



UNION TOWN  
BIBLE CHURCH

**Sermon Guide**  
**February 15: Mark 1:21-39**

**What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?**

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Jesus is greater than everything - His authority surpasses all other powers, teachers, and solutions
2. Miracles are previews, not the mission - Jesus came to preach the kingdom, not just fix temporary problems
3. The temptation to settle for lesser things is real - Even Jesus faced pressure to focus on immediate needs over eternal purpose
4. Prayer is relationship, not performance - It's a child talking to their Father, not following a script
5. One of the quickest ways to fail at what matters most is to succeed at what doesn't

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Mark 1:32-39. What surprises you most about Jesus' decision to leave Capernaum when "everyone was looking for him"?
2. In verse 38, Jesus says, "This is why I have come." What does this tell us about Jesus' priorities? How does this contrast with what the disciples (and the crowd) wanted? If miracles were the mission of Jesus, Jesus failed because everyone he healed eventually died. How does this perspective change the way you think about Jesus' ministry?
3. Be honest—do you tend to see Jesus as useful (meeting your needs) or worthy (deserving your worship)? What does your prayer life reveal about your answer?
4. How do you react when you don't get what you want? Share a time when God answered your prayer differently than you hoped. How did you respond? Looking back, what did that experience teach you?

5. The noise of life: What are the "loudest voices" competing for your attention right now? (Work demands, family pressures, financial stress, social media, etc.) How do these drown out God's whisper?
6. Jesus regularly withdrew to pray, even with urgent needs surrounding Him. What makes it hard for you to prioritize time alone with God? What excuses do you find yourself making?
7. What "smaller roles" are you tempted to assign Jesus in your life? (Problem-solver, wish-granter, life coach, etc.)
8. Read Matthew 6:5-8 together. How does Jesus' teaching here connect with prayer being conversation, not performance? What would change if you truly prayed like you were talking to your Dad?
9. Many of our honest prayers happen when we're alone. Do you share your frustration or complaints with him? Does it surprise you that God welcomes that kind of honesty? Why or why not?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Option 1: Like Jesus, wake up 15-30 minutes earlier than usual one day this week. Find a quiet spot and simply talk to God—no script, no agenda, just conversation. Journal about the experience.
2. Option 2: Turn off all non-essential notifications on your phone for 24-48 hours. Use the moments you would normally check your phone to instead acknowledge God's presence with a simple "Hey, Dad" prayer.
3. Option 3: Write out a completely honest prayer to God about something you're struggling with—including any anger, confusion, or disappointment you feel. Don't edit yourself. Then read it out loud to Him.
4. Option 4: Track how you spend your time for three days. At the end, ask yourself: "What do my time choices say about what I believe is most important?" Share your findings with an accountability partner.