

CORE STUDY #3

JESUS HEALS MANY

PASSAGE: Mark 1:29 - 2:22

LEADER PREPARATION

Read the passage over at least three times, noting what you feel might be the main points of the passage. Using your **Summit Training Guide** (section 2 “Engaging the Word” and section 3 “Responding to the Word”), ask observation and interpretation questions of the passage.

You will also find it very helpful to read the parallel passages in the other 3 gospels. By reading all three gospels you will have a fuller picture of what happened and what was said.

- for Mk. 1:29-34 read Mt. 8:14-17, Lk. 4:38-41
- for Mk. 1:35-38 read Lk. 4:42, 43
- for Mk. 1:40-44 read Mt. 8:2-4; Lk. 5:12-14
- for Mk. 2:3-17 read Mt. 9:2-17, Lk. 5:18-38

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

Have you or someone else you know experienced healing after being prayed for in the name of Jesus? If yes could you share what happened? Sometimes we do not immediately see healing. How did you or those you know deal with the disappointment of not seeing God heal?

FOUNDATIONS STUDY

- Obtaining a basic understanding.
- Includes questions that address the foundational elements of the passage.
- Do not be shy of rewording these questions for your particular CORE or choosing the questions that you feel are more appropriate for your CORE members.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (selection to choose from)

1. Look at verses 34 and 40-45. Why do you think Jesus did not allow the demons to speak? Why do you think Jesus strongly warned the leper he had healed not to tell anyone about what he had done?
2. In verse 35 we read that Jesus got up early in the morning to pray. Why, if Jesus is God, do you think Jesus prayed to God the Father?
3. What do you think Jesus prayed about in light of his response to the disciples question in verse 38? What lessons can we learn from Jesus’ daily need to meet with and hear from the Father?
4. What is the significance of Jesus’ words in 2:5 “Son, your sins are forgiven”? Why do you think Jesus chose to declare his true identity here while elsewhere he hid his identity from people?

RESPONSE QUESTION

If Jesus needed to meet with God the Father to pray, how much more so do we? How do you make time in your busy schedule as a UBC student to meet alone with God? Do you have a

regular devotion plan? Would asking someone in CORE to keep you accountable to a regular meeting time with God help you?

GOING DEEPER STUDY

- For those who want to dig below the surface. You can use this in CORE, or pass it to your CORE members to read through the week before the study.
- Includes questions that go into more depth. More background information is provided for each question to help you facilitate the discussion at a deeper level.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (selection to choose from)

1. Why did people wait until sunset to come to Jesus in order to be healed? (1:32)

The Pharisees had many man-made laws to help people keep God's Laws. God gave humankind the Sabbath, meant to be a day of rest from the daily routine of work. The Pharisees believed that healing a person was work and therefore insisted, unless the person was going to die, that healing be done only on non-Sabbath days. The Jewish day ended at sunset and so people felt free to bring their sick family members to Jesus once the Sabbath was over.

2. Why did Jesus tell the leper to show himself to the priest and what did it mean for him to offer the sacrifice that Moses commanded (verse 43-44)?

In Leviticus 13 and 14:1-32 we can read that anything that might show signs of infection or contamination must be shown to a priest. The priest would verify whether the contamination was infectious and if so the person must be separated from the rest of the community until the infection was healed and the leper show himself once again to the priest. 'The leper who has the disease shall cover his lip and cry, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean; he shall dwell alone in a habitation outside the camp.'" (Lev. 13:45ff). Leprosy brought with it deep physical and mental anguish for both the individual affected and the whole community. Jesus touched the leper showing that his concern for the person out weighed any prohibitions to his own 'cleanliness'.

3. What does the term, 'Son of Man' mean (2:10)?

This was Jesus' most common title for himself. In Daniel 7:13-14 the Son of Man is pictured as a heavenly figure who in the end times is entrusted by God with authority, glory, and sovereign power. Jesus later links this title with the title 'Messiah' (God's anointed one) in Mark 8:39-31. But, in chapter 8 Jesus points his disciples to a different Son of Man and Messiah than they had envisioned. This Son of Man will also be the suffering servant of God written about in Isaiah 52. No one had anticipated that God Himself would come to suffer and die. It would take time for Jesus' disciples, let alone others, to understand this kind of a Messiah. Therefore Jesus needed to keep his full identity secret until a later time.

4. Why were tax collectors grouped together with "sinners" by religious leaders of Jesus' day (2:15)?

Tax collectors would have been Jews who had agreed to collaborate with the foreign rulers (Romans). Matthew may have been at a toll booth on a major road collecting taxes for "Caesar." Tax collectors were considered as outcasts. They could not serve as witnesses or as judges and were expelled from the synagogue. In the eyes of the Jewish community their disgrace extended even to their families. Sinners were known evil people and were grouped together with anyone who refused to follow the Mosaic law as interpreted by the teachers of the law.

5. What did Jesus mean when he said he had come to call sinners but not the righteous (2:17)?

If to be righteous means to be in right relationship with God, did Jesus come only for some (those not right with God), while not for others? Can a person truly be made righteous apart from being made righteous through faith in Jesus and what he has done? (For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23); For Christ died once for ALL, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus has come for everyone, but only those who recognize their need for a doctor, who recognize their sin and their need for God's forgiveness, will be healed. A sick person can only be healed if they first recognize their need for treatment and then be treated by a physician. The Pharisees saw no need for Jesus. They were self-righteous and failed to recognize their own sin and their need for God's forgiveness. No one can be made righteous through their own religious efforts.