

How Can Jesus Help Me? **Mark 1:14-31**

John Mark the author of the Gospel of Mark has a sense of urgency as he records probably what Peter has told him about Jesus the Messiah. The word immediately is used several times in the text. For some reason the writers of the Bible literature has left out the Preaching of John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus. I believe it would be appropriate to share thoughts on the importance of Preaching and Baptism.

Jesus speaks for the first time in Mark's gospel. The first thirteen verses have served as a prologue--preparation for Mark's record of the public ministry of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist has prepared the nation Israel to receive the message and ministry of Jesus, and God himself has prepared his beloved Son, both through baptism and his temptation by Satan in the wilderness.

Mark chooses to pass over many of the events recorded in the first 4 chapters of the gospel of John--Jesus' first meeting with the men who would later become his disciples, the wedding at Cana, the night meeting with Nicodemus, and the meeting with the woman at the well in Samaria--and picks up his story approximately one year later with his account of Jesus' public ministry. He begins with Jesus' proclamation of good news, the gospel of God.

Galilee was the center of a humming political and commercial life. It stood at the crossroads of the nations of the ancient world, through which the armies and the traitors and the diplomats passed. There some of the greatest battles of the world have been fought...Galilee was the home of a thoroughly cosmopolitan population: Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic would all be heard in the market; Syrian, Jew, Roman and Parthian mixed freely. It was a land of passing excitements and dangerous fashions, of a barbarous dialect and offensive manners.

Preaching the Gospel Mark 1:14-15

John Wesley asked his preachers 2 questions when they returned from preaching assignments. 1. Did anybody get saved? 2. Did anybody get mad? If they said no to both questions, he questioned their call to preach.

A story is told of two men who got into conversation on a boat when returning from India. One was an English sportsman and the other was a missionary. The sportsman said, "I've been in India for 25 years, and I never saw one of the natives converted." "That's queer," answered the missionary, "did you ever see a tiger?" "Hundreds of them," was the reply, "and I have shot dozens in the hunt." "Well, I have been in India for many years," said the missionary, "but I have never seen a tiger. But under the power of the Gospel of Christ, I have seen hundreds of the natives of India turn to the Savior!" You see, one loved hunting and was looking for tigers. The other loved individuals who needed God and was looking ways to bring them to Jesus! The Bible says, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Calling the Disciples Mark 1:16-20

Apostle's SongTo the tune of *Jesus Loves Me*.

Jesus called them one by one
Peter, Andrew, James and John
Next came Philip, Thomas too
Matthew and Bartholomew
James the one they called the less
Simon, also Thaddeus
The twelfth apostle Judas made
Jesus was by him betrayed
Yes, Jesus called them
Yes, Jesus called them
Yes, Jesus called them
And they all followed him

Healing the Sick Mark 1:21-31

Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace.

Oswald Chambers in Run Today's Race.

He began His ministry by being hungry, yet He is the Bread of Life.
Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being thirsty, yet He is the Living Water.
Jesus was weary, yet He is our rest. Jesus paid tribute, yet He is the King.
Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet He cast out demons.
Jesus wept, yet He wipes away our tears.
Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet He redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, yet He is the Good Shepherd.
Jesus died, yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.

Gregory of Nazianzus, A.D. 381

"**Jesus help me**" is a cry from your heart. You come to Jesus because He is the only one who can help you.

"**Jesus help me. My life is difficult.**"

Do you have family, job or money worries? Have people hurt you? Do you suffer from health problems? Is there an emptiness in your life from the loss of a loved one?

Answer: Take all your problems to Jesus. Trust Him to help you. And Jesus Who loves you so much will be there for you.

"**Jesus help me. My life is a mess.**"

There may be an addiction that is pulling you down. You may quit for a few days only to start again. You may feel like a failure and want to give up trying.

Answer: Know that Jesus does not count the number of times you fall down. He only counts the number of times you get up and return to Him. So ask Jesus to help you overcome your addiction. Jesus of Mercy will not fail to answer your cry for help.

"**Jesus help me. I am hurting.**"

I am hurting because of a broken relationship. I can't seem to get past it.

Answer: God wants you to let go of your painful feelings. He wants you to find happiness in your life. Ask Jesus to heal you.

"**Jesus help me. I am such a failure.**"

My life is a long list of failures: bad decisions, missed opportunities and wasted years. Things should have been so different, but there is no going back.

Answer: Don't let the past pull you down. Jesus wants you to live in the present. Never mind what might have been. Ask Jesus to help you build a better life.

"**Jesus help me. I have sinned.**"

So many times, I did not keep your commandments. Now one part of me says, "Ask Him to forgive your sins." Another part of me says, "It's too late. Your sins are too many."

Answer: Listen to the part that tells you to go to Jesus. It isn't too late. He has not given up on you. His Mercy is far greater than your sins.

"**Jesus help me. I can't go on.**"

I am so depressed. Nobody cares what happens to me. Every day I struggle to survive. As hard as I try, my life doesn't get better. I can't go on...

Answer: When you feel helpless, think of Jesus. Carrying his cross, he was in great pain. Most of his friends had deserted him. People were shouting, "Crucify him." He felt He couldn't go on.

Our Lord suffered, and in every life there will be suffering. Ask Jesus for the strength to carry your cross, and He will help you.

Remember... the Lord always watches over you.

Jesus is your strength, so turn to Him. When things look darkest, out of love for Him, don't give up.

To Jesus, your life is an open book. He sees what weighs heavily on your heart and what pains you. He understands what you are going through.

Many times we try to handle our problems all by ourselves... and it doesn't work. Whatever the problem, pray. Jesus answers prayers and He will answer yours.

He helps whenever you ask.

Jesus told us, "Come to me all you who are heavily burdened and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Because Jesus loves you, He will always help you.