (John 4:49-54).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you believe God when you can't see Him working in your life? Do you find yourself on a roller coaster, believing in Him when you can actively see Him blessing you and then straying when you can't see Him working? Though not extremely obvious, it seems that John made a comparison between the Samaritans and the Jews. The Jews listened and were intrigued by what Jesus was saying, but they wanted a sign before they would start to believe. On the other hand, the Samaritans believed the message that Jesus gave them in a greater way than His own people did. From this, the challenge for you today is to be like the Samaritans. You should long for the teachings of Jesus and how those teachings can change your life much more than you long for the blessings that are associated with being a follower of God. When you rely on externals to keep up your spiritual "excitement" you will often live a roller coaster Christian life, but when you are focused on listening to and obeying the teaching of the Word of God, you will be much more stable and founded in the truth. Make seeking and knowing the truth of God a priority in your life and when you do, you will often notice the little miracles He does for you everyday.

John 4:43

How long was Jesus in Samaria (vs 43)?

What did John include in verse 44? Why do you think he included this here?

Why did the Galileans welcome Jesus (vs 45)?

What was different between the Samaritans and the Galileans?

Where does John say Jesus traveled to (vs 46)?

****Cana was around 18 miles south west of Capernaum.*

What was the leader from Capernaum willing to do (vs 47)?

What statement did Jesus make (vs 48)?

Why do you think He made that statement?

What did the man plead with Jesus to do (vs 49)?

How did Jesus respond (vs 50)?

What did the man discover had happened (vs 51-53)?

What did this reveal about the power of Jesus?

What was the result of this action (vs 53)?

What did John state in verse 54?

Why do you think he stated this?

Luke 4:14-15

How did Jesus return to Galilee (vs 14)? Why do you think this is pointed out?

Where did Jesus go to teach (vs 15)? What was the response (vs 15)?

“Believing Without Seeing”

Study: Luke 4:16-30

Reading: John 20:19-31, I Peter 1:6-13

Memory: Psalm 51:14

What Does the Bible Say?

Jesus made a return to His hometown of Nazareth and just as He had done in the other towns, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day. It is very interesting to note that it was the custom of Jesus to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath and He had probably done so all of His life. This is interesting because what was being taught was not always the whole truth about God, but was a partial truth based in self-righteousness. This does not mean that everything that was taught was bad, but much of the practical teaching about the Old Testament was not correct. Yet, Jesus didn't reject this completely by avoiding the synagogue, but He made it a practice to attend and when it was time for Him to minister, He used the opportunities to help teach the full truth about God.

The synagogue service in those days was much like a church service in many churches today. They didn't have one preacher though, but different rabbis would take turns reading and expounding the Scripture. Not anyone could do this, but those speaking would be invited by the leaders to speak. Jesus must have been invited because of the great fame that had spread throughout the territory. When Jesus stood up to read, He was given the scroll and He opened it to Isaiah 61. Of course, in those days they didn't have chapters and verses, but Jesus knew the Old Testament and knew exactly what He was looking for (vs 16-17).

The passage He began to read was understood by all the congregation as a passage that referred to the Messiah, the anointed One, who they were all looking for (vs 18-19). Once Jesus finished the reading, He gave the scroll back to the man responsible for the scrolls and everyone was fixed on Jesus, waiting to see what He had to say. Jesus began His teaching by declaring that the Scripture that He had just read had been fulfilled right in front of them. This was shocking to the congregation, and though He said it with grace and humility, they were amazed that Jesus would make such a claim. After all, most of them knew Him growing up in the town and had gone to the synagogue with Him on a regular basis for many years. They had watched Jesus grow up and He was pretty much just like any other

child in the neighborhood. No one suspected that He was the Messiah and most of them doubted this incredible claim (vs 20-22).

