

JESUS: THE SERVANT AT WORK

VOLUME ONE

STUDY FIVE

A Page from Jesus' Journal

Mark 1:29–39

We come today to pull this page from our Savior's journal and learn again what it means to pace our lives, to choose our priorities well, and to find time for solitude and prayer.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

OUR hearts brim with excitement when we read a page of another person's journal. We get to see the sunrise through this person's eyes and retrace the journey through his or her steps. This person's joys and sorrows, triumphs and struggles—we can feel them all! We can hold his or her legacy as if it were our own. We enter this person's world and find insight into his or her life purpose and heart's utmost desire.

The gospel of Mark takes us into Jesus' journey, revealing one scene after another—sometimes before sunrise, sometimes after sunset. Reading Mark's vivid and candid accounts is like reading Jesus' journal.

In our previous *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we read about the day Jesus held in rapt attention the synagogue in Capernaum by teaching with authority and casting demons out of a victimized man. We learned how to operate under Christ's authority.

But the day wasn't over.

In our passage for this Bible study, we'll see what happened later that same day and find out what it means to follow Jesus, not just in public but also in private. We'll trace His steps to Peter's home, where He was with a few of His closest companions, and then out of town to a remote place where He was all alone with God.



INSIGHT FOR LIVING



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

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PREPARE YOUR HEART

As you open God's Word, let your heart echo Pastor Chuck's prayer:

Show us, our Father, how to measure our days and how to mark them well, that we may live not busy lives but deep lives. That we might pause and let the wonder in on those occasions when You are obviously at work.

In your own words, express your desire to learn from the life of Jesus, God's Servant at work. Ask God to deepen your intimacy with Him so the eyes of your heart can value the eternal.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus left the synagogue and, “immediately,” He went to “the house of Simon and Andrew” (Mark 1:29 NASB). Once again, Mark used the word *immediately* to keep our interest focused on Jesus' actions, this time as He moved out of the hubbub of the streets into the quiet of Peter's home.

In our world, we've become jaded by stories of famous people acting honorably in public but scandalously in private. In this passage, we get a glimpse of Jesus out of the spotlight, when He lets His guard down and takes time for Himself. What was Jesus like when only His closest friends were with Him? Let's see whether the qualities He displayed before the adoring crowd were the same as those He displayed with only a few people watching.



Observation: Jesus' Ministry at Home

Take the first step of *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, observation, by reading [Mark 1:29–39](#) carefully and thoughtfully.¹ Try putting yourself into the scene. Imagine going with Jesus to Peter's humble house. Look around the room and see a low dining table, a counter for preparing food, bowls for water, and a few decorations on the walls. Light spills through open windows, creating a warm and inviting place for Jesus to relax with His friends.

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“After Jesus Left the Synagogue”—Mark 1:29–31

Arriving home, Jesus and the others looked forward to enjoying a Sabbath meal together. According to Mark 1:29–31, what did Jesus find out regarding Simon's mother-in-law? What did Jesus do, and what quality do you see in His actions?

She's very sick and Luke tells us more than Mark. Luke says, “Standing over her, He rebuked the fever.” It's a disease, but He treats it as though it is a living organism. For Jesus it is. He is Lord over the dying, the disabled, as well as the diseased. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

“That Evening After Sunset”—Mark 1:32–34

Notice how Mark indicates time. Sunset marked the end of the Sabbath, when people could now leave their homes and travel. What do you imagine was happening at Simon's house when the sun went down? Why did Jesus not permit the demons to speak as He cast them out?

He didn't need demons to be His evangelists. They knew who He was; they knew their days were numbered. They know doom is ahead of them. But Jesus says to them, “You be silent. Don't speak.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

“Before Daybreak the Next Morning”—Mark 1:35–39

After a long day of endless involvement and ministry to others, it was late. Jesus must have been tired. He rested only a short while between Mark 1:34 and 35. According to 1:35–39, what did He do in the early morning hours before sunrise? Why do you think Peter, when he awoke, was surprised to find Jesus missing? Jesus was a celebrity! Why would He leave town now? How did Jesus respond when Peter and the others told Him everyone was looking for Him?

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If you will allow me, Peter thinks, “Jesus! You could be on TV, man!” “Let’s go somewhere else.” That’s the Man I want to follow. That’s the Man worth following. There is a remarkable self-restraint in Jesus’ words.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Ministry Expresses God’s Power and Character

What insight into Jesus’ character and nature was Mark teaching in the account of Him healing Simon’s mother-in-law in [Mark 1:29–31](#)? How does this meaning deepen your understanding of who Jesus is?

