

JESUS, THE ULTIMATE SERVANT

Mk 1:35-39

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Instructions are good, despite the notion that real men don't read instructions!
- B. God's word is indispensable for its preserved written instruction 2Tim 3:16-17
- C. From beginning of His life and His ministry Jesus gave us an example of what a servant of God does and how a servant lives. 1Pet 2:21; 1Jhn 2:6
- D. To help pattern ourselves after Him, note some things about Him

DISCUSSION:

I. JESUS WAS PRAYFUL Mk 1:35

- A. A regular habit of Jesus Matt 14:23, Lk 5:15-16, 6:12
 - 1. He shows us the importance of making time for constant communication with the Father.
 - 2. He regarded the solitary practice of prayer an important thing and He sought a place for it.
- B. He reminds us of the simple fact that we need help Lk 11:1-13
- C. Jesus got His direction from the Father, should we do less?
- D. "Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer." -- John Bunyan

II. JESUS WAS PURSUED Mk 1:36-37

- A. The crowds sought Him for the miraculous signs He did.
 - 1. Healing diseases, casting out demons, etc
 - 2. Yet there was more to His popularity than mere miracles.
- B. Though Jesus was not physically attractive (Isa 53:2), there was something deeper that drew people to Him.
 - 1. He taught authoritatively
 - 2. He applied spiritual truth.
- C. We must become attractive to those around us.
 - 1. Men Eph 6:4-9
 - 2. Women 1Pet 3:1-5
 - 3. Children Eph 6:1-3
- D. Everything we do should be appealing to others Phil 2:12-15
 - 1. When you live Christianity instead of merely performing it, People will see genuineness and sincerity.
 - 2. Just as purity is more appealing than pollution, so a genuine Christian life will attract true seekers.
 - 3. Real conversion doesn't just happen once, it continues throughout life and draws others to it.

III. JESUS WAS PURPOSEFUL Mk 1:38

- A. A Man with a Mission! He sums it up simply, but completely Jhn 4:34; 12:27

- B. Christians ought to be the most purpose-driven people on earth!
 - 1. There is a relationship which makes life complete. Without which, there is a void, a vacuum in life. Many people, even those who are well-known, can attest to that void.
 - a. H.G. Wells, famous historian and philosopher, said at age 61: "I have no peace. All life is at the end of the tether."
 - b. The poet Byron said, "My days are in yellow leaf, the flowers and fruits of life are gone, the worm and the canker, and the grief are mine alone."
 - c. Thoreau said, "Most men live lives of quiet desperation."
 - d. Charles Kingsley, Bits & Pieces, December 9, 1993, p. 16 "We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about."
 - 2. Christians should not flounder about as if we have no compass, especially morally. We must know where we are going to know where we are at!
- C. For Christians, our "mission statement" is simple: Phil 1:21
- D. This means we must climb down from the pedestal we've built for ourselves and let Jesus take the rightful place as "LORD." Gal 2:20

IV. JESUS PREPARED AND PREACHED Mk 1:39

- A. Jesus was prepared because He had a purpose.
 - 1. He knew what the world needed and set his face toward providing what man could not provide for himself Lk 5:31-32
 - 2. The healing and the casting out demons was to show that He has the power and the will to make us spiritually healthy.
- B. Satan works hard to distract the world from the important message of the gospel - we must work to overcome Satan and his influence 2Cor 4:1-4; 10:3-6
- C. To do this, we must prepare! We must give diligence 2Tim 2:15
- D. Then, we must teach! 1Pet 3:15, 2Tim 2:24-25;
 - 1. A good example of a godly life is necessary, but at some point, you'll have to open your mouth and teach. Heb 5:12-14
 - 2. Sometimes people will listen, sometimes they'll ignore you, sometimes they'll get mad and turn on you. So what?
 - 3. Our work is to deliver the message.

CONCLUSION:

- A. With the example of service Jesus provides, how can we go wrong?
- B. Jesus shows us that by serving God our joy can be full 1Jhn 1:1-4
- C. We cannot save ourselves, nor have true joy in this life without serving God Jer 10:23
- D. We become servants of God through obedience Rom 6:13-18

(from a sermon by Zeke Flores revised by jlh)