

THE PRIORITY OF JESUS

Mark 1:35-39 Rev. Brian W. Secor

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When Jesus began his ministry, he went about it with an intensity and a power that _____ his contemporaries.

1. Never spoke a man like this one. Never a man did miracles like this one. Never lived a man like this one.

What was it that gave Jesus power to live this way? And, can we live like him so that our lives have power too? The answer is yes.

I. THE _____ OF PRAYER

A. Jesus was a man of _____.

1. I find only _____ places in Gospel of Mark where the prayer life of Jesus is clearly described by an incident in his life — here at the start, in the Garden of Gethsemane, & on the cross.
2. So much silence about so great a part of Jesus' life. We know his prayer life impressed his disciples. Simple, powerful, direct Jesus so prayed that they wanted to know from him how to pray.
3. Note how he prayed.
 - a. Prayer was time _____.
 - b. Prayer was an _____ time.
 - c. Prayer was _____ with the Father.

B. He taught that his disciples are people of _____.

1. We are to make _____ for prayer.
 - a. Life is busy. We have to make time for any thing that is important to us & that includes prayer.
 - b. _____ you should pray is really up to you. What is necessary is that you make time for prayer.
 - c. There is _____ in life that we cannot pray about.
2. We are to find a place _____ to pray. However you do it, make sure people know that whatever time you have chosen for prayer is private time. You do not want to be disturbed. You are coming into the presence of the great God who rules heaven & earth. He is present to speak with you, to hear you. You are focused on him & him alone as the source of all beauty & truth, all joy & all love.
3. We are to delight in the _____ of prayer. Prayer is not just asking for things. It is also complete silence as we think about God, his world, his truth, his glorious church, his salvation & saving acts, his power, his presence. You do not impress God with your many words & you do not insult him by your silence.
4. We are to _____ our prayers. Bring focus to your prayers by using means & methods that lead you to think of God & his ways.

II. THE _____ OF PRIORITY

A. Jesus knew what he was to do in his life.

1. Jesus lived with clear priorities which we see here. In all actuality, he didn't come to be a healer. He didn't come to be a great teacher or a wise sage. He came to _____ the Gospel of the Kingdom & to _____ for the sins of the whole world.
2. He couldn't _____ in Capernaum. He had to move on, to the next place, the next synagogue in the next town to tell them that the day of God's favor had dawned & that the Redeemer had come. Thank God he did!

B. Whether it be as the church, as individuals or the missionary endeavor, we must like our Lord move on to those places where God would have us go.

1. Where we have been is good & delightful. But like our Lord, we must move forward to where God calls us to go.
 - a. Requires _____.
 - b. Requires acceptance of _____.
 - c. Requires _____.
2. We are called to live a prioritized life to his glory & honor. EX—Vince Lombardi: "Think of only three things — your God, your family, & the Green Bay Packers — in that order." Want to expand on that.
 - a. _____ first. We put the first thing first & that is always our relationship with God. If this is in right place, we can trust him to lead us in the way we should go, to direct our steps into paths that make for peace, joy & righteousness.
 - b. The _____. For some of us, church isn't 2nd in life priorities.
 - c. _____. Have obligation to do what is best for spouse, children & pets. This means providing to best of our God-given ability safe place to live, food to eat, accepting love, & a model for life. .
 - d. Make _____ known. Some will say we do this by how we live. Misquote St. Francis of Assisi as having said, "Preach the Gospel. Use words if necessary." He never said that nor does his life demonstrate that he believed that. Like his Lord, he used words. Like Jesus he went from place to place, preaching the Gospel. Certainly our lives will demonstrate Christian conviction & salvation. But we will be vocal, at appropriate times, as to what the Gospel is.
 - e. Live with anticipation of _____ change and growth. While Christ willingly & readily accepts us as we are, he will not leave us as we are EX — C. S. Lewis — a palace, not a decent little cottage. Christ promises to make us new people, new habitations for the glory of God. Our 5th priority must be to accept the changes he introduces so that we grow to become the kind of person in whom he can live in & with eternally.

If we will live for God & go where he wants us to go, we have to get our _____ right.

1. Outside of Capernaum, our Lord taught his disciples & us a crucial lesson — _____ & _____. Let's follow him.