

# MARK 1 vs 36

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Mark was the son of a wealthy family in Jerusalem, he was a cousin of Barnabas, who traveled with Paul. Since earliest times it was understood Peter was the primary source of information for this gospel. With the authority of Peter as its foundation, the writing of Mark, was never questioned to be included as canonical. His writing emphasizes more about what Jesus did then what He said. After Mark wrote about, Jesus stepping into the spotlight, he not writes about those who joined Jesus.



**<sup>36</sup> And Simon and those who were with him followed after Him** / those who were first with Peter, they all joined Jesus in the way He was going.

**<sup>37</sup> And when they had found Him, they said to Him, All men seek you** / the whole world was looking for Jesus; so He was radically different than all those teachers and leaders we see in the news. If Jesus was as egotistical, bland and boring as the endless stream of fools paraded across the news media, we would never have known about Him; and what He did 2000 years ago would have been forgotten before the first century ended.

Just 3 verses earlier Mark tells us: all the city was gathered at the door... where Jesus was staying and He healed so many. Matthew Henry wrote: how numerous were the patients, that one cure in the synagogue caused so many to follow after Him.

**<sup>38</sup> And He said to them,**

**Let us go to the next towns, so I can preach there also: for that is why I came.**

**<sup>39</sup> And in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, He preached and cast out demons** / lots of people were having a METANOIA moment, a change your thinking moment; an opportunity to rethink what they were first taught, or really didn't understand; and having thought differently; their lives were being changed. Jesus was a good teacher.



**<sup>40</sup> And there came a leper to Him, asking Him, even kneeling down before Him** / he came courageously, with much respect, saying to Him:

**If You are willing, You can make me clean** / this very insightful, infirmed guy who was paying attention, he was putting the pieces together 1 + 1 + 1; and he could tell something unusual was happening; and Jesus was the source of it.

**<sup>41</sup> And Jesus, moved with compassion,**

**put forth His hand, and touched him** / what? Jesus touched this highly contagious, very diseased man; it might have been the first time that this man had been touched by someone in years. In that culture, they had to quickly move away from those passing by, and forcefully declare that they were **UNCLEAN**; or they could expect to be pelted with stones thrown at them to move them,

**and Jesus... said to him, I am willing; be clean.**

<sup>42</sup> **And when He spoke, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed** / the prophet Isaiah says, these moments fulfilled what the Lord God had promised would happen: **He carried away our infirmities, and with His stripes we were healed** – **Isaiah 53**.

<sup>43</sup> **And immediately He charged him, sending him away** / Jesus knew what would happen; so He strictly warned this one -- Matthew Henry reminds us that leprosy was more than once in scripture a penalty of some particular sinner: in the case of Miriam, Gehazi and Uzziah; and he says it is as if Jesus warned this one with the fatal consequence should he return to sin again;

<sup>44</sup> **saying to him, See that you say nothing to anyone, but go your way and show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses instructed, for a testimony to them** / take care of first things first, and do things right; starting with, go and thank God; and each verse is hardly the way we imagine miraculous events would be portrayed; hopefully the man did what Jesus told him to do.

Notice we do not know where this incident took place. Mark says Jesus was teaching in their synagogues. If a leprous man or woman entered the synagogue, they were first to enter and last to exit a partitioned area; a space separated from the assembly; its dimensions were: 10 hands high and 4 cubits wide: the same area under my computer desk. Did Jesus approach this man crouched in this partitioned part of the synagogue?



We do not know; but what we do know is what Mark wrote next:

<sup>45</sup> **And he went out of the synagogue, and began to proclaim it much, and to spread abroad the news, so much that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but went out to the solitary desert places: and they came to Him from every direction** / and this chapter does not suggest he didn't do what Jesus told him to do; but it does let us know that this healed leper was not going to be silent anymore; he was going to tell what Jesus had done for him.

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