

## REACTIONS TO JESUS

### Mark 1:1-45

**Introduction:** You have no doubt noticed the "sample" tables in stores from time to time. Of course they are trying to get you to try a product and then go buy it. Some people keep "going by" and sampling every time they go by. They're getting a free "meal" and often are told that they've had enough, now go buy the product. Buffet restaurants are very popular for they offer a variety of choices of foods. People like the buffets, why?

Jesus is often treated like a buffet or one of the sample tables in a grocery store or in a mall. People are not interested in "buying" the product, they just want to "sample" it. Many follow Jesus in that manner, what can He do for me, rather than being obedient. So, are you a follower of Jesus? Why? Because of who He is or because of what He might do for you?

Our text shows four reactions to Jesus. See if any of these four are the reason you are following Jesus.

#### I. A WONDERFUL REACTION TO JESUS (1:1-13)

- Strangely, shamefully, the best verbal reaction to Jesus came from Demons. (1:24; 3:11; 5:7)
- The centurion who nailed Jesus to the Cross. (15:39)
- Naturally the Angels.
- All declared that Jesus was God's Son.
- John the Baptist reacted to Jesus in word and deed by preaching and then giving his life.
- Jesus used John the Baptist as an example for any who would also follow him.
- John the Baptist followed Jesus for who He was, nothing more, nothing less.
- Does John the Baptist's reaction to Jesus resemble yours? Jesus is the Son of God.

#### II. AN IMMEDIATE REACTION TO JESUS (1:14-20)

- Peter, Andrew, James and John, all reacted in a hurry, but they didn't really know what they were getting themselves into. They never thought of the cost of following Jesus.
- These very same men ran away when Jesus was crucified, but did eventually come back to Him.
- Mark was all excited about going with Paul and Barnabas on a missionary trip but didn't last very long and went back home. He failed to count the cost. However, like the disciples who left Jesus but came back, he, too ultimately returned and became a devoted follower of Jesus.
- There is nothing wrong with following Jesus immediately, but He warns everyone to count the cost before committing themselves to follow Him for He must come before everything and everyone else.
- Do you find yourself among these who make a quick decision to follow Jesus but didn't remain faithful and more or less, "fell by the wayside?"

### **III. AN EMOTIONAL REACTION TO JESUS (1:21-28)**

- The demons knew who Jesus was but refused to follow while people flocked to Jesus but didn't know who He truly, really was.
- People flocked to Jesus because they were impressed with His teachings, miracles and His power over demons and such.
- Once the newness wore off, the people began to drift away.
- Emotional reaction to Jesus begins with excitement and enthusiasm but dies down after a while.
  - Does the crowd's reaction to Jesus resemble yours?
  - Has the newness of following Jesus worn off and you have drifted off? Sadly our churches have a great many who started off with a burst of energy, but cannot be found today.

### **IV. A SELFISH REACTION TO JESUS (1:29-45)**

- Jesus' miracles had a higher purpose than physical healing and casting out demons for He wanted to prove to the people who He was. The demons knew, but the people didn't.
  - Seeking Jesus only for Him to do something for you is not the right reason, it is selfish.
- The crowds were looking for and following Jesus for their own selfish reasons, wanting Him to do something special just for them.
- Jesus often had to sneak away and hide from the crowds because they forced themselves upon Him wanting Him to do this or that for them.
- Isn't there anybody who reacts to Jesus wanting to escape Hell and go to Heaven?
- Have you reacted to Jesus only to see if He would do something for you, like answer a prayer?

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. So, how do you treat Jesus? Like a buffet table where you pick and choose what you want from Him but refusing to take everything Jesus requires back from you?
2. Are you following Jesus hoping, praying that He will do something special just for you?
3. Perhaps you are following Jesus at a distance, out of curiosity, not really wanting to get involved?
4. Or are you following Jesus because you had an emotional experience once at church?
5. Jesus recognizes only one reaction and that is when one wants to honor Him and God the Father, and surrender totally and completely in obedience, not asking for, nor expecting anything back, just a reaction of gratitude, love, surrender, repentance and obedience.
6. Now, why are you following Jesus?