Jesus knew that there would be great unbelief in what He told them and described how they would have a hard time believing in Him until they had seen great signs and miracles. Jesus made reference to some of the miracles that he had performed in Capernaum, though we are not told about these in the Scripture. The people had heard about what He did and they expected more to be done for them since they lived in His hometown. Jesus used two illustrations that described how He was not going to do many miracles in Nazareth because He wanted them to believe His message and not just be attracted by miracles and signs. Jesus described how Elijah didn't provide food for any Israelites, but provided food for a Gentile widow in Sidon. He described how Elisha didn't heal lepers from Israel, but healed Naaman who was from the Syrian army. The point that Jesus was trying to make was that those who received miracles received them after they believed. The people of Nazareth wanted to see miracles in order to believe (vs 23-27).

The words of Jesus made the people of Nazareth irate and they grabbed Jesus, rushed Him out of the city to a nearby cliff where they planned to throw Him off the cliff to His death. Though this was the plan of man, it was not the plan of God for Jesus to die at this time or in this way. Miraculously, God allowed Him to escape from this. All we are told is that Jesus went through the middle of them and escaped. It appears that somehow Jesus was able to "disappear" and escape from them. Perhaps the people started arguing over what to do and this allowed Him to escape, but most likely the escape was a supernatural event (vs 28-30).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you choose to believe in God when you don't see Him working? In John 20:30, Jesus said "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Believing without seeing has been a problem for people throughout the centuries because it takes faith. Faith is something that many people declare they have, but it is something that is much harder to practice. It is easy to read this passage and look at the people of Nazareth with disdain, but if you put yourself in their shoes, what do you think you would have done? Of course, you would want to say that you would be one of those who believed, but you don't know that. You need to learn from their mistake and choose to believe when you can't see.

Where did the events of this passage take place (vs 16)? Why was this place significant in the life of Jesus?

What was the custom of Jesus (vs 16)?

What was Jesus given the opportunity to do (vs 16-17)?

What did Jesus find when He was given the scroll (vs 17)?

****In our Bibles today, we would say this is Isaiah 61.*

What did the passage that Jesus read describe (vs 18-19)?

Who did the Jews believe the passage was referring to?

What dramatic pause did Jesus take (vs 20)? What does this show about His confidence?

What did Jesus declare (vs 21)?

Why were the people confused about what Jesus had to say (vs 22)?

What did Jesus say He knew the people wanted (vs 23)?

****The origin of the proverb Jesus referred to is unclear, but basically it was used to describe how those who are physicians should first give medical care to themselves and their families before trying to tell others how to get well.*

What did Jesus know about His words (vs 24)?

What two examples did Jesus use (vs 25-27)? Why?

How did the people respond to what Jesus said (vs 28)?

What did they try to do (vs 29)?

Why were they not able to do it (vs 30)?

Why do you think it is easier to want a sign than to simply believe?

“Follow Me”

Study: Matthew 4:13-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11

Reading: Luke 9:57-62

Memory: Psalm 51:14

What Does the Bible Say?

After being rejected in Nazareth, Jesus traveled back to Capernaum and made that His “home base” for most of His ministry. Matthew states that this was a direct fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 9:1-2) where it is said that the Messiah would bring great glory to the region of Galilee (vs 15). He also cited Isaiah 42:7 which described how the people who were in darkness would now have the opportunity to see the light (Matthew 4:13-16).

While in Capernaum, Jesus started to officially call His disciples. We are not given the details of exactly how everything took place, so we are left with a little bit of uncertainty regarding the exact details. We know that Andrew, Peter and John (probably James as well) had followed Jesus for a short time, though here we see them back fishing. The best answer seems to be that after Nazareth, a short time passed while Jesus was in Capernaum and these disciples went back to their family trade of fishing. Jesus was giving them a choice between following Him and continuing in what they had been doing, by letting them experience both worlds. When it was time for Jesus to call His followers to complete surrender, He arrived at the sea where James, John, Peter and Andrew were fishing. Matthew and Mark give similar accounts of this, but Luke’s account is in much more detail. Though Luke seems to vary a little from the other two, all the events could work together and seem to be describing the same instance.

