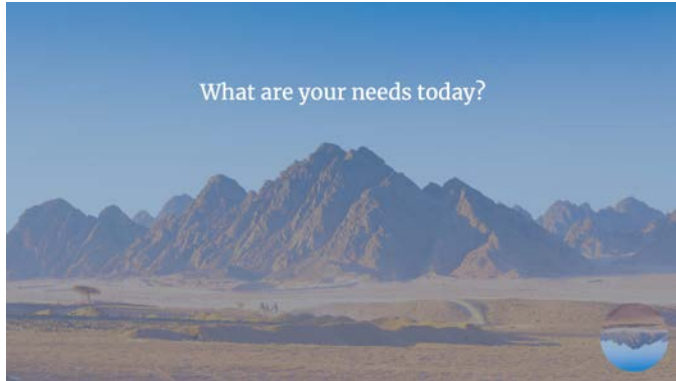


What are your needs today?



What to do when you are struggling with your needs?

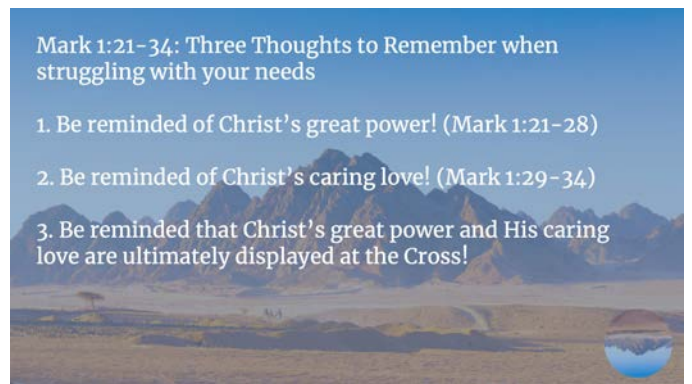


Mark 1:21-34: Three Thoughts to Remember when struggling with your needs



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1. Be reminded of Christ's great power! (Mark 1:21-28)
2. Be reminded of Christ's caring love! (Mark 1:29-34)
3. Be reminded that Christ's great power and His caring love are ultimately displayed at the Cross!

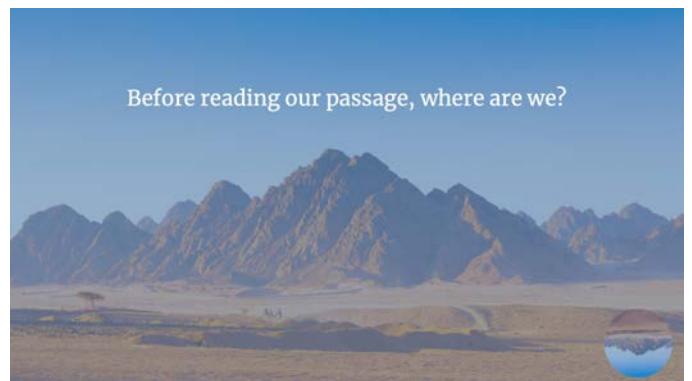


Mark 1:21-34: Three Thoughts to Remember when struggling with your needs

- 1. Be reminded of Christ's great power! (Mark 1:21-28)**



Before reading our passage, where are we?



1) Verse 1: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Jesus is the true and victorious Great King, the Son of God!

2) King Jesus has a herald: John the Baptist

3) The herald's message: Prepare for the King via repentance

4) Jesus' "confirmation" as King and His call for discipleship

5) **Our passage: The King's Power in action!**

**Mark 1:21-28:**

<sup>21</sup> And they went into Capernaum, and **immediately** on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> And **immediately** there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ...

<sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. ....

When struggling with your needs, be reminded of Christ's great power!

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- a. Let's talk about demons
- b. Ask the Holy Spirit to make Christ's power personal and experiential ("astonished"; "amazed")
- c. Christ's power is not just to amaze but to bring about trust and saving faith.

**d. Application: In light of Christ's power, PRAY AND ASK!**

Pray and Ask

Lamar Williamson, Jr: *"The mighty acts of Jesus offer no method of manipulating providence, but they do invite disciples of every time and place to expect the unexpected."*

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1. Be reminded of Christ's great power! (Mark 1:21-28)

**2. Be reminded of Christ's caring love! (Mark 1:29-34)**

**Mark 1: 29-34:**

<sup>29</sup> And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup> And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup> 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.

When struggling with your needs, be reminded not only of Christ's great power but also His caring love.

**1) Notice the Juxtaposition.**

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**2) Notice what Christ's miracles focus on: sickness and oppression.**



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1) Notice the Juxtaposition.

2) Notice what Christ's miracles focus on: sickness and oppression.

3) Notice what Christ's miracles do NOT focus on: Popularity and "Getting likes".

**4) Application: When struggling with your needs, get perspective so as to not fall into thinking that Jesus does not care.**

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#### Christ's Great POWER at the Cross:

Colossians 2:13-15: And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**

#### Christ's Caring LOVE at the Cross:

1 John 4:9-10: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**



Wrapping up: Getting the Gospel into our Hearts

It is noteworthy that the Apostle Paul's deepest prayers for Christians who had great needs was not so much about God addressing their specific needs but for them to experience Christ's great power and caring love!

**Ephesians 3:18 (Paraphrased): "I am praying God will give you power—with all your brothers and sisters in Christ, to know the width and length and height and depth of Jesus' love."**

Adapted Prayer from Scotty Smith:

Reader: Lord Jesus, we are both grateful for the great power of your love and aware of just how much we need your caring love.

**ALL: Our deepest longings find their origin and fulfillment in you. Our greatest brokenness finds its healing through you. Our lingering fears and foolishness find their release by you. What a wonderful, merciful Savior you are!**

Reader: We belong to you, Jesus—not by the merit of our efforts, or by the tears of our repentance, nor by the pledge of our faithfulness.

**ALL: We belong to you because you paid a price beyond measure to give us riches beyond calculation.**

Reader: You desire us, Jesus—not because we show promise, but because you fulfilled every promise God made on our behalf.

**ALL: You enjoy us—not because we are choice, but because we are chosen.**

Reader: You delight in us—not because we've made you proud, but because you've made us yours. You love us as much as Abba loves you, and nothing can diminish or intensify our beloved-ness.

**ALL: Jesus, may your love's height free us to believe the saints in heaven are more joyful than us but not more loved. May your love's depth empower us to love well in our hardest, most broken stories. May your love's width increase the reach of our embrace to include those who are different from us. May your love's length prepare us well all the way Home. Thank you, Jesus, and So Very Amen.**

