

## One Day in Messiah's Life – Mark 1: 29-39

### *Introduction, Outline*

- Scripture reading: Mark 1: 21-39.
- Teaching text: Mark 1: 29-39 (NASB1995)
- **29** And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **30** Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they \*spoke to Jesus about her. **31** And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them. **32** When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. **33** And the whole city had gathered at the door. **34** And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was. **35** In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. **36** Simon and his companions searched for Him; **37** they found Him, and \*said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." **38** He \*said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for." **39** And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.
- The events of vv21-39 all happened within 24 hours. This eventful day, starting from the Sabbath gathering in the synagogue, demonstrates what a wonderful Savior Jesus is. We have seen the absolutely unparalleled authority of the Messiah in vv21-28 last time. Today, the miracles of healing and casting out demons in vv29-34 are the proof of Messiah's power, prayer in v35 is the source of Messiah's ministry and vv36-39 shows us the priority of Messiah's work.
- Outline:
  - Title: One Day in Messiah's Life
  - 1. The Proof of Messiah's Power (vv 29-34)
  - 2. The Source of Messiah's Ministry (v35)
  - 3. The Priority of Messiah's Work (vv 36-39)

### **The Proof of Messiah's Power (vv 29-34)**

- "came out of the synagogue": The four disciples followed Jesus into the house of Simon Peter immediately after the morning gathering was over.
- "was lying sick with a fever": Luke says it's "a high fever", not some minor cold, but a life-threatening high fever. With no antibiotics or fever reducer at that time, a high fever could easily lead to death. If Jesus didn't come, she might die soon.

- “they spoke to Jesus about her”: “they asked him to help her” in Luke. The subject “they” most naturally refers to the disciples. They have personally seen the power of Jesus and they surely want to ask Jesus to heal her due to their love for their families. If Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the OT, he must prove that He not only can heal spiritually, but also physically.

**Note:** The purpose of Jesus’ healing ministry is to prove His power and authority as Messiah, not to teach Christians how to heal diseases. Not that you shouldn't pray for the sick, but no one has the so-called special gift of healing by prayer. Beware of false teaching here.

- “And He came to her.....taking her by the hand, ”: This is not a necessary step for healing. Physical contact expresses the tender love of Jesus.
- “and the fever left her, and she waited on them.”: It’s lunchtime, so after Peter’s mother-in-law is healed, she immediately gets up and serves as a housewife, preparing food for them. The point is: Jesus’ healing is immediate and complete! Normally, it takes time to heal from a high fever. Even after the fever is gone, the patient is usually very weak and needs time to regain strength. The kind of healing here is an absolute miracle, just like giving sight to the blind and making the lame walk. It is immediate, complete and visible healing!

**Application:** Eternal hope. When Jesus returns, He will instantaneously give all believers a perfect glorious body with the same powerful miracle! The miracle of healing proves that He has this power!

- “When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing.....”: Because it is Sabbath, they cannot work during daytime. These people are brought by others, indicating their lack of independent ability to live by themselves. They are disabled, needing intensive care from family members.
- “all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed”: Not necessarily every single person who’s sick or demon-possessed, but it’d be very close even if there’s some exaggeration. The next verse says the whole city gathered at the door: the sick, their family members, and curious observers.
- “healed many .....”: It doesn’t mean some weren’t healed, but simply that those healed are a great number. Archaeologists estimate the population of Capernaum to be ~1500, and with so many crippled, it must’ve been a horrible scene! Jesus basically eradicated disease and demons of the entire city in one day. He healed everyone in the entire city. Wow!

### **The Source of Messiah’s Ministry (v35)**

- “In the early morning, while it was still dark”: Early morning refers to four or five am when others are still fast asleep.
- “Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place”: Three verbs in a row: Jesus “got up, left, and went away” to a secluded place to pray, away from the crowd to avoid

distraction. Mark wants you to see how much Jesus values His prayer time! The prayer life of Jesus is carefully planned, not just a silent short prayer in bed if you happen to wake up early.

- “praying”: What’s the content? We don’t know. We can guess. There’s perhaps thanksgiving for the previous day, praying for the new day, or just regular devotional time with Bible reading, singing a hymn of praise to the Father. No matter what is exactly in His prayer here, the main point is: This is the foundation of Jesus’ ministry, the source of all His wisdom and power – to seek earnestly and obey the Father’s will through prayer.

