

Gospel of Mark Chapter 1D

Begin in Exodus 15: The children of Israel have just crossed over the Red Sea.

- With ecstatic joy they celebrate the faithfulness of the Lord:
 - He graciously provided safe passage on dry land to the other side.
 - The same waters that parted for them, returned and consumed Pharaoh and all of his armies.

Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

Israel is finally free from the slavery that bound them for generations, free to enter the land of promise, free to worship the Lord.

- Now there are 2.5 million people walking in the wilderness of Shur.
 - After three days of walking, three days with no sight of water and limited food. Three days of the kids asking “Are we there yet?”
 - In the distance they see a pool. It’s small but inviting. At last they can cool their parched throats. Their walk turns into a jog and then a run...
 - But when they get closer they find that the water is not fit to drink. Their hopes of life giving refreshment are dashed! The anger of the crowd is turned to Moses. This is His fault! He led us into the wilderness to die.
 - Archeologists have actually found a spring fitting this description. The water is dark and brackish, full of salt and minerals so that it is not fit for human consumption.

Exodus 15: 24 And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”

- The bitterness of the water is nothing compared to the bitterness that comes gushing out of the mouths of the Israelites.
- When their physical bodies are depleted and their emotions are stressed so their mouths speak ugliness darker than the water of Marah.
- Can you relate to that? (given the right circumstances I know I can)

Exodus 15: 25 And (Moses) cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

(15B) There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them,

- We know that the Lord is leading his people. There is a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide them.
- The problem is that Israel has not learned to fully TRUST in the Lord. Like you and me they are self-reliant and stubborn.
- The TEST that God put before them is difficult but it provides a “Teachable Moment.” His goal in this experience is to show them TWO THINGS:

- First: to exposed their true heart. Revealing to them how close to the surface their rebellion really is.
- Second: It revealed the nature of God. He is the healer of their bitterness. Trusting in Him, obeying his statutes would protect them.

Exodus 15: 26 saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”

JEHOVAH ROPHE

Explain Jehovah-Rophe: “*The Lord who heals*” (progressive revelation)

- Like the people of Israel when the Lord leads us through a season of trial he does so not to judge us or to embitter us BUT to cleanse and deliver us from of the bitter effects of sin.
- Why this long introduction? What Does Exodus 15 have to do with Mark 1?
- I want you to see that Jesus Christ is image of the invisible God. He IS the Lord who heals: Jehovah-Rophe – The Lord our healer, come in human flesh.

Finishing up this chapter we will discover that the Lord is:

1. Unlimited in his ability to heal.
2. Unaffected by his success
3. Unsoiled by that which was unclean. (We will move quickly)

Unlimited in his ability to heal:

In Chapter 1:29-30 we witnessed the healing of Simon’s mother in-law. *Jesus lifted her by the hand* and restored her health so that she immediately served the Lord.

- That same evening, when the Sabbath was completed the citizens of Capernaum brought ALL of the sick and those who were oppressed with demons to Simon’s door;

Mark 1: 33 *And the whole city was gathered together at the door.* 34 *And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.*

- Throughout the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus sickness and infirmity was virtually banished from Israel. Entire towns were made whole as he demonstrated the Kingdom of God.

Unaffected by success:

Mark 1: 35 *And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*

- As we study the Gospels I would like you to take note of Jesus' prayer life. He rises early and sometimes spends all night in prayer.
- NOW because of His sacrifice WE can come by faith to the throne of grace.

Alfred Edersheim, "Finding Jesus alone in prayer the disciples would learn that he was not merely a worker of miracles, but that He, whose word demons obeyed, lived a life, not of outward but inward power, in fellowship with His Father, and baptized his work with prayer." IN verse 36 we see that Peter found him.

Mark 1:36 **And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, 37 and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you."**

- Luke ADDS: (4:42b) **And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them,**
- Remember that Capernaum is Peter's home town. "Jesus you are a HIT!" The Mayor wants to give you the key to the city. EVERYONE in the entire town is waiting to see what amazing things you are going to do today!
- You could stay here and build MEGA church! BUT Jesus had come to seek and save the lost.

