

Sept 23rd 2007: Mark's Gospel No 2: Jesus Becomes Famous: 1:14-45

If I had been Mark.....Sub heading.....**Jesus becomes famous**

Last week.....saw Mark commencing his biography.....by boldly stating in v1.....
THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD

→then supporting that audacious claim.....by making reference to

- How Isaiah predicted the coming of the Christ
- How John the Baptist fulfilled Isaiah's words.....& pointed to Jesus
- And how God.....confirmed Jesus as Christ and His Son....at His baptism

But Mark knew that the Proof of the Pudding was in the eating

That Jesus.....this carpenter.....had to prove He was really that special.....

By what He did.....How He acted and spoke ,,,,,& how the crowds responded to Him

If Jesus truly was who Mark claims.....then we would expect Him ...to make an impact
Show His authority.....express His power.....→ become famous...very quickly....

→And that's what we see happening in this section of Scripture

In it Mark sets out ways that Jesus speedily began to prove:-

- **That He had more authority**.....than what you would expect from a humble carpenter
- **More power**.....than what you would expect from a mere human
- **And a wow factor** with the crowds....that set Him apart from everyone else

Take the account of the calling of those first disciples: 16-20.....

We know from the other Gospels.....that Jesus knew ...

But that's not relevant to Mark

HIS point is that Jesus called them to.....and immediately they left everything...to do so

THAT'S LEADERSHIP.....POWER.....AUTHORITY.....CHARISMA

• These were not penniless peasants either.

It would seem that both groups owned their own fishing business

John and James were part of a family business with their dad.....big enough....to employ...

Peter at least...was married.....with a house in Capernaum

H Walker Evans writes:

“Peter and his business colleagues could hardly be described as men with no lives.

These two pairs of brothers were busy middle class family men with lives as full as yours and mine. Yet when Jesus summoned them, they jumped at the chance to follow.”

They owed Him nothing.....yet they believed in Him because they saw His power and authority
And they left all and followed Him

And the same thing has happened millions of times since then
(*Reading in my daily devotional book.....*)

You can't discount someone.....who has that type of impact....on people's lives

- **Then From Jesus' power to command individual obedience**

Mark emphasised the AUTHORITY Jesus showed in His teaching.

Look at verses 21-28

- Jesus enters the Synagogue in Capernaum on the Sabbath
- According to custom He is invited
- And the people notice a huge difference between Him and the Scribes.....AUTHORITY

When the Scribes spoke they.....

When Jesus spoke.....He spoke directly from God.....

*(Luke 4 records a time....Scroll of Isaiah was handed...HE unrolled....found the place where written
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has appointed me.....
Then He sat down & said.....)*

THAT'S authority

- **And with such authority.....**There was power.....POWER over evil

For in that congregation was a man.....possessed by an evil spirit

And the evil spirit recognized who Jesus really was

Suddenly that Synagogue.....became a spiritual battlefield

In an effort to overcome the power that the spirit saw in Jesus.....A power that terrified
The Spirit named Jesus

Verse 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!”*

And because Jesus was indeed.....the Holy One of God.....the Christ...the Son of God
He rebuked the evil
He ordered him to be quite.....to come out.....**And** with a cry of great pain....spirit obeyed

That's great power.....That's immense authority

And such power was not just restricted to the Synagogue.....or to public.....says Mark
It was shown in the house of Simon Peter.....**Where** Jesus gave immediate healing to....

- **And afterwards.....when sunset heralded the end of the Sabbath**
People came in their hundreds.....Lined up at the door.....
For they recognized that this one who could heal
This one who had power over evil.....**Was someone special**
- **And the** whole town came.....bringing their sick, „,possessed to Jesus

He has become famous.....implies Mark.....But what else would one expect ??
Of the Christ....the Son of God

But its at this point.....Mark takes a moment....to show us something else about Jesus
He may well be the Son of God.....But He is also Jesus.....dependent as we are upon the Father

- So after a most tiring day.....and even more tiring evening
- We find Jesus the next day....not sleeping in.....but rising while it was still dark.....**to pray**

If JesusGod the Son.....needed to so prioritize prayer.....Then how much more do we???

- **And so we approach the end.....this section**
But there is still one major proof of Jesus' power.....that Mark wants us to see
It concerns a leper

In those days a leper was an outcast.....
A dead person who was yet to die
Written off....avoided.....separated from everyone.....**UNTOUCHABLE**

He should not have been there that day.....

Society decreed that lepers did not gather near....
He should not have been allowed near Jesus

But he broke the rules.....He forced himself through the crowds...and fell at
Because he knew that Jesus could heal.....**SO he begs**—Not if you can but....

We may not find this a/c particularly surprising.....But Mark's readers would have
For it was widely known.....that only **GOD** could heal a leper

So what will Jesus Christ, Son of God do ?

WELL >>>He is so obviously filled with compassion.....**that He does the unthinkable**

He reaches out and touches.....even before

And boldly answers the man's question::::: **I am willing.....Be clean**

Suddenly it is not so important how famous Jesus becomes

But how willing is He.....How willing to deal with the individual ??

To reach out and touch my life.....sinful and unholy.....**To touch** your life
How willing to empower my life.....To redeem me.....my circumstances unto God
His will.....His purpose

• **And the amazing answer.....**Is that He is so willing.....So desirous to touch
That absolutely nothing.....will stop Him.....is we are willing to ask Him

• **But the more pertinent question.....is how willing are we to follow**
To surrender ourselves to Him.....**To become His disciples....To seek** to be like Him

You see back in v14-15.....Mark tells us what Jesus wants

That Jesus came proclaiming this Good News::

The Time has been fulfilled.....“The Kingdom of God is at hand:”
And that He wants people.....to repent.....and to believe

- **For Mark's readers....the Kingdom.....Was the same as The Day**

It was not an age.....but a point in time::::: It was an Appearing.....Great deliverer
Who would conquer the Nations.....Set up a Jewish Kingdom of God forever

How could Jesus say....It was at hand.....When the Jews were still a broken...conquered

- **But the point was that the Kingdom was so different.....to what they had thought**

That's why Jesus often through Mark.....redefines the Kingdom of heaven...in parables

The truth is.....that the Kingdom of.....is a work in progress

It began with the appearing of Jesus.....it continues today...
it will culminate with the overthrow of

- The Kingdom is already a mighty force.....It has power against the works of evil.....
- Power to rescue from death and judgment.....Power to change lives

It's a ongoing battle....that Jesus calls His followers to be part of

He calls us to repent.....To turn against every evil that lurks in us.....**and to** stand for the Good
To believe that Jesus is the Christ....The Son of God.....and to live out that belief daily

In accepting His gift of Salvation.....You have become part of this Kingdom
ALL He asks is that you be open.....to doing your part....until He returns