Matthew and Mark describe how Jesus was walking by the sea and saw two boats, one belonging to the family of James and John and the other to the family of Peter and Andrew. Jesus first saw the boat of Peter and Andrew coming into shore after a time of fishing. He told them that if they chose to follow Him, He would make them fishers of men. Jesus was calling them to give up their current occupation to choose to follow Him completely with their lives (Matthew 4:18-20, Mark 1:16-18).

A little bit further down the shore, James and John were in their boat mending their nets for their next fishing trip. Jesus asked them to follow Him, indicating that He wanted them to leave their father and their family

fishing business in order to give their lives for His cause. This was a huge decision for them and they must have been contemplating it since they first saw Jesus. They chose to leave their family business and let their father do it himself so they could follow Jesus (Matthew 4:21-22, Mark 1:19-20).

Luke gives a little different account with much more information. He stated that Jesus was teaching and many people were pushing in on Him, giving Him very little room. Wanting to get away from the crowds he saw two boats and got into one of them which was Peter and Andrew’s. They were not in their boat, but mending their nets from their fishing trip. Jesus asked Peter and Andrew if they could push away from shore and they did, which allowed Jesus to teach the people from the boat. When He was finished teaching, He asked them to go out deeper and cast their nets into the water (Luke 5:1-4).

Peter did not really feel like fishing because they had fished all night and had caught nothing. He reluctantly did as Jesus had said and when they started to pull their nets up, the nets filled with fish, causing the nets to start to break. They signaled to James and John to come and help them, and as help arrived, their catch was large enough to fill both boats with fish, causing the boats to start to sink. When Peter realized what had happened, he fell down on His knees realizing His need for forgiveness since he had thought it was a waste of time to fish since nothing was caught the night before (Luke 5:5-9).

Jesus told Peter that He was forgiven and then used the opportunity to call them to be fishers of men. By the events that just occurred, Jesus revealed to the disciples that God would provide everything they needed in life and they didn’t need to work in the family business to survive. He was revealing to them their need to surrender their lives to follow Him completely. The disciples chose to do as Jesus asked and left everything to follow Him (Luke 5:10-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Though the narratives give different perspectives on the calling of the disciples, the call is still the same. Jesus was calling them to give up everything to follow Him. This call was much bigger than we realize but was something they needed to do after Jesus revealed to them that He was the Messiah and the only thing worth seeking after with their lives. God calls some people the same way today, asking them to give up their livelihood to serve Him full-time. Others He calls to be disciples by being a shining light for Him in their workplaces and daily lives.

Luke 5:1-11

Where was Jesus standing (vs 1)?

What was happening to Him (vs 1)?

Why do you think the lake was called “Gennesaret” in this passage?

****In the Old Testament, the lake was called “Chinnereth.” In the New Testament it is referred to as “Gennesaret,” “Galilee” and “Tiberius.” The whole region was referred to as Galilee. Gennesaret was a fertile plain located on the west side of the lake, just south of Capernaum. Tiberius was the capital city of the region and was located on the west side of the sea a few miles south of the plain of Gennesaret. Though often referred to as a “sea,” it is only 13 miles long and 8 miles wide.*

What did Jesus see (vs 2)?

What did Jesus ask Simon to do (vs 3)?

When Jesus finished speaking, what did He tell Simon to do (vs 4)?

How did Simon respond to this (vs 5)? Why?

What happened when Simon obeyed (vs 6)?

Who did they ask to come help them (vs 7)? - Also see verse 10.

What did Simon ask Jesus to do (vs 8)?

Why do you think Luke called him Simon up until this point when he referred to him as Simon Peter (vs 8)?

What did this event cause (vs 9)?

What did Jesus tell them they would be doing from now on (vs 10)?

