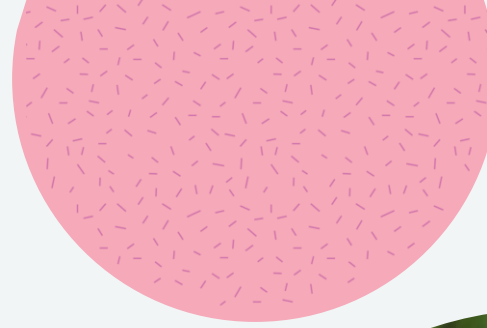


Mark 1:35-39

4 Ways Believers And
Churches Can Be A Force For
Good In The World



Background/Context

- Author: John Mark (close friend of Apostle Peter)
- Readers: Written (64-65 AD) to Roman audience; written to show Jesus is Savior of whole world, not just Jews
- Mark is the Gospel of action; Jesus moving, building Kingdom of God
- Verses: Jesus continues Galilean Ministry; has begun in town of Capernaum
- Here: Jesus popular and sought after

Through Devoted Prayer

- (v.35) After successful ministry, Jesus shows priority of quality time in prayer
- Very early in morning, Jesus leaves Peter's house and goes to secluded area to pray
- Word, "prayer" – "general word for prayer in NT; has sense of spending quality time with someone"
- Jesus placed great priority on spending time with the Father; showed great devotion and dependence on Him

- James 5:16, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
- I Chronicles 16:11, “Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore.”



Guarding Against Worldliness

- (vv.36-37) Mark shows interesting exchange; Peter and group on urgent search for Jesus
- Group informs Jesus of situation, “Everyone is looking for You.” There hint of frustration/rebuke in Peter’s words
- Jesus, You not doing what You should; You popular and we need to take advantage, can’t disappoint the crowd
- Can’t build successful ministry on that Quiet Time stuff; we need the sensational and miraculous
- Peter and group moved by world’s ways

- Luke 6:26, “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to false prophets.”
- I Tim. 6:7, “For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”



Going Outward With God's Word

- (v.38) Jesus not swayed by crowds/dictates of world
- Jesus shocks Peter; states His purpose is to take God's Word and Good News to all people
- Focus; take the Good News of forgiveness of sin and eternal life to all people everywhere
- Announces He and disciples will travel to other towns in Galilee (approx. 250 villages around Sea of Galilee)
- Jesus could have stayed and taken advantage of popularity in Capernaum, but He didn't
- Focus was on going outward with Good News

- Matt. 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”



Being Active Against Evil

- (v.39) Jesus fulfills purpose; goes outward, shares Good News of God's free gift of eternal life
- Also, confronts evil forces and enemies of Father; casts out demons and has complete victory over them
- Believers and churches called to do same today; we to speak out against evil
- Believers to tell the truth of God in love and humility
- Called to be lights in the darkness and push back evil
- Develop biblical worldview and live it out in everyday life

- Eph. 6:10-11, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
- I Peter 5:8, “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

- Edmund Burke (Irish statesman 1729-1797)

- “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph in the world is that good men do nothing.”

