

February 12th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 6)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing you for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Describe a time in your life where you were desperate. What was happening and what made you desperate? What made it seem like it was an impossible situation to deal with?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 1:40. It was clear this man was struggling with a severe case of leprosy, which made him an outcast physically, socially, and even financially. He cries out to Jesus for help! Because of your own sin, how have you seen yourself as an "outcast?" How does this man's life represent your life when it comes to your spiritual health? How do you relate to his cry out to Jesus for help?

Question 2: Read Mark 1:41. Jesus does something miraculous; he shows pity on the leper and touches him to cleanse him. The amazing thing is twofold: one, that Jesus can heal this man, and two, Jesus himself did not become sick himself! How have you seen Jesus cleanse you or change you when you put your belief in him? Is it possible for something to take place that quickly?

Question 3: Read Mark 1:42. When we come into faith and relationship with Jesus, change is inevitable. **2 Corinthians 5:17** says, "therefore in anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has passed away and the new has come." We have been made clean and new. This leper has experienced a radical change in his life. What does living a cleansed life look like? How does your perspective change on things in your life? How do you think this man's perspective on life changed? How do you think we could learn from his changed perspective on life?

Question 4: Read Mark 1:43-45. Jesus heals this man, and he is told to go show himself to the priests and not tell anyone what happened! Jesus wants him to follow the OT law. The man is so excited and joyful about his new life, he couldn't wait to share it with everyone. Even through this man's disobedience, what can we learn from his zeal in talking about his new life? How should we be obedient in sharing our new life through Jesus with others?

Taking it Home

Reflect on this takeaway statements:

1. Jesus **loves you** in your current condition!
2. Jesus **is willing to** touch your mess!
3. Jesus has **power** to change your problem!

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?