

February 4, 2018
Sermon for 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
St Peter Lutheran Church
Bowie, TX
Larry Knobloch, Pastor
Mark 1:29-39

J.J.- Jesu Juva—Help me, Jesus

Mark 1:29–39 (ESV)

²⁹ And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸ And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Grace, Mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Amen.

Professions and vocations serve a function.

Every mother, father, child, teacher, police officer, firefighter, attorney, and politician has a purpose. Basketball players and musicians, plumbers and carpenters, motivational speakers and financial advisors have a function.

Their vocation may be to entertain, teach, motivate, or fix houses. Every person has a vocation, function, or office; most people have several other vocations in addition to their career activities.

What about God and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ?

Why did Jesus Christ go from one town to another and place-to-place?

What is Christ's office, or function?

Along with His suffering, death, and resurrection, Jesus impacts the world by the preaching of His Word.

Where did Jesus' preaching fit into His total ministry?

Jesus—going about His ministry. He really never went anywhere without speaking...or actually, preaching. Jesus never missed an opportunity to teach.

Has been at the synagogue at Capernaum—perhaps for the Sabbath and while He was there He taught with authority! That doesn't especially mean it was a fire and brimstone sermon, unless it was needed. Jesus taught with authority because He knew what He was talking about. No thoughts or opinions. It was God's Word because the Word Himself was speaking.

From there, He enters into the house of Peter and Andrew with James and John. He may have been ready for a break, a time of rest but then He finds out that Peter's mother-in-law stricken with a fever. The break is over. He doesn't say 'take two aspirin and call me in the morning', He doesn't refer her to John the Baptist nor anyone else.

Jesus continues in His preaching with action as He lifts her up, and the fever leaves her; she serves them. That shows how complete Jesus' healing was for her. She didn't begin to feel a little better after the fever broke. She didn't take it easy for a few days. No, her fever left her and out of gratitude, as well as being a good hostess, she gets up, in full health, and begins to serve them.

Afterwards, at sundown and after the Sabbath ends, Jesus receives the crowds, the sick and demon oppressed, they all came to Jesus. And He continues to minister, to preach with Words and actions.

He heals many. He expels demons. Jesus had a full day! And finally, early in the morning, Jesus leaves the disciples to pray in solitude. Jesus knew and understood the value of physical and spiritual renewal. Taking the time to pray and speak to God the Father. It is refreshing and can renew a tired and troubled soul.

Until, we don't know how long, but Jesus is hunted down by the disciples. Jesus doesn't complain. I'm sure it would have been nice to have more than a morning's rest. However, when they find Him, Jesus announces His function, or His purpose. *"Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out."*

That is why I came here! Let's get back to it!

So Jesus continues His ministry. Not waiting for sinners to come to Him, not sitting back in a comfortable chair, taking appointments. But rather Jesus goes throughout the region of Galilee. Spreading the Word as far and as wide as possible. He knows His time on this earth is limited so He preaches and expels demons by His Word.

What does Christ's preaching of the Word mean for us? You might ask. Jesus' healing is, in fact, validation of His preaching.

Words are all well and good, but Jesus' Word heals our minds, bodies, and souls. God is speaking in Christ our Lord and there is power in His Word.

Jesus' preaching is eternally genuine, true, and all powerful. And His Word heals our greatest illnesses, the rejection of His will, unbelief, sin, and death.

Jesus preaching is as important for our world today as it was when Jesus Himself spoke. It's not just ink on paper it is His living Word and it is still valid and powerful today!

Like Peter's mother-in-law, we are touched by Jesus in order to serve out of faith and love. She didn't do it because it was woman's work. She didn't do it because she wanted to be noticed or to do her part or to prove anything. She served out of love for Christ and His kingdom. We too serve not to gain salvation or anything else, but we serve in faith and love.

Like the disciples, we are invited to hunt down Jesus at Bible studies, devotions, in Holy Communion, in Confession and Absolution. Jesus won't say 'not right now, or catch me later, I'm busy'.

We are invited, we are called to His Word at all times!

Like the crowds, we are encouraged to always bring others to be spiritually healed by His touch and preaching—at worship, Bible studies, and the Sacraments.

How does Jesus' preaching continue today?

God empowers believers (His Church) to respond by the Holy Spirit through His Word.

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to continue the preaching of Christ Jesus. We are called to be about the mission of the Church.

By the same Word we preach, Christ enables us to go and make disciples of all nations. We are called in the Great Commission to go. And if we are sent, we are enabled to make disciples too. In the preaching of God's Word!

The Word of Christ validates our forgiving the sins of repentant sinners. We can and are encouraged to always speak of forgiveness to repentant sinners.

Therefore, through our preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments, Jesus continues to heal the spiritually sick of soul.

Jesus came to preach Good News, and He still does that through priesthood of all believers.

His body of believers, the Church.

Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Amen.

S.D.G.—Soli Deo Gloria

Sermon Outline

Jesus Impacts the World by the Preaching of His Word

Mark 1:29-39

- I. Where did Jesus' preaching fit into His ministry?
- II. What does Christ's preaching of the Word mean for us?
- III. How does Jesus' preaching continue today?