What choice did the disciples make after this event (vs 11)?

****Most likely the call to discipleship was a process. Similar to the way God still works in hearts today.*

“Rebuking the Demons”

Study: Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:31-37

Reading: Acts 1:6-11, John 14:12-31

Memory: Psalm 51:14



The foundation stones of a 1st century synagogue in Capernaum

What Does the Bible Say?

While Jesus was there in Capernaum, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and was asked to teach. The people who heard Him were astonished at His teaching because He taught them so much differently than their scribes and religious rulers. This was not because He used more illustrations or was more eloquent but because He taught them with authority. It wasn't just that He knew the Scriptures more, but that He believed what they had to say. He knew what they meant because He wasn't just guessing or bending the Word of God to match His own opinions. He wasn't focused on trying to get men to do things His personal way, but He sincerely loved and cared for the people He was speaking to and He wanted them to follow God's way (Mark 1:21-22, Luke 4:31-32).

While Jesus was teaching, a man who was in the synagogue who had

a demonic spirit inside of him spoke out against Jesus. He declared that he knew who Jesus was and that Jesus was the Holy One from God sent to destroy them. Perhaps this demon had just possessed the man a short time before, but I would tend to think the man who was demon possessed had been possessed for quite some time but was very comfortable in the normal services that were held in the synagogue.

Jesus rebuked the demonic spirit and forced him to leave the man who had been possessed. The spirit instantly left the man without doing any harm to him. It was clear to all that something had changed and that Jesus was the One who not only taught with authority but also had the authority over the unclean spirits of this world. The people were beginning to realize that Jesus was not an ordinary Rabbi, but that He was something special. Those in the town began to talk and the fame of Jesus began to spread more and more (Mark 1:23-18, Luke 4:33-37).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Before Jesus gave the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20, He declared in verse 18, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” By this, He was basically declaring that the power He had was being passed down to those who would carry His words after Him. Just as Jesus taught with power and authority, you can teach that way as well. Note that His power was not in bombastic speech or mind bending illustrations, but the power was in the words because He understood the truth. Though there are human elements to effective speaking, we often rely so much on the smoothness of speech or creativeness of illustrations to be the source of power. That type of power will not truly change lives. You have the ability to be a great teacher of the Word if you will just take time to know the Word. By being a “teacher” I am not talking about standing up in front of a class or congregation, though God might want you to do this. Teaching is done with your daily life and you can teach the truth to your children and others you minister with by your everyday conversations. When you remember the authority does not come from you and your knowledge of the Scriptures but comes from the Holy Spirit and your knowledge of the God of the Scriptures, you will have the ability to impact lives in a tremendous way.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Ask God to help you know Him so you can teach with authority.
- * Praise Jesus because He was more than an ordinary man.

Mark 1:21-28

Where did Jesus go when He entered into Capernaum (vs 21)?

Why is it important to realize that Jesus went into the Synagogue to teach on the Sabbath?

****Hebrews 10:25 says “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Scripture encourages believers to faithfully gather together. Jesus set the example of this by faithfully going to the synagogue week after week. Church attendance should not become some legalistic way to earn God’s favor, but is vital for your spiritual growth. Jesus set the example by regularly attending the synagogue.*

Why were they astonished at His teaching (vs 22)?

What does this reveal about how the Word of God should be taught today?

Who was in the synagogue (vs 23)?

How long do you think this man attended this synagogue before Jesus arrived there?

****Obviously, you won’t have an answer to this question, but the point that I am making is that this man could have attended for years with an evil spirit in him. The religious teachings up to that point made no difference, but once Jesus came, that caused the spirit to speak up.*

What did the demon declare about Jesus (vs 24)?

How did Jesus respond to the demon (vs 25)?

What was the demon force to do (vs 26)?

What was the result among the people (vs 27)? How does this reveal that Jesus was far different than anyone they had ever seen or heard before?

