

Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master
Discipleship in Real Time*



Volume 10 - Number 17

The Week of March 9, 2025

Come and Follow
The Secret of Jesus' Ministry
Mark 1:29-39

This passage gives us a glimpse into a single day in Jesus' ministry. After teaching in the synagogue and casting out a demon [last week's lesson], Jesus enters Simon Peter's house, where He heals Peter's mother-in-law. By evening, crowds gather, bringing the sick and demon-possessed to Him. It was a hectic day. Yet, even after ministering well into the night, Jesus withdraws early in the morning to pray. Jesus' power over sickness, His command over demons, and His unwavering commitment to mission stands out. But what sustained Him amid the unrelenting pressure and expectations of others? Jesus prioritized time with the Father because He knew that true spiritual power comes not from activity alone but from abiding in Him.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say and how does it say it?*)

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Double underline all the temporal references.
- Circle all the verbs related to Jesus.
- Place a box around all the people mentioned.
- In the left margin of verse 31, write: *Jesus Heals with Compassion.*
- In the left margin of verse 34, write: *Jesus' Authority Over Demons.*
- In the left margin of verse 35, write: *Jesus' Dependence on Prayer.*

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." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

INTERPRETATION *(What does the passage mean?)*

1. How does Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law demonstrate both His power and His compassion?
2. What does the large crowd at Peter's house reveal about people's expectations of Jesus? How did He respond?
3. Why does Jesus silence the demons instead of letting them speak about Him (v. 34)?
4. What does Jesus' early morning prayer in verse 35 teach us about His priorities?
5. If Jesus' primary mission was to preach (v. 39), what was the purpose/point of all of His miracles?

APPLICATION *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

1. What challenges do you face in maintaining a healthy balance between various aspects of your life?

2. When you reach your limit of pressure and stress, what do you normally do? Where do you go?

3. Given our finite capacity, how can we imitate Jesus' response to human needs in our own lives?

4. Jesus took time to pray despite His busy schedule. How can we follow His example in prioritizing time with God? Do you have a "place" where you go?

5. Jesus displayed His authority over sickness and demons. What areas of life do you need to trust in His authority more fully?

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

- *A personal touch:* Disciples take concrete steps to help or serve someone else.
- *A prioritized life:* Disciples live their lives according to a set of priorities.
- *A life of prayer:* Disciples are sustained and empowered by prayer.

