

Time for Jesus  
Mark 1:35-45

I. Intro

- A. Palm Sunday, Holy Week is upon us!
- B. Today we look at the contrast of Christ's ministry from the early months, to the last week.
- C. Pay Attention today:
  - 1. We must fight against being distracted from a healthy relationship with God.
  - 2. God wants our complete submission and devotion.
  - 3. He is the authority over all, and that includes all our life today.

II. Text

- A. Verse 35:
  - 1. Jesus went to a desolate place to pray
  - 2. The separation from the crowds was important for Christ
  - 3. Recharge and spend time in prayer, make it a priority
- B. Verses 36-38: He did not address their concerns, but went to the next town.
- C. Verses 39-44: The ability to heal, and the willingness to heal come together for a beautiful statement of the authority of Jesus
  - 1. 2 weeks ago He casts out an unclean spirit
  - 2. This week he cleans a man deemed unclean by the law, bringing him into spiritual wholeness.
- D. Verse 45: the crowds continued to gather

III. Points

- A. Time for Prayer
  - 1. We struggle hear because we do not purposefully isolate, we are a distracted people.
  - 2. Our attention span ability is under attack:
    - a) Studies are varied and numbers are all over the map, but the consensus is that attention spans are decreasing.
    - b) Some studies are showing that adults now have an 8.25 second attention span, that's less than a goldfish at 9 seconds.
    - c) We know the screens we view are a part of the problem, but the problem is really discipline.
    - d) Prayer is a discipline, and requires intentional isolation in order to focus.
  - 3. Jesus modeled this isolation and recharge discipline for us, and the disciples modeled more of our current situation.
  - 4. Jesus goes to pray in a desolate place, the disciples are immediately looking for Him, because there is something urgent motivating them...crowds of people.
    - a) Jesus modeled what we are to do
    - b) The disciples model what we are doing
    - c) We need to invest in the time needed to pray and hear from God, yet we are pulled away by the seemingly urgent needs of the world.
  - 5. Dwight Eisenhower's decision making matrix:
    - a) The Urgent is the enemy of the important
    - b) The Tyranny of the urgent will impact your ability to set aside meaningful time to do that which is important.
  - 6. This all may sound like psycho-babel to you today, but it is being played out in our story:
    - a) Jesus is doing the important
    - b) The Disciples interrupt with the urgent
    - c) And we see our world in this story.
  - 7. Jesus responds, not by rebuke, but by moving to the next ministry steps. He was going to be an example to them in this spiritual conflict.

## B. Time for Healing

1. An unclean person came asking for healing
  - a) The word “unclean” is important here
  - b) He was a leper, so he was unclean, and he went to Jesus asking to be made clean
  - c) This is our problem before we encounter Jesus, we are an outcast before Christ changes us.
2. Jesus healed, and then told the leper to go do as the law commanded:
  - a) The detailed, multi-step process for a leper to be deemed clean included:
  - b) **Initial Inspection & Ritual:** The priest went outside the camp to examine the person. If healed, they used two clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop. One bird was killed over running water, and the living bird and materials were dipped in the blood.
  - c) **Sprinkling and Release:** The person was sprinkled seven times and pronounced clean, then the living bird was set free in the field.
  - d) **Purification Rituals:** The person was required to wash their clothes, shave all their hair, and bathe in water.
  - e) **Re-entry Restrictions:** While they could return to the camp, they had to live outside their tent for seven days.
  - f) **Final Cleansing:** On the seventh day, they shaved all hair again (head, beard, eyebrows), washed their clothes, and bathed.
  - g) **Sacrifices:** On the eighth day, they brought specific offerings (lambs, flour, oil) for a guilt, sin, and burnt offering to complete the atonement ritual.
3. In this ritual we see:
  - a) Inspection
  - b) Shedding of Blood
  - c) Washing of water
  - d) Time of Proving
4. We see a similar process in our response by grace through faith:
  - a) Inspection: believers show their faith to others
  - b) Shedding of Blood: Jesus was and remains our sacrifice
  - c) Washing of Water: Baptism is a physical symbol of this spiritual truth
  - d) Time of Proving: there was wisdom in the law regarding this, and we see wisdom in this today:
    - (1) [1Ti 3:6-7 ESV] 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.
    - (2) These are qualifications for overseers in the church, leaders need to prove themselves to be such before given the role.
5. The leper was physically healed, and told to keep it to himself
  - a) Why?:
  - b) In this season of Christ’s ministry, He was not trying to draw huge crowds or get the attention of the Jewish leadership...that would come later
  - c) His mission seemed to be trainmen His disciples and equipping them for what was to come.

## C. Spreading

1. We see desperate people in our story today:
  - a) Crowds desperate for a sign
  - b) Unclean person desperate to be made whole
  - c) WE ARE THE DESPERATE, AND THE ONLY ANSWER IS TO TURN TO CHRIST!
2. Contrast with the story of the demon possessed man, Jesus forbid the leper from telling anyone.

3. The time of Christ's secret work has passed, now we are called to boldly declare what He has done.
  4. The evidence to this can be seen in the gospels themselves, we have a record of Jesus' life and ministry that is still changing the world.
  5. We see this truth in the Palm Sunday account:
    - a) Jesus enters Jerusalem to crowds gathering to worship Him
    - b) He enters as the prophets declared
    - c) He is walking willingly to the Cross
    - d) And the crowds declare they know who he is:
      - (1) Hosanna: save us now
      - (2) The the Son of David: Messiah would come from David's line
      - (3) They knew He was savior and messiah!
  6. [Mat 21:1-11 ESV] 1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" 11 And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."
  7. Spread the word! Jesus brings healing, relationship, and salvation!
- IV. Close