



Sermon Notes

Term – Autumn term 2018

Series – Mark's gospel

Gathering & Date – 28th October 2018

Title – The unexpected Jesus

Preacher – Janet Lee

Reading – Mark 1:29-3:35

Main message of this talk in one sentence – Jesus is not a tame God, he does unexpected things.

Main points – Jesus is not a tame God, cf Narnia books "*He is not a tame lion*", referring to Aslan, "*course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King.*"

Jesus perfectly mixes authority and compassion, firmness and kindness. He provokes opposition, he defies convention.

1. Praying and preaching
2. Forgiveness and faith
3. Healing and helping
4. Family and friends

1. Praying and preaching, Mark 1:35-39

Why do his closest followers comment on his praying habits? Up early, alone to pray to be with His Father, do we make time for quiet, for uninterrupted space to be with Him? Try Thursday 7am, or Sat 9am prayer meetings! Look at v38 why does Jesus say he has come? Not to stay in same place healing people, but to go elsewhere to preach. Think about His priorities of ministry.

2. Forgiveness and faith, Mark 2:1-12

Imagine the crowded house, people all around, 4 friends making a hole in roof. Do we have that same determination to bring others to Christ? What does Jesus do first with an obviously crippled man right in front of His eyes? See v5 *Son, your sins are forgiven*. What does Jesus first want to put right in this man? His spiritual state. See v8, *Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit*. Note Jesus using spiritual gift of knowledge and discernment. Jesus calls himself, v10, the Son of Man, (see Dan 7). Later Jesus mixes with sinners, but says v17, *I have come to call sinners*. A quote to consider by Michael Eaton, "**People want Jesus as a healer far more than they want him as a Saviour from their sin.**" What do you desire most for your friends? Healing or forgiveness and faith?

3. Healing and helping Mark 1:29-34, 1:40-45, 3:1-6 etc...

Jesus healed many people but often defied convention. In 1:29-34 he heals Simon's mother –in-law by taking her hand. In 1:41, Jesus is indignant, note, and touches the leper (unclean). There is power in the touch of Jesus. Think about power of physical touch, e.g. Mother Teresa touching Dalits, the "*untouchables*" in India, Princess Di touching AIDS victims. Who are the untouchables in today's society? Jesus cares, he has compassion but he also got angry at those who couldn't past healing on a Sabbath, see Mark 3:5, think of why Jesus reacted like that. Jesus defies convention he touches the unclean and he heals on a Sabbath.

4. Family and friends, Mark 3:13-35

Jesus had a biological family, Mary and Joseph and younger brothers and sisters. He also has close friends, 12 disciples, see 3:13,14. Why did he appoint them? *To be with him* (firstly) then to preach and drive out demons. The family bond in 1st century was strong, loyalty was important but Jesus makes an amazing statement in v33,34 when his biological family turn up. He widens the circle to say *Whoever does God's will, is my brother and sister and mother*. All those who confess God as our Abba, Father, are now related as family, children of God and therefore each other's brothers and sisters.

So Jesus is not a tame God, he defies convention, he combines compassion with authority.

For further thought and prayer –

1. In the group divide up every section in Mark 1:29-3:35 and note down all different aspects of Jesus' character and behaviour shown. Any surprises?

2. Read Mark 1:35-39, why did Jesus need to get away early? Think about your own priorities for finding quiet uninterrupted time with God.
3. Imagine the scene in Mark 2:1-12, think about determination of 4 friends, what lengths do we go to to bring people to Jesus?
4. Why did Jesus first forgive his sins and only later heal the paralysed man?
5. What do you think of this quote, ***“ People want Jesus as a healer far more than they want him as a Saviour from their sin.”*** What exactly do you pray for more often than not?
6. Think of examples where Jesus touched someone, who are the untouchables today? How can we help?
7. See Mark 2:15-17. When did you last eat with a tax collector or sinner?!
8. Jesus got angry and distressed, 3:5, why? Why was he opposed? Are there conventions we should defy?
9. Consider what it means, 3:14, *to be with him* What difference does it make?
10. Imagine Jesus as your big brother. How do we relate to him? To one another? What does being his brother and sister mean in practice?