

Take-Home Sheet | Session 2

Immediately (Mark 1:14-45)

A Ransom for Many: A Catholic Journey Through the Gospel of Mark

What We Found

Jesus' whole message in one sentence: *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel"* (1:15), Daniel's promised kingdom arriving, because the King has arrived. His first act is to gather people: four fishermen who leave their nets "immediately," with none of the farewell even Elisha was granted (1 Kings 19:19-21). His call remakes what we are: "I will make you become fishers of men."

We watched a strange pattern begin: Jesus commanding silence, to a demon who named him truly (1:24-25), and to the demons at evening "because they knew him" (1:34). Notice that he silences them even when what they say about him is true. We saw him rise long before dawn to pray (1:35) and then walk away from a town still calling his name, because mission is set in prayer, not by applause.

And we watched him touch a leper, a man whose life under the Law was isolation itself (Leviticus 13:45-46). With Jesus the contagion runs backward: holiness flows out and heals. We remembered Naaman, and the king of Israel tearing his clothes: "Am I God, to kill and to make alive?" (2 Kings 5:7). Cleansing lepers is God's work. Jesus said, "I will; be clean." Then he sent the man to the priest, honoring the public, priestly verification of healing that the Law provided, a pattern worth pondering.

Voices of the Church

Voices of the Church: St. John Chrysostom (Homilies on Matthew, on the call of the fishermen)

St. John Chrysostom marvels at the fishermen's obedience: nets in hand, they left everything at a word, not waiting to finish the day's catch. This is the obedience Christ asks: not to delay, not to negotiate the timing, but to follow at once.

Voices of the Church: St. Augustine (Expositions of the Psalms, on Psalm 86 [85])

Christ "prays for us as our priest, prays in us as our Head, and is prayed to by us as our God." When you pray this week, St. Augustine says, recognize your own voice in him, and his voice in you.

Voices of the Church: St. Bede the Venerable (Commentary on Mark, on the cleansing of the leper)

Where our touch would be defiled, Christ's touch heals: he is not rendered unclean by the contact; rather his healing power cleanses, for he is the Law's Lord, and the divine power works through his true human flesh. By sending the man to the priest, he honors the Law he gave; and the Church draws the lesson with him: do not despise her public ministry in the very moments God has healed us privately.

Live It This Week

- Claim your own 1:35: pick one morning this week to rise fifteen minutes early and pray before you speak to anyone or touch your phone.
- Pray Mark 1:15 as a nightly examen: Where did I hear the King today? Where do I need to turn? Where do I need to trust?
- The leper was healed by touch. Make contact this week with one person who is isolated, a text is fine, a visit is better.

Scripture Memory Verse

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15, RSV2CE)

Before Next Session

Read Mark 2:1-3:6.

Catechism References

CCC 541-543, 1427-1429, 1503-1505, 2602