

## DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

### *“The Power & Purpose of Jesus’ Ministry”*

**Mark 1:35-39**

**September 6 – September 12, 2009**

**THE LORD'S DAY** – We return this week to our study of Mark where we pick up our text in **verses 35-39** of **Chapter 1**. This week we take a close and somewhat personal look at and into the life of Jesus Christ as a man. These 5 verses are not very lengthy but they are pretty straightforward as they tell us some details concerning the man Jesus and in particular two things, His *Praying* & *Preaching* both of which were important to Him. Jesus is about to start what we understand as His formal “Galilean ministry” and it would serve us well to see the behavior and mindset of the Savior in preparation. Read **Mark 1:35-39**.

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help me to learn from the teaching of Your Word.*

**MONDAY** – In **Mark 1:29-34**, the last time we were studying Mark’s gospel we saw that Jesus had been in the home of Peter and Andrew after the Sabbath service in the synagogue. It was here that He healed Peter’s mother in-law as well as the great crowds that had gathered to receive healing or deliverance from demons. After this long and strenuous day we see Jesus turning to prayer. Christ who was both Divine and human could have been turning in prayer to The Father for strength; the text does not specifically say this say but it is at the very least reasonable to say that Jesus felt the need to pray. The record of His time in Capernaum is clear and it is obvious to see that He had “no time for Himself” as we would say. In His life here on earth, Jesus was constantly giving out, spending Himself on others and He displays to us not only an example of how to live and spend ourselves but also how and where to turn for strength and power. The text tells us that “...*in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight...there He prayed.*” Regardless of whether we use morning, afternoon or evening for our daily time alone with God, both Holy Scripture and Jesus’ life are clear in telling and demonstrating to us the necessity and benefit of seeking God’s face in prayer in the morning, before we begin the day. Read **Psalms 5:3, 59:16, 88:13, 143:8**. As the genuine Son of David Christ sought The Father in the early and secretly; may His early and private devotion be an example to us.

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help me to be diligent to come to You in prayer every morning. Jesus, thank You for teaching us by Your perfect example but help me never forget You are more than a mere example; You alone are Lord & Savior.*

**TUESDAY** – **Verse 35** also informs us of where Jesus went to pray when it tells us He “...*went out and departed to a solitary place...*” He chose a “solitary place”

<i>Praise &amp; Prayer</i>	<b>ADORATION</b> Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	<b>AUTHORITY</b> Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	<b>APPEAL</b> Give us this day... (6:11)	<b>AQUITTAL</b> Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	<b>ASSISTANCE</b> Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	<b>ADMIRATION</b> For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Lord's Day						
Mon						
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*W @ e k e n d P r a y e r J o u r n a l*

*M a t t h e w 6: 9-13*

away from the crowd of people that had been all over Him at Peter's door. It was here that he could be alone, in private communion with God His Father. Christ didn't awake the disciples to show them He was praying. He just prayed. As God he was prayed to, and as man he prayed. There was no distraction in the "ἐρημος" eremos, "the solitary, lonely, desolate, and uninhabited" place. Did not Jesus Himself tell us to enter our "closet" when we pray (**Matthew 6:6**)? **Matthew Henry** comments, "Those that have the most business in public, and of the best kind, must sometimes be *alone with God*; must retire into *solitude*, there to converse with God, and keep up communion with him." We need time alone with God. God answers and rewards the man who pleads with Him in secret and is so consumed with God that he does not worry about letting everyone but God know how much he is praying. Read **Matthew 6:5-6, Luke 18:1-8**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me to be consumed with a desire to pray. Help me to seek above all else, Your Divine approval and seek You in secret.*

