

How Can Jesus Help Me?  
December 6, 2009  
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Here's a statement:

"God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." – That's law #1 from the Four Spiritual Laws (Law 1) a Gospel tract written by Bill Bright decades ago.

It reminds me of something I know for sure: God has a PLAN and a PURPOSE for every believer in Christ in this room!

Here's another statement:

"You can do it; we can help!" Do you know that slogan? It's the Home Depot slogan. (Obviously they've never seen me try to build or fix something. Usually I can't do it no matter how much they help!)

- The title of today's lesson asks the question: "How Can Jesus Help Me?" It may seem like a presumptuous question. But as we begin our study of the book of Mark for the next three months, we see that Mark presents Jesus as SERVANT.
- If there is a key verse in Mark it might be this:

Mark 10:45 (New International Version)

45For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- Jesus Christ the SERVANT who came to minister to suffering people and to die for the sins of the world.
- Back to my statement a minute ago: God has a PLAN and a PURPOSE for EVERY BELIEVER in CHRIST. Not only does He HAVE a PLAN; He will enable us to fulfill that plan if we'll let Him.
- Like the Home Depot slogan, you might say, "We can do it; HE can help!"
- But do we REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
- Do we REALLY BELIEVE Jesus can ENABLE us to FULFILL His plan for our lives?

Philippians 1:6 (New International Version)

6being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

I've often heard our pastor say...

"God accepts us as we are but He loves us too much to leave us as we are."

- Living out God's plan for our lives... We can do it! HE can help!

If they had film and cameras in Bible times Mark could have been the KEN BURNS of that day creating a DOCUMENTARY in this Gospel of the MINISTRY ACTIVITY of Jesus.

The first 13 verses of Mark's Gospel set the stage for us:

- In verse 1 he tells us this is the BEGINNING of the Gospel...THE GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ
- He talks about John the Baptist
- He tells us about Jesus' baptism
- He tells us about Jesus' temptation by Satan
- Then beginning in verse 14 we see Jesus ministry in ACTION

Mark 1:14-15

14After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

- REPENT and BELIEVE
- What does it mean to REPENT?
  - To change your mind...to TURN (from sin and your own will)
- What did Jesus mean when He said BELIEVE in this verse?
  - Not just intellectual belief
  - It means TRUST...if I said "I believe in you..." it means I TRUST YOU; I RELY ON YOU.
  - It also means COMMITMENT. Commitment to Him as LORD.
- In these two verses Jesus has shared the most important way He can help us: JESUS SAVES.

Here's a statement:

It strikes me that a lot of people don't have a problem accepting Jesus as Savior but they really struggle with accepting Him as LORD.

- They say, "Oh I'll sign up for SALVATION and missing hell but I'm not gonna give Him the keys to my life!"
- Many times people treat Jesus like their INSURANCE AGENT (stay with me)
- Once you've taken out an insurance policy (unless they're your close friend) how often do you contact your insurance agent? Not until you have a claim. Not until there is trouble. Otherwise we're content to sleep well at night knowing we're in GOOD HANDS or NATIONWIDE IS ON OUR SIDE...GOTCHA COVERED.
- Jesus didn't die for our sins so we could sign up and forget about Him.
- Jesus isn't our LIFE INSURANCE AGENT, He's our SAVIOR
- Jesus didn't just write the policy, He PAID THE PREMIUM
  
- Jesus not only SAVES; Jesus LEADS

Let's look at verses 16-20:

16As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 18At once they left their nets and followed him.

19When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

- What blows your mind about the story in these four verses? What is striking?
  - Verse 18: "At once they left their nets and followed him."
  - Verse 20 "Without delay he called them and they left...and followed him."
  - No arguments; no negotiating. They followed.
- Only by FOLLOWING Jesus, LEADERSHIP could they fulfill His plan and purpose for their lives.
  
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- Complete this statement: "Following Jesus means I will...?"
  - Do what He tells me to do
  - Go where He tells me to go
  - Be who He wants me to be
- Some of us are not very good followers are we?
- Some of us always want to drive.

Look at Romans 1:1... "This letter is from Paul, a \_\_\_\_ (what?) \_\_\_\_\_" what word does it have in your translation?

**1401** δουλος1, δουλος2 [*doulos /doo·los/*] 1 a slave, bondman, man of servile condition. 1A a slave. 1B metaph., one who gives himself up to another's will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing His cause among men. 1C devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests. 2 a servant, attendant.

1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. (New Living Translation)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (New International Version)

19Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

- "Bought with a price..." not HIRED for a price

I heard John MacArthur preach on this concept and he said:

*Being a slave of Christ may be the best way to define a Christian. We are, as believers, slaves of Christ.*

Oswald Chambers:

*We have the notion that we can consecrate our gifts to God. You cannot consecrate what is not yours; there is only one thing you can consecrate to God, and that is your right to yourself (Romans 12:1). If you will give God your right to yourself, He will make a holy experiment out of you.*

Just like the Apostles in this text. The only way for Christ to fulfill his plan for our lives is if we let Him LEAD and We FOLLOW.

