

Mark 1:29-38 (NIV)

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.

30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her.

31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.

33 The whole town gathered at the door,

34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

36 Simon and his companions went to look for him,

37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

41-01-03-Back to the Future III

Kingdom of God, evangelism, healing, sickness, mission

Mark 1:29-38

Christ's mission sealed a message of hope with a ministry of healing.

INTRODUCTION: (Text as Scripture Reading)

–In Mark 1, we've seen that *the future Kingdom's arrival calls for total allegiance to the King*, and that *the King's coming began a spiritual confrontation*. [In **Back to the Future III**, Marty McFly took the time machine

into the past to *save Doc Brown's life* by bringing him a message of warning and by bringing him safely back to the future.] That's *fiction* but the Gospel is real.

–Jesus is *the King* who came to save us by bringing *God's future* into our history. He brought the *warning* "repent," and the *hopeful message* of salvation, but also a powerful display of His future reign that would heal and restore redeemed humanity. **HOM.idea.**

–Today's **text** explores 3 interrelated ideas: *healing, prayer & mission*.

I. Healing Displays the Power of God– v.29, *As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.*

A. Christ moves in a direction: from "*the synagogue...to the home*" (Jesus wants to work not just in congregations but within family circles.)

B. The home is *an ideal place* for God's power to be revealed:

1. Healing prayer should be a priority in families– v.30, *Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her.*

2. Healing is a call to service– v.31, *So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.* (God's idea of health is for us to use our strength to serve others.)

C. A home where Jesus heals may attract others who seek His healing touch– v.32-33, *That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door...*

D. God wants wholeness identified with coming home to His future!– v.34, *and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.* (Illness of any kind is an enemy of the future reign Christ brought.)

TRANS: Ultimate healing comes in Heaven. But Christ's work of healing announced the arrival of that heavenly future. His Gospel met our human needs spiritually, physically, psychologically. **His mission**

sealed the message of hope with the ministry of healing. And He told us, “As the Father sent Me, so send I you.” To be sent in the divine power of that future reign, we must, like Jesus, understand our need for prayer...

II. Prayer Connects Us to the Presence of the God

- A. *Why did Jesus need to pray, if He was the Son of God?*
1. Prayer let God’s Son experience *as a man*, through Incarnation, what He’d always known as God in Trinitarian fellowship.
 2. Prayer was His ongoing means of communion with His Father in the Spirit. (Becoming part of Christ’s Bride by *new birth* makes us *in-laws of the Trinity*. Until we get to heaven, prayer is our way of practicing the presence of God, just as it was with *Jesus*.)
- B. He’s our example— v.35. *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*
1. He chose an ‘alert time’: “*early in the morning*” (It became a *habit!*)
 2. He sought privacy: “*a solitary place*” (Group prayer is great, but we need intimate, personal prayer for our *ongoing walk with God*.)
 3. Private prayer precedes spiritual work. (It’s where we learn to be aware to the Holy Spirit’s inner voice [no war is fought without an effective communication system, and ‘listening prayer’ is ours.]
- C. Prayer kept Jesus sensitive to God’s power for His healing work— Luke 5:17, One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.
- D. Prayer renewed His supply of spiritual strength for ministry— Luke 6:18b-19, Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. // Mark 5:30, [When a woman was healed by touching His cloak] At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

TRANS: Jesus said that He did *nothing on His own power*. He carried out His ministry *as a human being* filled with the Holy Spirit, so that He could realistically say to us, “Follow Me.” God still heals, but not all churches see *healing* as *part of their mission*. That’s why we need to get back to the future! The *early church* sealed their message of hope with a ministry of healing, just as Jesus did. Prayer kept them sensitive to God’s presence, so that they could follow Christ’s pattern of ministry. *We need that presence...*

III. The Presence of God Gives Birth to Mission

- A. The *message of hope* and the *ministry of healing* is still in demand, as it was then— v.36-37, *Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”* (If today’s believers got back to the future which Jesus brought to us, we’d see “*Everyone... looking for*” us, just as they *sought out Christ*.)
- B. God’s dynamic presence gives us a sense of mission— v.38, *Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”*
1. Jesus looked for and went to those who hadn’t heard His ‘*Good News*,’ (He wants to keep doing that *through us...*)
 2. Jesus knew His mission and was committed to it, “*That is why I have come*” (and “*that*” is what He wants us to be committed to.)
- C. When God manifests His healing presence, it’s a reminder that this ministry of healing is still on His agenda for us.

CONCLUSION:

—God sent His Son, the *future King*, with a **mission that sealed the message of hope with a ministry of healing**. His **mission** is now *our commission* (a mission we do together). *Why? Because:*

- Christians on earth are the divine presence of Christ’s future Reign;
- We serve the future King Who began the defeat of demonic powers;
- Jesus is still telling us: “As the Father sent Me, so send I you.”

—The Gospel isn’t just a ticket to get through the ‘*pearly gates*’! It’s a summons into the ranks of the *Church Militant* before we become the *Church Triumphant*! The Gospel that invites us to salvation also calls to allegiance, to spiritual warfare, and to the ministry of healing. It’s a call to bring *the message of Christ’s future Reign* and *the present power of Christ’s deliverance* to others in this “present evil age” that is “passing away.” It’s the Holy Spirit’s call for the church to get back to the future.