

The Master's Touch

Scripture: Mark 1:35-45

Also: Mark 10:45

Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. Read Mark 1:35. This can be one of those cliché places where Christians are shamed into getting up earlier to pray more. Without doing that,
 - What can be learned about Jesus' example of prayer here?
 - How must Jesus have viewed prayer to be so devoted to it?
3. Read Mark 1:37-38. What depth of purpose must Jesus have had, to not be a people pleaser, but instead, to choose to go elsewhere to fulfill His mission? (Jesus was essentially saying "No" to the people's request to see Him.)
 - What does that tell us about God's character?
 - What does that tell us about His character in contrast with culture?
 - Do you have the freedom to say "No" to people? If so, is it for purposeful reasons?
 - Do you resonate with the depth of purpose Jesus displayed? Why or why not?
 - Do you feel like you could have that depth of purpose?
4. Read Mark 1:40-42.
 - Have you ever sought Jesus' touch (figuratively of course)?
 - What happened?
 - Is there a place in your life you need his touch now?
5. Read Mark 1:43-45. The leper was so excited that he wanted to, and did, declare to everyone what Jesus had done. This seems like a good, biblical thing to do! But Jesus had instructed Him not to.
 - Have you encountered a time in your life where the path of obedience didn't make sense?
 - What did you do, and how did it turn out?
 - Can we always understand God's instructions?
 - Can we always link our actions directly to the outcomes that occur afterwards? (No: right action/obedience doesn't always yield pleasant results, and wrong action/disobedience doesn't always yield negative results.)
 - What does this teach us about trust and obedience?

Pray for increased trust and obedience for each other, our church family, our community, and our world.