

## **Faith in the Home: Sermon Notes and Applications for the Family**

### **Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany, Mark 1:29-39, "Everyone is Looking for You."**

This Sunday's sermon picks up where the last one left off in Mark 1. Jesus' ministry had begun in full. He had called His disciples, He made His name known, He preached the good news, and He performed miracles for people who needed them. Verse 29, begins right after Jesus casted out a demon in the synagogue. He left there and went to Peter's home where He healed Peter's mother-in-law. Later that evening more people were brought to Jesus and HE continued to heal them and even drive out demons for those who were possessed. Early the next day Jesus goes out to a desolate place to be alone and pray. Simon Peter and others searched for Him and when they found Him, they said to Jesus, "Everyone is looking for you." Jesus responded with, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach their also, for that is why I came out."

Point one that needs to be made here is that the account of the miracles demonstrated that the man from Nazareth named Jesus, is indeed the Son of God. The second point is the reason why God became incarnate (human) to save us. Jesus came to reveal Himself as God, and to bring us salvation through that revelation particularly the death on the cross and His resurrection. Simon Peter found Jesus by Himself and said, "Everyone is looking for you." Jesus didn't deny that, in fact, Peter didn't understand the degree that everyone was looking for Jesus. Peter was talking about his fellow townspeople. Jesus was talking about everybody in Judea, and even the entire world. It wasn't that He didn't want to abandon Capernaum. It was that He desired to save everyone.

Let's not overlook the importance of this simple passage. This passage highlights the human condition especially under the nature of sin. Why were the people looking for Jesus? They wanted Him for themselves. But Jesus is not just everyone's individual personal savior. He is the savior for everyone in the world. "Dear Jesus, please just take care of me in the way I want you to take care of me! "Heal this, heal that, and please give a bunch of money so that I can have everything I want." I am being tongue in cheek here but we can be less concerned about what God wants from us, and more concerned with Him giving to us what we want. Jesus primarily came to reveal to us that He is the Son of God, and that salvation comes through Him alone.

It's not that Jesus won't perform miracles today, or that He is not concerned with our health and station in life. He is. However, it is for us to remember that Jesus' primary concern was with saving us from Hell. He can and does bring healing, provision, and protection from above, but He came to save us from ourselves. He came to save everyone.

#### ***What are some applications of this:***

1. I'm so glad that we all have a "personal relationship with Jesus." However, that phrase can be misused and can actually tear our relationship with Him apart. Jesus knows and calls you by name in your baptism, but He has also called us to be in relationship with Him through the

Church, meaning all His people. It is difficult to maintain relationship with Jesus without having a relationship with His Church. Jesus came for others too, and our relationship grows closer to Jesus when we share His Gospel with others.

2. Follow the example of Jesus in this text. First, He took time away from everyone and everything else to be with God in prayer. Second, share the Good News with others.

3. Take everything to God in prayer, but if He doesn't answer according to your wishes, it could be because He is doing something else for a purpose. His goal wasn't to be like a genie that grants wishes. His goal is to save you from Hell. In other words, seek God, not the benefits of knowing Him. That said, sometimes in faith He wants to continuously take certain things to Him in prayer.

4. Everyone is looking for God. However, most are not seeing Him in the person of Jesus. They want a god of their own making or choosing. So have compassion because everyone needs a miracle from God, but realize that they don't really want to surrender their lives over to Jesus.

5. Finally, your struggles in life are not a sign that you are unloved by God. Your prayers not getting answered quickly and to your liking isn't evidence that you are unloved by God, either. We know God is for and loves us because of what Jesus did for us on the cross and three days later when He rose again. It about the relationship with God, not about the day in and day out results of prayer requests.