

Both Sides of Compassion

“Case for Christ”, part 5, October 10th, 2021
Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church

Insights from Mark 1:40-45

Four Questions To Grapple With ...

1. What is my ... ?

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. ... ¹⁶So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.
Hebrews 4:13–16 (NLT)

2. Who is my ... ?

Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. ... Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.
Luke 10:30-33 (NLT)

3. What is my ... ?

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.
1 John 4:10 (NLT)

4. Where is my ?

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)

For a free audio or video of this message go to gracepointsd.com,
download our GPC app or follow us on Facebook or Youtube.

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our fifth week of our 10 week study and discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Our last week meeting will be the week of Sunday, November 14th (the week before Thanksgiving :).

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to walk with Jesus and apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday morning at GPC we looked at Mark 1:40-45. We read and reflected on how Jesus had an unplanned ministry moment with a man asking for Jesus' help and healing. Speaking of unplanned moments, what one or two unplanned moments have you experienced lately that caused you to adjust your plans for good or not so good?

The challenges of unplanned moments is that we aren't able to plan for them :). If you were able to plan for what happened, what would you have done differently?

How can we not let surprises in our schedule stress us out???????

Is there any Biblical wisdom that can help us have more peace in the middle of what comes are way that is unplanned?

In Mark 1, Jesus is described as having pity and compassion for the man. He is also described as being indignant in some translations of Mark 1:41.

At times in Jesus' ministry, Jesus is described as indignant, upset ... even angry over the stain that sin has caused in our broken world.

As we continue to mature in our walk with God, God continues to shape our hearts to be more and more like His. One result of this maturing process is that our hearts become more broken at times for what God's heart is broken over.

Looking at the brokenness of our world and how it is far from the paradise that God initially created, what has broken your heart lately?

Before we move on, let's stop and pray for the situations and examples of the brokenness that was shared. In Matthew 6:10, Jesus encourages us to pray that more of God's will would be done here on earth (including these situations) as His will is done perfectly in heaven.

Looking back to last Sunday:

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged you, challenged you or confused you?

Digging Deeper:

The last of the four questions we were encouraged to grapple with last Sunday morning was “Where is my circle or Christ-centered community?” At GPC, our small groups are where close community is available. Proverbs 27:17 points out how people in the same community (or small group) have the opportunity to sharpen each other.

Similar to how iron was able to sharpen iron, can you think of how relationships or conversations with those in our small group have sharpened your faith?

Conversely, can you think of any ways friends (even Christian friends) can possibly do the opposite and make each other more spiritually dull over time?

What insights can we benefit from the following verses regarding developing healthy Christ-centered friendships? Proverbs 12:26, Proverbs 27:5-6, Proverbs 13:20

Regarding the four questions we were encouraged to grapple from last Sunday’s message, which one was more stretching for you to consider and prompt some changes?

Read James 1:22-25. Information (even from God’s Word) that doesn’t lead to application, doesn’t help with our path to Christ-like maturity. It is important for us to prayerfully seek how we can be ‘doers of the Word’ and not just hearers only. One of the challenges for all of us in our journey to spiritual maturity is that there are plenty of things God prompts us to do that move us out of our comfort zone. It is easy to find ourselves making excuses for why we are not following God’s promptings when we disagree, or want to do things our own way.

Below are several examples for the types of excuses that can keep us from responding to God: ‘

- Justifying: “Here’s why what I’m doing or not doing is ok ...”
- Minimizing “What I’m doing or not doing isn’t really that big of a deal.”
- Comparing: “What I’m doing or not doing isn’t as bad as that person.”
- Ignoring: “What problem?” It’s not really a problem.”

When we look at the following verses, let’s reflect on at least one example of an excuse (like the four above) that might be used to avoid putting these verses into action:

Proverbs 3:9, John 15:12, Matthew 20:26-28, Luke 6:27-28

Which of the above excuses do you find yourself more tempted to lean into?

Can you think of any Biblical truths or practices that can help when we are tempted to make certain excuses instead of following God’s promptings more whole-heartedly?

Looking Back and Ahead:

Looking back on this week’s message and study, what is most important for you to remember and ask God for the strength to live in light of?

Praying Together:

One of the benefits of meeting together is praying for one another. Before we wrap up, let’s each share one prayer request so that we can lift each other up in prayer.