

The Compelling Priorities of Jesus

Mark 1:35-39



1

J. Oswald Sanders

- "After making a generous allowance of eight hours a day for sleep and rest—and few really need more than that—three hours a day for meals and social intercourse, ten hours a day for work and travel on five days, there still remain no fewer than thirty-five hours unaccounted for in each week. What happens to them? How are the extra two days in the week invested? The whole of man's contribution to the kingdom of God might well turn upon how those crucial hours are employed. They will determine whether his life will be commonplace or extraordinary."



I. The Private Practice of Prayer (35)

- 35 - In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.
- "In the early morning"
 - the last watch of the night
 - from 3:00 – 6:00 a.m.
- Luke 5:16 – But Jesus Himself would *often* slip away to the wilderness and pray.

3

Jesus & Private Prayer

- Mark tells us about Jesus' praying three times...
 - 1:35 – here Jesus prayed in the early morning, after this Sabbath day in Capernaum.
 - 6:46 – in the evening after the day's work was done, following the feeding of the 5000.
 - 14:32-39 – Gethsemane, the night before His crucifixion.
- Private prayer was a part of the normal life of Jesus.
 - Mark 6:46-48
 - Luke 6:12-13
 - Luke 22:39
 - Heb. 5:7

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Jesus & Private Prayer

- The content of His prayers...
 - E.g., John 11:41-42; Matt. 26:39, 42; Luke 23:34, 46.
 - The longest recorded prayer – John 17.
- Like our prayers
 - Adoration and thanksgiving
 - Petition
 - for Peter (22:31f)
 - for himself (22:41f)
 - for his enemies (23:34)
- Unlike our prayers
 - He never once had to confess His sin and seek forgiveness.

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The Priority of Prayer for Us

- Eph. 6:18 - With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.
- Phil. 4:6 - In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- Col. 4:2 – Devote yourselves to prayer.
- 1 Th. 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

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The Priority of Prayer for Us

- We must make time for deliberate prayer, just like our Lord did here.
- How?
 - Set a time early in the day!
 - Get up!
 - Get alone!
 - Get outside!

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I. The Public Preaching of the Word of God (36-39)

- 36 - Simon and his companions searched for Him.
- 37 - they found Him and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."
 - Cf. Luke 4:42 - the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them.

8

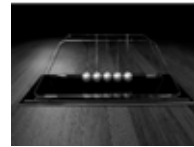
I. The Public Preaching of the Word of God (36-39)

- 38 - He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for."
 - Greek tense implies a tour of weeks or months.
 - To the towns nearby.
 - Lit., "the village cities"
 - Large enough to have a synagogue
 - Cf. Luke 4:43 - But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."

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An Interesting Cycle...

- Miracles
- Fame
- Crowds
- Seeking miracles
- Jesus leaves



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I. The Public Preaching of the Word of God (36-39)

- Mark 1:14-15, 21
- Cf. Mark 2:2 – And He was speaking the Word to them.
- Is. 61:1-3; cf. Luke 4:18-21
- John 17:4, 8, 14, 17

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I. The Public Preaching of the Word of God (36-39)

- 39 - And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.
- Matthew adds in 4:23-24: Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

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The Priorities that Jesus Did Not Have...

- 1) personal comfort
- 2) personal pleasure
- 3) personal position and popularity

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The Compelling Priorities of Jesus

- Private prayer & public proclamation
- Prayer & the Word of God
- The standard for His servants...
 - Cf. Acts 6: 4 - we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."
- The standard for every follower...
 - Acts 2:42 – They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

14

Engraved on a Sundial

The shadow of my finger cast
Divides the future from the past;
Before it stands the unborn hour
In darkness and beyond thy power;
Behind its unreturning line
The vanished hour, no longer thine;
One hour alone is in thy hands,
The now on which the shadow stands.

Anonymous