



CHAPTER 1 Compassion & Authority

→ Which is your favourite Gospel and why? What stands out to you about Mark's gospel? Can you quote any verses? What do you hope to get out of this study?

ABOUT MARK

- * FIRST gospel written (AD 55-60).
- * Mark's record of the personal experiences and witness of PETER.
- * Quite possibly the JOHN MARK who later became protégé of PAUL.
- * Lived in JERUSALEM with his mother, Mary, a wealthy, prominent believer in the early church, whose home was a MEETING-PLACE for believers in the city (Acts 12:1-19).
- * Cousin of BARNABAS
- * Said to have founded the church in ALEXANDRIA.
- * Wrote the book from ROME for the ROMAN church.

MARK'S GOSPEL

- * SHORTEST of the 4 Gospels.
- * Contains more ACTION than TEACHING.
- * Not a random collection of stories, but written to reveal Jesus as MESSIAH.
- * Shows how He busily moved from place to place, meeting the SPIRITUAL and PHYSICAL needs of a wide variety of people.
- * That He is Christ the SERVANT, sent to MINISTER to the SUFFERING and ultimately to DIE for the SINS of the WORLD.

1. WHAT DID JESUS DO? WHY & HOW?

- Once John the Baptist had PREPARED THE WAY;
- Once Jesus had been BAPTISED and then TEMPTED;
- He began to PREACH.
- He CALLED His first DISCIPLES.
- He TAUGHT in the synagogue.
- He HEALED a demon-possessed man.

→ From where or whom did Jesus face opposition through His ministry?

→ What are demons, where do they come from and what do they do? What did we observe them doing through the gospel accounts? What do you think they're up to in the world today? What, if any, is the difference between their activity in the first and third worlds? Have you ever seen any demonstrable evidence of demonic activity?

→ How did Jesus deal with the demonic and how should we? How can we distinguish the difference between certain extreme mental health issues & demonic involvement?

- He healed MANY sick people.

- At daybreak, He found an isolated place to PRAY.
- Finally, he healed a LEPER and sent him on his way.

2. WHAT DID JESUS SAY? WHY & HOW?

- * There's no TEACHING → An opening statement (v14) ... A statement of intent (v38) ... He calls His first disciples (v17) ... Makes 2 proclamations of healing (v25,41) ... gives instructions to the healed leper (v43-44)

THE WHY = COMPASSION

- * Jesus SAW through a DIFFERENT LENS = the EYE of COMPASSION (v41) ... Luke 7:13, 15:20, 6:36.
- * Compassion = The HOLY SPIRIT inside of you, bursting to COME OUT.
- * Sympathy is NATURAL; compassion is SUPERNATURAL.
- * Sympathy is an AWARENESS of the PROBLEM, but offers NO SOLUTION.
- * Biblical compassion is a SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT which leads to bold, empowered ACTION.

→ Define sympathy and compassion. For you is there any difference?

→ What happened on the different occasions Jesus was moved with compassion?

THE HOW = AUTHORITY

- * Compassion led, time after time, to the exercising of AUTHORITY and Jesus, of course, carried the AUTHORITY of HEAVEN (v22,27).
- * N.B. Jesus always healed WITH authority, FROM authority.

→ If we have kingdom authority, how should that affect the way we pray?

→ What does the incident with the leper reveal about the heart of God? (v40-45)

3. WHAT IS OUR TAKE-AWAY: PERSONAL & CORPORATE?

- How often are you MOVED WITH COMPASSION?

Danger: We're too HARD-HEARTED, BUSY, SELF-CENTRED and so we miss the TUG of compassion.

→ How often do you sense what you could describe as a supernatural compassion? Why is it so important? In the light of this message, what might you now do differently when you sense that stirring?

→ If you don't sense that compassion, even in a deserving case, it might mean it's someone else's assignment. Discuss!

- Are you AWARE of your DELEGATED, KINGDOM AUTHORITY?

- Do you know the POWER of the SWORD you hold in your hand?

- Do you understand that in the HIERARCHY of power in the kingdom, demons lie at the BOTTOM?

- Do you appreciate that you have a delegated right to use the NAME OF JESUS?

→ How would you answer those questions a) to c)?

→ What we see Holy Spirit do through Jesus, we should expect to see done through us. Discuss!