- Jesus SAVES; Jesus LEADS; and Jesus SETS FREE

Verses 21-28

Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit

21They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil[e] spirit cried out, 24"What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

25"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

27The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." 28News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

- Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach
- I learned something new about synagogues while studying this passage.

Warren Wiersbe on the Jewish Synagogues

*Jesus ministered not only in the open air but also in the synagogues. The Jewish synagogues developed during the nation's exile when the people were in Babylon after the temple had been destroyed. Wherever there were ten Jewish men above the age of twelve, a synagogue could be organized. The synagogue was not a place of sacrifice—that was done at the temple—but of reading the Scriptures, praying, and worshipping God. The services were led, not by priests, but by laymen, and the ministry was supervised by a board of elders that was presided over by a "ruler" (Mark 5:22). It was customary to ask visiting rabbis to read the Scriptures and teach, which explains why Jesus had such freedom to minister in the synagogues. The apostle Paul also took advantage of this privilege (Acts 13:14–16; 14:1; 17:1–4).*

- Basically a Synagogue was like Sunday School! Jesus was a guest preacher in Sunday School.
- So it won't surprise you to know that sometimes people come to Sunday School with a demon inside!
- With a handful of words Jesus cast out the evil spirit
- Though we may not be possessed by an evil spirit, you and I may have some demons we're trying to fight on our own
- We want to follow as "slaves" to Christ...but we're still struggling with forces bigger than we are
- Two words jump out to me about this section of Mark: Authority and Power
- Jesus taught with AUTHORITY from His Heavenly Father. He didn't quote scholars or commentaries...He only quoted SCRIPTURE.
- Jesus displayed that He had POWER over demons and affliction.
- Do you and I really take seriously the AUTHORITY and POWER of Jesus?
- Some people think of Jesus' teaching as just "nice sayings" or "helpful words"...I can get that in the Farmer's Almanac! His words HAVE POWER that comes from His AUTHORITY.
- Some people say: "I'm not sure Jesus will really SET ME FREE of my demons but I think he'll make me feel better while I struggle." No question Jesus comforts us and sometimes He doesn't choose to remove a burden or trial in our lives. But when it comes to being released from BONDAGE Jesus isn't the Red Cross that make us feel better He is THE LIBERATING FORCE to set us FREE!
- Military Chaplains don't carry guns. Jesus is not just the Chaplain...He's the CHAMPION!
- Up to that point these people went to synagogue and saw the teachers there as wise nice men who shared the scripture and comforted them in the midst of their problems.
- THIS MAN (Jesus) didn't just comfort them...He FIXED THE PROBLEMS.
- Jesus SAVES; Jesus LEADS; Jesus SETS US FREE; and Jesus ENABLES.

#### Verses 29-31

29As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. 31So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

- You wonder why this little story is tucked into scripture?
- There are many more accounts of miracles Jesus performed...in fact in the next two verses we see the whole town lined up at Peter's door for healing
- So why do we need to know that Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and she immediately thanked him by serving?
- Here's one thought: Maybe some of us aren't willing to do some things for Christ because we don't think we're ABLE.

One of Billy Graham's grade school teachers said:

*"In the classroom, in front of the other students, he would hardly open his mouth. He was terribly shy and timid."*

*His fifth-grade teacher said, "I just couldn't get him to say a word in class. I remember once, he just sat there looking at me after I asked him a question, and I finally burst out in exasperation, 'Billy Frank, don't just sit there—say something. Please, just say something.' Not a sound. He just kept staring at me. And to tell you the truth, I just forgot about him after he passed on out of school. Then, I don't know how many years later, I saw him for the first time on one of his television crusades. I simply couldn't believe it. His whole personality was so completely changed. He had such certainty, and the way the words were just pouring out—I kept thinking, somebody's putting the words in his mouth, he's just pantomiming it out. I couldn't get over it. I kept thinking, Is that actually Billy Frank Graham? What in the world happened to him?"*

- Last night we heard from a young man who God healed from shyness and a speech impediment so he can confidently share the Gospel.
- Johnny Hunt was shy. He quit high school rather than have to do an oral book report.
- Did you know that Chuck Swindoll used to stutter? Today, he credits God and his drama teacher for helping him overcome a severe stuttering problem.
- Moses had a speech problem. Paul had a thorn in the flesh.
- What obstacles impede your ability to be a servant after the model of Jesus?
- If Jesus REALLY CALLS you to do something has the power to ENABLE you.

When I look around this room, I see that God has some wonderful, exciting things for YOU to do. Some of those things He wants you to do IN THIS CLASS. Some of them outside this class.

F.B. Meyer wrote

*Yield yourself to Him, and let Him infuse into you His mighty passion for... salvation. Do not look at your circumstances, or count your five loaves and two small fishes, wondering if they will suffice; or at the waves, questioning if they will bear you up. Keep your eyes fixed on Him, and your ears open to His voice, and when once you are sure of His leading, go forward in His Name. Jordan will divide before you, and the walls of Jericho will fall flat.*

What's The Takeaway?

- When we come to Jesus in repentance and faith, He provides Salvation.
- But he doesn't just want to SAVE us He wants to LEAD us as LORD
- He can FREE us from the demons that cause us to less than our best for Him

- He can REMOVE OBSTACLES and ENABLE US to fulfill His call on our lives