



theme: The Gospel of Mark #2 – News That Can't Be Contained

materials: Bibles

Starting this month we will be getting back to some basics and working our way through the Gospel according to Mark. Mark presents Jesus as the Son of God, and in particular as a Servant King. These first two chapters are a very sudden (and abridged) introduction into Jesus' life and ministry, and already he is getting under the skin of some important people.

welcome

What is the biggest secret you've ever had to try and keep quiet? Were you successful? Are you a good secret keeper, or a huge blabbermouth?

interact

What has the Lord done for you? Take some time in prayer to speak out how the Lord has blessed you in your life. Declare freedom from sin, but also speak out how He has blessed you in this past week. If you want, sing some praise songs about what God has done as well.

read

Read Mark 1:21-45.

What did you learn about the character and the mission of Jesus in this passage?

What is the significance of Jesus kicking out demons and healing people? What do you think people would have thought of Him? What does it tell you about Jesus?

If you were healed or had a demon kicked out of you, would you want to tell people?

Have you ever experienced or witnessed a healing or someone being freed of a demon?

Should we be expecting that to be more of a commonplace occurrence in the Church, or are healings and demons only something that happened when Jesus was around or at the start of the Church?

Why did Jesus not want people to tell anyone about the miracles he was performing?

Why does he not want his incredible power and authority to be spoken about?

Why did Jesus not want the demons to tell the people who he was?

If Jesus wanted things kept quiet, why did he keep on healing and freeing people?

think

Is there anyone you know of who is sick and in need of healing? Pray for them, and pray truly believing that God can heal, has done it in the past, and will again in the future. Let the person know that you are praying for their full healing. Have someone write down the names of the people you prayed for and what you prayed for them. Check the list weekly (and add to it if there are others who need healing) and check the names off as people are healed. Pray for people in the cell right then as well if there is anyone who is sick or hurting.



live & pray

Try this week to engage in some acts of Kingdom service without anyone knowing it was you who did it. Go as far as you can short of deception to keep from being found out.

useful resources

Book: *Mark For Everyone*, by Tom Wright

leader's guide

In this passage Jesus goes about showing his power and authority over Satan's Kingdom and over physical disease. He is proclaiming with word and deed that His is the only Kingdom that will be left standing in the end. People would have been amazed at this, and also would have seen in His actions and words a declaration that He is claiming to be God anointed.

We cannot heal miraculously or kick out demons in our own power, but we do carry within us the Holy Spirit of God, so it seems we should have the expectation that God still can and will do these things through His Church. We must remember also that God is sovereign, and will do as He wills, not as we will.

Jesus had his own timing of when His identity was to be revealed, and in particular He wanted to teach his disciples about Himself before being accused of blasphemy and killed. But He also saw people and responded with compassion and so could not be stopped from healing and casting out demons. His mission was to see and to save the lost. These were also signs of His Kingdom, and important to get His message across to His followers.