

“Immediacy”  
Mark 1:29-39  
(Preached at Trinity, August 1, 2001)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we’ve seen, immediately following the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness He began His Galilean ministry. It began with the preaching of the Gospel. This was to be God’s method of saving His people.  
**Mark 1:14-15** – “Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”
2. The time interval from Jesus’ baptism to the beginning of His Galilean ministry was probably about a year. This means that most of what we know about the ministry of Christ was crammed into a brief two year period.  
The first thing He did was call forth His disciples.
  - A. His call was an order to follow Him  
The word for “come” in the KJV is δεῦτε – means “come now!” “follow Me”  
It is the ultimate charge of the Gospel – Follow Christ!
  - B. The point of importance is how they responded to the call of Christ.  
Peter and Andrew:  
**Mark 1:17-18** – “And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. <sup>18</sup> And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.”  
James and John:  
**Mark 1:20** – “And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.”
3. Last time as we came to **Verse 21** we found Jesus arriving at Capernaum which became His home after leaving Nazareth.  
According to custom, Jesus entered into the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. He rose and taught. All who were present were astonished at His teaching, amazed at the authority by which He spoke.  
**Mark 1:22** – “And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.”
4. As we come to **Verse 29** we read:  
“And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.”
  - A. The word for “forthwith” is εὐθέως – It means immediately.  
This is one of Marks favorite words. He uses it over 40 times.
  - B. As we’ve seen, Mark’s Gospel moves quickly. He focuses on detail. Mark most often uses this word to stress the sense of purpose, urgency, of high mission we see so often in Mark.
5. Tonight I want us to see the sense of immediacy in everything that surrounds the life of Christ.

- I. First, look at the sense of immediacy in the life of Christ
- A. At the close of the synagogues service Jesus *immediately* entered into the house of Peter and Andrew
1. It was customary to share a meal together after the synagogue service
  2. Apparently Peter and Andrew shared a house. Also living in the home was Peter's mother-in-law. Peter's father-in-law was most likely deceased.
  3. Although the text doesn't say so, Peter's wife was probably living and also living in the home.  
**1 Corinthians 9:5** – "Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?"
  4. In this particular occasion James and John also accompanied them to the meal.
- B. For Jesus it was more than just a fellowship meal on the Sabbath
1. Everything Jesus did was with purpose. This was no different. There was immediacy in going to this home
  2. Jesus had an appointment with Peter's mother-in-law
  3. We've seen this with the woman at the well  
**John 4:3-4** – "He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And he must needs go through Samaria."  
He had to go through Samaria. He had an appointment with this particular Samaritan woman.
  4. He had an appointment to heal Peter's mother-in-law – to perform another miracle
    - a. Each miracle was a great proclamation of the sovereignty of Christ.
    - b. Last time we saw the authority of Christ over the forces of evil, Satan's reign as He ordered the demon to be silent and come out of the man.
    - c. When Jesus changed the water into wine He demonstrated His sovereignty over creation itself as He changed the very molecular makeup of the water.
    - d. When He healed on the Sabbath He demonstrate His sovereignty over the Sabbath.
    - e. When Jesus walked on the water He demonstrated His sovereignty over nature and as He calmed the storm His sovereignty over the weather.
    - f. When Jesus healed the daughter of Jairus He demonstrated His sovereignty over distance and over time and space.
  5. In coming to Peter's mother-in-law He was about to demonstrate His authority over every disease and human adversity.
- C. I believe Jesus had a much more important appointment with this woman
1. Jesus' appointment with the woman at the well was to meet her spiritual need.
  2. When He healed the man blind from his birth Jesus healed much more than his physical infirmity – He opened his eyes to the truth of Christ.

- D. Jesus saw His life as one of unwavering purpose
1. Nothing was done without purpose. His entire life was one of Divine appointment.  
**Matthew 1:21** – “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
  2. Do you see your life as moving with a sense of purpose?
    - a. Your greatest purpose is to live to the glory of God.  
**1 Corinthians 10:31** – “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”
    - b. Your greatest duty is to be conformed more and more to the image of Christ. God has saved us unto holiness  
**Ephesians 1:4** – “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”  
**Romans 8:29** – “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son”
    - c. Your greatest work is that of evangelism – it is your commission
    - d. All of your activities, all of your relationships, all of your responsibilities – everything that God has Providentially made of your life falls into these purposes.

II. Second, let’s look at the immediacy with Peter and the apostles

**Mark 1:30** – “But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.”

- A. They had entered into the house with the expectation of sharing a meal together
1. Their hearts would have been filled with great joy
  2. They had just witnessed the power of Christ. They had seen His authority  
All of the people had been amazed at their Master  
**Mark 1:27** – “And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine *is* this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.”
  3. On their way to Peter’s house they must have been in rich conversation about the details of the day
  4. Upon entering the house they found the unexpected – Peter’s mother-in-law was in bed sick.
- B. Their response was to make an immediate petition of Christ
1. The KJV uses the word “Anon” – it means immediately  
It is the same word translated “Forthwith” in **Verse 29** - εὐθέως  
Again, it points to an unwavering purpose.

2. Without hesitation they turned to Christ.
    - a. They knew He was able – they had been witnesses of His miracles  
**Mark 1:27** – “And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine *is* this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.”
    - b. They were present at that wedding feast at Cana of Galilee, a moment when their faith was greatly increased  
**John 2:11** – “This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.”
  3. There was no doubt where they should turn. They entered the house and found Peter’s mother-in-law sick. Where else would they turn?  
 Later Peter would say to Christ,  
**John 6:69** – “And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.’
  4. For the disciples of Christ their first move was to turn to Christ  
 “and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her.”
- C. Is this true of you?
1. Do you immediately turn to Christ in prayer? Do you bring your petitions to Him?
  2. This should be our heart’s desire. This should be the focus of our heart. The disciples did not always do this and neither do we. Pray that Christ might be so central in your life that you immediately fly to Him

- III. Finally, let’s look at the immediacy with Peter’s mother-in-law - εὐθέως
- Mark 1:31** – “and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.”
- A. Peter’s mother-in-law was sick with a fever
1. The word for “fever” in **Verse 31** is πυρετός – fiery heat
  2. There can be many causes – usually bacterial or viral attacks
  3. If the fever is high enough it can be life threatening
  4. With Peter’s mother-in-law it was completely debilitating – she was bedridden.  
 Luke the physician called it a “great fever”  
**Luke 4:38** – “And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever”
  5. Remember, there were few painkillers, no antibiotics, no hospitals. Medical understanding of diseases was still limited.
- B. When Jesus healed her she was immediately restored
1. There was no gradual recuperation. She didn’t have to regain her strength  
 She immediately rose and began serving Christ  
**Luke 4:39** – “And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.”
  2. Not only was she healed of her physical infirmity, she had a heart of service - διακονέω
  3. She arose immediately and served Christ

- C. Is the great purpose of your life to serve Christ
1. Doing all things for His glory  
Obeying Him – growing in holiness  
Doing the work of evangelism
  2. Do you have a sense of immediacy in your life? Is there a sense of urgency? May God grant us to awaken each day with a fresh sense of purpose.

Conclusion:

1. We must see our lives with an importance on the present – the now.
2. This is also true with regards to our soul. There is a great danger in delay.  
**2 Corinthians 6:2** – “behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)”