Jesus healed many people who came to His door. He cast out many demons. Read [Mark 1:32–34](#) in The Message translation. To deepen your understanding of miracles, peruse the article “[Miracles](#),” specifically the section titled “Biblical data” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible* at [biblegateway.com](#). Based on this information, how would you characterize an authentic miracle? What was Jesus communicating about Himself through His miracles?

When the miracle is authentic, there’s no waiting period. May I say: there’s no exchange of money. This is no healing done by a showman. This is in a private home, unexpected. Spontaneously, a miracle is performed.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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After His long and exhausting day that stretched late into the night, Jesus went to a solitary place before sunrise to talk to the Father. Look at [Mark 1:35–39](#) in The Message and in the J. B. Phillips translation. How would you explain Jesus' response to Simon and the other disciples? What perspective did Jesus gain through His fellowship with the Father?

Healing always draws a crowd because broken lives are more known to people than broken minds and broken hearts. Everyone wants relief from physical pain. But He says, "I'm not called here to do that primarily. I'm called to preach the truth. That's My ministry." He's come to seek and to save those who were lost. Keep the perspective right. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Ministering with Compassion, Faithfulness, and Focus

Jesus expressed His compassion when He helped people. Note this common theme in the following passages: [Matthew 14:14](#); [15:32–37](#); [20:29–34](#); [Mark 1:29–31](#); [Luke 7:12–15](#). Compare them with [Psalm 103:8–10](#) and [145:8–9](#) and explain the relationship between the heart of God and compassion.

*Out of compassion, He brought healing. He helped instinctively because He is supremely and sincerely compassionate. I love that about the Savior. He didn't take an interest to increase His prestige. He ministered because He cared.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

Compare our passage with [Matthew 4:23–25](#) and [Luke 7:19–21](#). How do they showcase Jesus' faithfulness in meeting the needs of the broken who came to His door? According to [Exodus 34:5–7](#); [Deuteronomy 7:9](#); and [Psalm 89:1](#), how was Jesus exhibiting the character of God?

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Jesus is faithfully working through the crowd, looking one after another in the eye. Sometimes you meet individuals that when they look you in the eye, you feel as if they're looking into your soul. Jesus is like that. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

How does the principle in Mark 1:35–39 correlate with the principles in [Luke 6:12–18](#); [Acts 20:16–24](#); [Galatians 1:9–10](#); and [Philippians 3:7–14](#)? Why is time with God in solitude essential to doing effective ministry?

Solitude and prayer empower us to restrain our own ambitions. Believe me, the crowds won't restrain your ambitions. They'll fan the flame. They'll tell you how great you are. Without solitude, you'll lose your way. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Compassion, Humility, Prayer, and Discipline

In a world filled with endless noise, sounds, and words, we all struggle to maintain a deliberate focus on eternal matters over what's transitory. Jesus stayed on target and accomplished His mission. He is our perfect model.

Let's deepen our intimacy with our great Savior as we reflect on four traits He demonstrated: compassion, humility, prayer, and discipline.

Compassion encourages us to care for those who hurt—which keeps us humble. Think of one area of your life where His compassion is needed. Tell your needs to the Lord and receive His care. Then ask Him to help you share His compassion with someone else.

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Humility energizes us to stay gracious with the needy—which prompts us to seek solitude and prayer. If Jesus needed time alone with His Father to keep things in perspective, then how much more do we need the same time in solitude with Him? Ask the Lord what's most important. Then pause to listen to Him as you reflect on our passage. Write down your impressions.

Solitude and prayer empower us to restrain our ambitions—which cultivates inner discipline. Think about the value of solitude, prayer, and discipline for keeping your focus on the eternal. What has the Holy Spirit opened the eyes of your heart to, so that you can begin to emulate the life of our great Savior?

Discipline enables us to continue reaching out to the lost—which expands our vision. With whom can you share your love for Christ?

Jesus' life teaches us how to pace our lives and choose our priorities well. Which of these lessons do you find most relevant, most challenging, and most rewarding? Express your gratitude. Ask God to help you keep your eyes on the eternal.

May our Lord show us the value of the eternal, even as we live out our temporal lives. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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A FINAL PRAYER

Compassionate and faithful Father, thank You for Jesus' model! This page of His life teaches me how to value solitude and prayer, how to stay focused on Your mission, how to rely on Your strength and provision, and how to reflect Your faithfulness and compassion. Keep the eyes of my heart fixed on the eternal. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](https://www.insight.org/how-does-pastor-chuck-swindoll-study-the-bible)" at [insight.org](https://www.insight.org).

For the 2026 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2010, 2026 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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