**BCM Bible Study – Sept. 1/2, 2021**

**Mark 1:21-3:6**

**Getting Started:**

Tonight we will cover a lot of ground in three different chapters. We will see the amazement of the crowds as they experience Jesus. We will notice some of the patterns in these first days of Jesus’ ministry. And we will observe the ways Jesus began to reveal himself with some pretty amazing statements in his teachings.

Think about the best teacher(s) you have ever had, either before or during your days at VT. **Who are one or two of these memorable teachers? What was it that made them so engaging and effective?**

**Mark 1:21-28**

**What do we see here about Jesus’ teaching that amazed the people?**

**If you had been there, what do you think would have grabbed your attention the most – the authority of his teaching, the freshness of his teaching, or the miracles?**

**Some Recurring Patterns**

We won’t go in depth with any other sections of chapter 1, but in these first few chapters of Mark we see some patterns in how Jesus’ ministry unfolds. Here a few repeated points of emphasis about what his disciples saw and experienced as they followed him:

1. Entering a new town Jesus would go first to the synagogues, starting with the “lost sheep of Israel” (Matthew 10:6) and then to the Gentiles. Paul would take this same approach planting churches on his missionary journeys. (seen in Mark 1:21, 1:49, 3:1)

2. Many of the first experiences people had with Jesus involved physical healings and spiritual deliverance from demons (seen in Mark 1:26, 1:31, 1:32, 1:42, 2:12, 3:5)

3. His ministry was not marked only by miracles, but teaching and preaching was central (seen in Mark 1:21, 1:38-39, 2:2, 2:13)

4. Even in his first days of ministry, Jesus dealt continually with the press of crowds. (seen in Mark 1:45, 2:2, 2:13). And despite the growing intensity of the crowds, Jesus still found ways to have moments of solitude (Mark 1:35, 1:45).

5. Opposition from Pharisees, teachers of the law, and scribes begin to become commonplace. (Mark 2:6, 2:16, 2:24)

6. Jesus continually juxtaposes revealing (showing his power through the miraculous) and concealing (don’t tell anyone who I am – Mark 1:25, 1:34, 1:44) who he is. Read examples of 1:33-34 and 1:43-44 and ask, **Why do you think Jesus continues this “don’t tell anyone who I am” approach early in his ministry?**

**Mark 2:1-12**. As we read about the paralytic carried by his four friends we see strong statement #1, which is focused on Jesus’ authority over forgiveness of sins – **“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins…”** (2:10)

When Jesus saw the four friends, their actions pointed him to use the word “faith.” **What word might have been descriptive of your response if you had been there?**

- **Respect – How did they come up with such an idea to get around the crowds?**

- **Worry – Who is going to clean up the mess and repair the roof?**

- **Jealousy – How is this guy lucky enough to have such amazing friends?**

- **Other?**

**Why does it matter that the headline becomes Jesus’ ability and desire to forgive sins?**

**Mark 2:13-17**. Strong statement #2 is about Jesus’ authority over spiritual healing – **“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

**Do you ever find it hard to admit that you are spiritually needy, that there is a daily need for the presence and work of God in you?**

**What are some of the things get in the way of us admitting that we need the work of God in your life?** (things like fear of what others think, the barrier of humbly asking for help)

**What has it looked like (and/or what could it look like) for Jesus to be the spiritual doctor in your life?**