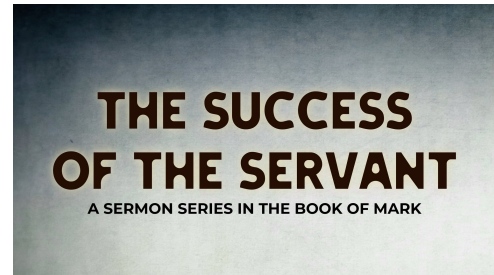


LG Questions

Spring Wk 8



Big Idea: *It is one thing to seek God and discover His plan...it is another to obey it.*

Read Mark 1: 35-45

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." 39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. 40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." 41 Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. 43 Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: 44 "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." 45 Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere..

- 1. Mark records that after a successful and late night of ministry, Jesus rose early and went to a solitary place to pray. Reflect on your last week: When could you have benefited from seeking a solitary place for prayer? What frustration could you have avoided by praying? What clarity do you think you would have gained?**
- 2. Read verse 36-38. What does Jesus' decision to leave despite the demands of the crowd suggest about His priorities and mission?**

Now think about a recent situation where others had expectations of you that didn't align with what you believed to be God's will. How did you respond? In hindsight is there anything you would have done differently to do God's will? Why or why not?

- 3. Jesus sees and responds to hurting people with great compassion. When approached by the Leper, Jesus expressed compassion, touched "the untouchable", and healed him. Identify a person in your community who, like the**

leper, might be feeling isolated or marginalized. What is one specific action you can take this week to reach out to them with compassion and forgiveness?

- 4. When Jesus reached out to touch the Leper, He broke the social norms. Consider a rule or social norm in your environment that you feel may be unjust or exclusionary. What is one step you can take to challenge or change this norm in a way that aligns with your values and beliefs?***
- 5. When Jesus healed the Leper, he told him to tell no one, but instead show himself to the priest. He disobeyed Jesus and spread the news, ultimately making Jesus public ministry more difficult. The Leper failed to realize that Jesus doing a work in his life, was not just for him. Share a time when God did a work in your life and you failed to realize its implications for others and in essence missed what God the bigger picture of what God was doing.***

Prayer Time: In a world full of distractions and competing voices, discerning and embracing God's plan is crucial. This discernment stems from a place of intimacy with God, cultivated through prayer and obedience to His word. By quieting the noise around us, we can hear His voice more clearly and align our actions with His divine purpose.

Spend a few moments praying that God would quite all the noise in our lives so that we can properly hear from Him.