

JESUS' HEART TOWARDS SINNERS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—July 24th, 2022

Mark 1:35–45

(ESV)

[35] And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. [36] And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, [37] and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” [38] And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” [39] And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

[40] And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” [41] Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” [42] And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. [43] And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, [44] and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” [45] But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

INTRODUCTION

“[In] my own pastoral and personal Christian experience, I can say that I’ve never known a man or woman who came to spiritual maturity except through discipline. Godliness comes through discipline.” —**Don Whitney**, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*

JESUS' DEVOTION TOWARDS THE FATHER (V. 35)

For Jesus to rest is not to slumber, but to submerge himself in the presence of the Father!

Why did Jesus need to pray?

(1) Because Jesus was a man, and as a man he depended on the power that prayer supplies.

“As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.” —**Martin Luther**

Prayer works supernaturally in our hearts as the Spirit moves us from apathy to action.

(2) Because Jesus was the Son of God, and as the Son of God he found perfect delight in the Father.

Discipline does not yield delight, rather delight produces discipline.

Psalm 40:8—*I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.*

Prayer begets prayer.

JESUS' DEVOTION TO HIS CALLING (Vs. 36-39)

It is possible to seek Jesus for the wrong reasons.

'to seek' = *zéteó*

--10x in Mark.

--9 out of 10 negatively.

- **Mark 1:37**—everyone is seeking for Jesus as he spends time with the Father.
- **Mark 3:32**—Jesus' family seek Jesus in disagreement with his ministry.
- **Mark 8:11-12**—the Pharisees seek a sign in order to test Jesus.
- **Mark 11:18, 12:12, 14:1**—the Jewish leaders were seeking to seize Jesus.
- **Mark 14:11**—Judas seeks to betray Jesus.
- **Mark 14:55**—The Jewish leaders seek false witnesses about Jesus.

Jesus was devoted to his calling, and his calling was to preach the gospel.

JESUS' DEVOTION TO SINNERS (Vs. 40-45)

Leprosy in the Bible would refer to a series of skin diseases.

Leviticus 13:45-46—*The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' [46] He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.*

A leper wasn't separated from the camp for just practical reasons, a leper was separated from the camp for theological reason.

"When you come to Christ for mercy and love and help in your anguish and perplexity and sinfulness, you are going with the flow of his own deepest wishes, not against them." —**Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly***

John 6:37—*All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*

No one comes to Jesus because of their spiritual fitness, we come to Jesus because of his mercy.