**WEDNESDAY** – Scripture constantly attests Jesus as a man of prayer (**Origen**). We could go on and on about the prayer life of Jesus but let us just highlight some instances and times Jesus thought it necessary to pray found in Sacred Scripture. Jesus prayed at events such as when He was baptized (**Luke 3:21**), just before He made important decisions like choosing the twelve (**Luke 6:12-13**), before He asked the disciples an important question (**Luke 9:18**) and then right before an important event such as The Transfiguration (**Luke 9:28**). Interestingly we find the greatest preacher who ever lived teaches us the role of the Father's sovereignty in salvation as He prays right before extending an invitation for sinners to come find rest in Him (**Matthew 11:25-30**). Jesus prays as He stands at the tomb of Lazarus (**John 11:41**), and He prays for Peter's faith not to fail knowing already that Peter would soon deny Him (**Luke 22:32**). We find Christ as He agonizes and travails in the garden of Gethsemane, praying in such earnest that "*His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground*" (**Luke 22:42-44**). Then, even in the midst of horrible and incomparable suffering, we find Him praying from the cross (**Luke 23:34, 46**). We even see the resurrected Christ continues His praying as He breaks bread (**Luke 24:30**). Finally, and most important we are told in Scripture that Jesus is "interceding" for us as believers. The word can be translated "*to pray or to entreat on another's behalf*" and we understand that Christ continually intercedes for us. That, coupled with His death, resurrection, and exaltation guarantee we will never be found guilty in God's courtroom. Read **Isaiah 53:12, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, I praise and thank You for Your continual intercession for me. Thank You for the security You provide through the gospel.*

**THURSDAY** – In **verses 36-37** we read that there is a type of search party being led to find Jesus. We read "*And Simon and those with him searched for Him...*" If Christ had spent the night at Simon's (Peter's) house which seems to be the case here it may help explain why Simon's name is so prominent. But beyond the mere

fact that Simon was indeed a prominent figure in the events of this story we now begin to see that a precedent is beginning to be established. Simon Peter by his very character was a leader and outspoken and aggressive. His leadership qualities are seen from the very start of Jesus ministry. We read that their search was successful as the text exclaims, "*...they found Him...*" What is of no surprise is the search parties excitement as they tell Jesus of the crowds "*...everyone*" that are "*...looking for You.*" It appears that the news of the previous night's healings spread rapidly and there are many people at Peter's door this morning to be healed and delivered. Jesus is excitedly informed about this as it seems the disciples are waiting for Him to head back there for some more "time in the spotlight" if you will. What is surprising is the reaction of Jesus which we will cover tomorrow. Read these verses speaking about an attitude of seeking and searching for God and His wisdom. **Psalm 9:10, 22:26, 24:6, 27:8, 63:1, Proverbs 2:4, Jeremiah 29:13**.

Suggestion for prayer: *God, help me to seek and search for You as the living water that can quench my thirsty soul. Your loving-kindness is better than life.*

**FRIDAY** – When approached by those searching for Him Jesus rose from His knees to meet the challenge of the task at hand. Prayer is not an excuse to avoid work and our responsibility. The task at hand however is not what one would assume it to be simply reading the narrative. As Jesus rises from prayer when found and informed by Simon and those looking for Him, He makes it clear that He will not allow people in general or His disciples in particular to tell Him where to go or what to do. The Son of Man is in control of the events transpiring and Jesus responds in **verse 38** with, "*Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.*" We notice many things from this verse. See how Jesus wishes to include His men as He is in the process of training them. He uses the word "*us*" rather than "*Me*". What is most important to notice is although Jesus will perform miracles in the places He is about to go (**Mark 1:39, Matthew 4:23-24**), His entire focus is not on miracles but rather on His mission to "*preach there also.*" Jesus was all about preaching the good tidings of the Kingdom and bringing the gospel message to those lost and blind in sin. Jesus set out on a preaching tour if you will. Just as He preached in the synagogue in Capernaum He is about to set out to preach in "*their* (the towns He is about to go into) *synagogues*". Mark summarizes in a single verse what probably took months to accomplish. The bottom line: Jesus was about preaching (**Isaiah 61:1**).

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You for giving me faith to believe the gospel.*

**SATURDAY** – We see in the text and Jesus' own words that through *preaching*, He fulfills His *purpose*. He said, "*...that I may preach...for this purpose I have come forth.*" He had "*...come forth...*" not merely from Bethlehem, Nazareth, or Capernaum, but ultimately from heaven itself both to preach the gospel as well as live and embody it in and through His person and work. Finally, in Jesus life and work which continues today the very purpose and will of The Father was and is being achieved. Read **John 6:38, 8:42, 13:3, 18:37, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28**.

Suggestion for prayer: *"Thine is the kingdom, power & authority forever, Amen."*