What happened as a result of this and the other actions and teachings of Jesus (vs 28)?

“Power To Heal”

Study: Matthew 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-34, Luke 4:38-41

Reading: ---

Memory: Psalm 51:14



House foundations - A view from the synagogue in Capernaum. Tradition says that Peter's house was located where the large structure stands in this picture.

What Does the Bible Say?

After the service at the synagogue was over, Jesus went to the home of Peter and Andrew. From Mark's use of "immediately" (ESV) it appears that Peter and Andrew lived very close to the synagogue. Multiple families would often live in the same house with the father of the family dividing it up when his children were married or adding on to the existing residence. This is probably the case here as we see that it was Peter and Andrew's house, but Peter's mother-in-law was also living there. We don't know the exact details, but from this, it is very clear that Peter was married. The mother-in-law of Peter was sick with a very high fever which would often

result in death because there was very little healthcare available. Simon appealed to Jesus to see if He could do something to help her and spare her life. Jesus stood over her and rebuked the fever, then took her by the hand and lifted her up and the fever was gone. This was not just that she felt better, but she was completely healed because one of the first things that she did was to start to serve Jesus and those who were with Him (Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-29).

That evening, many people started coming to Jesus to be healed and to have demons cast out. It appears that they came at evening because they did not want to profane the Sabbath, so they waited until the Sabbath day ended at 6:00 p.m. Many came to Jesus and crowded around the door of Peter's house. One by one, Jesus would heal the sick and cast out the demons. Luke tells us that when the demons were cast out they would start declaring that Jesus was the Son of God and Jesus would cause them to be quiet, though they knew He was Christ. He did not want the demons to be the main messengers to declare who He was but wanted the people to see it for themselves. Matthew described how the healings that were performed by Jesus were a fulfillment of prophecy. He quoted Isaiah 53:4 where it described how the Messiah would take on the sicknesses and diseases of the world (Matthew 8:16-17, Mark 1:32-34, Luke 4:30-31).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that Jesus has the power over any sickness and disease? Do you understand that He has greater strength than any demonic force can muster up? Disease, death and demons were some of the main problems in the days of Jesus, and though in this modern world sometimes they aren't as visible, they still exist today and you will face all three throughout your lifetime. You can rest assured that the power you have through Jesus can give you hope in this dark and gloomy world. No, you can't escape earthly death and you will probably face sickness, but you can know that if God wants you to escape from those things, He has the power to deliver you. It needs also to be noted that you have the power over any demonic forces. This doesn't mean that you should go out and try to find demons to cast out, but it should help you understand that "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4)

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Praise God because He is greater than any earthly force.*
- * *Ask God to help you trust in His power.*

Mark 1:29-34

Why do you think Mark uses the term “immediately” (vs 29)?

****Luke records that he left the synagogue and entered into Simon’s house. This indicates that the house of Simon was very near to where the synagogue was located.*

Who was sick (vs 30)?

What does this reveal about the marital status of Simon?

****It is clear that Simon had been married. It is interesting to note that his wife is never mentioned in Scripture. Perhaps she passed away or maybe she was one of the women that traveled with them. We simply don’t know, though we can be assured that Peter had a wife.*

What did Jesus do when he found out this woman was sick (vs 31)?

****Luke mentions that “they appealed to him on her behalf.” We are not told who “they” were, but the natural thought would be Simon’s wife and Simon.*

How complete was the healing of Jesus (vs 31)?

What does this reveal about the power of Jesus?

Who did people start bringing to Jesus (vs 32)?

Why did they wait until evening?

****Even in Israel today, things are closed on Saturday’s until after sunset. Saturday evenings between 7:00-9:00 p.m. are some of the busiest times for eating out and shopping.*

Where did everyone gather (vs 33)?

What did Jesus do (vs 34)?

How was the great power of Jesus displayed (vs 34)?

Memory Verses

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.