38 **And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.**

- Jesus never lost sight of his mission to proclaim the Gospel.
- There were many towns to reach and a limited time to reach them

It is easy for us to get off track; to get caught up in the hype of the crowd, enamored by signs and wonders when God sovereignly moves among us.

- But we need to take a lesson from the Lord Jesus, The multitude of miracles was secondary to the declaration of the Kingdom. As a matter of fact the signs served as finger posts pointing to the validity of his message.

Unsoiled by the Unclean:

Mark 1:40 **And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. 43 And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, 44 and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." 45 But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.**

- Luke tells us that this man was FULL of LEPROSY (*the disease had overtaken his body*) He also states that the Leper approached Jesus while he was in one of the towns.

Let's put this in a contemporary setting: Say that a man who was FULL of the EBOLI VIRUS escaped from the hospital in New York where he was quarantined and now he was found in Rockefeller Center in Manhattan.

- How freaked out would you be if he was standing next to you?

In the book of Leviticus Chapter 13 a person suspected of having Leprosy was brought to the priest. After observing the individual's symptoms over a period of time the priest was to declare that person to be either "Clean" or "Unclean."

- Leprosy is a horrible disease in which a bacterium eats away at the nerves basically anesthetizing portions of the body. Because there was no feeling in the extremities it was not unusual for ears, nose, toes or fingers to be lost.
- The Skin breaks out in scales and swells causing furrows around the head and face giving the appearance of a Lion.
- In Israel a leprous person was to be removed from society. He was forbid entrance into the temple and any walled city. He was banned to live the rest of his life in isolation.
- If a leper was to drink from a vessel the vessel was defiled, if he lay on a bed the bed was defiled, if he touched a wall that wall was considered defiled.
- A leprous person was to stay 6 feet away from people who were up wind and 100 feet away from those who were downwind. When he approached other people he was required to cover his face and cry "Unclean."

Leviticus 13: 45 *"The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.'* 46 *He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.*

Spurgeon, "Leprosy is to be considered by us as being a type of sin; and as we read the chapters in Leviticus which concern the shutting up or putting apart, and the purification of a cleansed leper we are to understand every sentence as having in it a Gospel sermon to us, teaching us what the condition of a sinner is in the sight of God, how a sinner is to be cured, and how he can be restored to the privileges from which the leprosy of sin has utterly shut him out."

- Leprosy slowly eats away a person's flesh but they don't feel it because the disease anesthetizes them. IN the same way sin advances by anesthetizing the conscience of a man eventually bringing death.

Consider quickly from the Gospel of Mark how the Lord Jesus traded places with the Leper.

- This man who was “full of leprosy” was required to live in isolation, outside of the city.
- Like Adam who sinned and was driven OUT of the garden. Sin separates man from God, it also separates man from his fellow man. Eventually under the just wrath of God the sinner is cast into outer darkness.
- Look at how the leper and Jesus traded places:

The man who was full of leprosy was restored to the worship and fellowship of God’s people. He was FREE to dwell in the city, move around, and live at peace.

- NOW look at how Mark describes the Lord Jesus.

Mark 1: 45 **But he (The Leper) went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter**

- Jesus could no longer openly enter a town but was out in desolate places.
- Do you see how the leper and the Lord exchanged places?

THEOLOGICAL POINT!

Jesus IS Jehovah-Rophe (*the God who heals*) and here is HOW he heals: HE TAKES OUR place, bears OUR sin, carries our infirmities and by his stripes we are healed.

Hebrews 13:12 **So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.** 13 **Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.**

NOW WE can enter that heavenly city, the New Jerusalem and dwell in the presence of the Lord: Jesus is the image of the invisible God, He is the embodiment of:

El Shaddi - God Almighty

Jehovah-shalom - my peace

Jehovah-jireh - my provider

Jehovah-tsidkenu -Our Righteousness

Jehovah-nissi - my banner

If you have never received the healing that Jesus provides for your sinful condition, I urge you to repent of your sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!