The gospel of Luke gives many one-sentence descriptions of Jesus’ prayer life: Luke 3: 21; 5: 16; 6: 12; 9: 18, 29; 11: 1.

**Application:** Where does the power of Christian sanctification come from? Where to find God’s guidance? “If Jesus in His great power and oneness with God could feel the urgent necessity of communion with the Father, how much more you and I need to go to the Father for the strength that fills our weakness and the knowledge that fills our ignorance.” — One pastor

*“What shall we say to those who never pray at all, in the face of such a passage as this? There are many such, it may be feared, in the list of baptized people--many who rise up in the morning without prayer, and without prayer lie down at night--many who never speak one word to God. Are they Christians? It is impossible to say so. A praying Master, like Jesus, can have no prayerless servants. The Spirit of adoption will always make a man call upon God. To be prayerless is to be Christless, Godless, and in the high road to destruction.”* — One pastor

If you don’t have a regular prayer life, what you need is not growth, nor guidance, but salvation. The Spirit which God gives to all Christians is the Spirit of sons and daughters that calls out to their Abba, Father (Romans 8: 15; Galatians 4: 6).

### **The Priority of Messiah’s Work (vv 36-39)**

- “Simon and his companions searched for Him”: The original verb is very strong, often translated “pursue”, they searched everywhere with extreme urgency. They must find Jesus. If they had to dig a hole in the ground they’d do it. What is the urgent matter?
- “Everyone is looking for You”: This is the matter!

Peter just spent a wonderful day with Jesus. Seeing the crowd, he must be thinking, what a great ministry opportunity! How could you just leave? Where’s your sense of leadership? Don’t you want people to follow you? How could you leave when there’s such an opportunity?

- “He said to them”: Jesus speaks calmly, not at all annoyed by Peter’s rude intrusion into His prayer time. Jesus is full of patience towards His disciples’ all kinds of foolish and stubborn attitudes and actions. How can He do that? Remember, He just prayed.

- “Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby”: If the goal is sheer number of followers, then this would be the worst ministry decision. Such a big crowd with lots of zeal, just show them a little favor and He could easily keep them as followers. But Jesus’ goal is not fame nor popularity. His only goal is the will of His Father. A big crowd following with wrong motives was never His goal. How did He know the Father’s will? Remember, Jesus just prayed.

**Application:** You will not be able to know God’s will without prayer. Of course, God’ will to believers today is all in the Bible, and prayer will never be contrary to the Bible’s clear commands. But don’t think that you can truly understand God’s will with merely reading the Bible and no prayer.

- “I may preach there also; for that is what I came for”: Principle —— preaching is my foremost priority; Application —— I must now go to other places to preach. For I have already preached clearly in Capernaum. I have told them that the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel. He who believes in Him has eternal life and he who does not believe has been judged already.

Jesus simply ignores those who are looking for Him. He basically ignores Peter’s statement. Jesus wants Peter to learn: My ministry timeline is only determined by my Father and not by the crowd. What determines when and where I will serve is not where the need is greatest, where there are many people, or how many people come to me with various self-perceived needs and ask me to satisfy them. These are not the factors that determine how I serve. The only thing that determines how I serve is the will of my Father.

*“By preaching, the Church of Christ was first gathered together and founded, and by preaching, it has ever been maintained in health and prosperity. By preaching, sinners are awakened. By preaching, inquirers are led on. By preaching, saints are built up. By preaching, Christianity is being carried to the heathen world. ... Above all, it is the very work which Christ Himself undertook. The King of kings and Lord of lords Himself was once a preacher.”*  
—— One pastor

**Summary:** The three points of today’s message are all proofs of the identity of the Messiah. According to the OT Messianic prophecies, Messiah will:

- 1) Heal all kinds of diseases (Isaiah 35: 3-6; cf. Matthew 11: 2-6);
- 2) Rely on prayer for service (Isaiah 50: 4-5);
- 3) Preach the gospel message (Isaiah 61: 1-2; cf. Luke 4: 16-21).

Just one single day of Jesus’ ministry in Capernaum has provided sufficient proof for believers that the kingdom of God is at hand.