

Take ACTION

Weekly Sermon Insert and Devotional

LOVE • LEARN • SHARE • SERVE

Week of January 4th

Action Point: Mark 1:21-45

LOVE God and One Another: The journey through Advent and into Christmas has ended and now we turn our attention from Christmas to Epiphany and how Jesus reveals himself.

LEARN From the Journey: Prayer for each day: *God, thank you for your Word. Help me to see new things today so I can love others in new ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

SHARE the Word of God: What would it look like to share the word in action and not “quotes?” Look for a passage this week that you can share that helps you better understand God’s love or God’s presence in your life.

Monday Read Mark 1:21-28. In contrast to the other leaders, Jesus’ authority was immediate and personal. His words contained their own evidence and those listening knew them to be the truth. One commentator wrote, “Jesus did not live in the prison house of quotation marks.” Have we relegated Christ to the quotes from our Bible, or do we remain open to the Holy Spirit to teach us each day? Can we truly begin with the red-letter words and follow them into our community?

Tuesday Read Mark 1:29-34. Jesus left the synagogue and entered the house, like we all do on Sunday going from worship to our homes (often after a bite to eat). He took the truth proclaimed in the house of worship out into the life around; bringing the power of God into saving contact with the need of the people. Far too often we leave church and leave the truth behind in the sanctuary, like hymnbooks that are stamped, “Not to be taken from the church.”

Wednesday Read Mark 1:35-39. The past few days we have seen how Jesus expends his power. Now we see how it is renewed. He goes away to reconnect with God to adjust to God’s will and to replenish his life with the life and power of God. The lonely place isn’t passive, it is the active renewal with God. How do you replenish your soul? Where is your “lonely place” that recharges your spiritual batteries?

Thursday Read Mark 1:40-45. The leper comes to Jesus for healing and says “If you will, you can make me clean.” The contrast from the person outside the experience of God, the non-believer coming to God believes God to be a power. The Christian prays to God and says, “I am sure you will, if you can.” The difference is very important. As Christians we are to be confident in the will of God, the benevolence and love of God, but to also understand limitations of the power that can be enacted in this world. The freedom of the individual, wisdom and love can all prohibit God’s power, but we are never to see God as withholding healing.

Friday When Jesus leaves Capernaum he is expanding the Kingdom and is beginning a Christian trait that will continue for centuries. Paul expands the horizon (Romans 15:24), the missionary Robert Morrison as he approaches China. The outward movement is essential to our understanding of the Christian message. Otherwise, our truth is simply a code of behavior, an ethic. Remember Jesus’ words are clear... “Go.”

Saturday In Mark 1:34 Jesus heals all that were brought to him. There is a designation between sickness and possession by a demon. Like our world today, Jesus’ world was sick and demon-possessed. But in the despair, hunger, and suffering there is a trembling hope. The rumor of a healer has gone out, they crowd the doors, not of the synagogue but of the house where Jesus is. Where is Jesus in our world today? Where can people gather?

SERVE: Think about your relationship with Jesus. How can you use that power to help others? Where are the broken people in your life and how can you take them to the home where Jesus is staying? Remember that even Jesus fed the hungry before he saved them.