



Mark: Following Jesus Immediately- Prayer Clarifies Agenda

Introduction: After Jesus' long and remarkable first day of ministry, the crowds were ready for more. But Jesus had spent time early in the morning in prayer, which caused him to leave the area. Can prayer help us navigate our daily lives as it did Jesus?

Discussion Questions

1. The idea of Mission Drift says that people and organizations can wind up far from their intended purpose if they don't regularly re-focus on their mission. Can you think of ways that has happened? How can you re-orient yourself to your intended purpose?
2. Read **Mark 1:35-39** The text says Jesus went to pray "early" while it was "still dark." How does praying "early" help? Is there something more inherently spiritual in being a morning person? How does where you pray affect how you pray?
3. In verse 38, Jesus re-shares his mission. What does He say He came to do? Do you think the disciples thought it strange to leave a place where "everyone" was looking for Jesus?
4. Most Christians believe or express that they feel there is something insufficient with their prayer lives. Why do you think that is? How are some ways we've complicated prayer?
5. In the sermon, Jeremy talked about both the Priority of Prayer and the Purpose of Prayer. How does prayer become a priority in your life? What do you believe the purpose of prayer is? Are there any practices of prayer that you have found helpful?
6. Read **Mark 1:40-45** What is significant about Jesus touching this man? Why do you think Jesus told him not to tell anyone about what Jesus did for him? How do we feel about his "disobedience?" How did Jesus' healings affect what he said his purpose was in verse 38?

Shaping Your Mind – *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus left the house, went to a solitary place, and prayed..." Mark 1:35*

Moving Forward – May prayer set your agenda the way it guided Jesus.