

Lesson 8 **The Beginning of Popularity**

Objective: To learn that to spend time with God every day, to read His Word and to talk to Him in prayer, helps us to keep our priority right. (please look up the word "priority" in the dictionary.)

Background: The Sabbath day, a weekly holiday begins 6 p.m. Friday and ends 6 p.m. Saturday, was a day of rest and the Jews were forbidden to work. They attended Synagogue service where they received religious teachings and instructions. Jesus was often invited to teach because there was no permanent teacher in the Synagogues. The teachings of the Scribes, the Jewish teachers, were dull. For their teachings were nothing but quoting the words of teachers who were already dead.

Instruction: Read over carefully Mark 1:21-39, 40-45 a few times first.

Let's Think: Imagine yourself following Jesus through one day.

1. Scene 1 - Saturday morning (Sabbath day) in the Synagogue of Capernaum (Mk.1:21-28).

a) Why were the people amazed at the teaching of Jesus, the new teacher? Explain.

b) Why did the evil spirit cry out? (Read also 1John 3,8) What happened when Jesus told it to leave the man? And why were the people amazed again?

2. Scene 2 - Saturday noon (Sabbath day) at Peter and Andrew's house (Mark1:29-31).

a) How did Jesus learn that Peter's mother-in-law was sick? What was wrong with her? Had Jesus healed her? Give evidence.

3. Scene 3 - Saturday evening in front of Peter's house (Mark 1:32-34).

a) How did the crowd hear about Jesus? What did they come to Jesus for? And why did they wait until evening? (Read also John 5:9,10,)

b) What did Jesus do for them? Explain

4. **Scene 4** - Where do you find Jesus in this scene? (Mark.1:35-38)

a) Why was Jesus up so early since He worked until late in the night? (v.35)

b) Why did He decide to go to another town? Was He no longer welcomed? (also read Luke 4:42)

5. **Observation** - Look back the day and explain:

a) How did Jesus become "popular"? Was He seeking to be "popular and famous"?

b) Was Jesus carried away by activity and popularity that He forgot the purpose (goal) of His mission? What was His priority? And how did He keep it straight?

6. **Lessons** - Think over the experiences of the day and tell in your words,

a) One thing about Jesus you will always remember.

b) What do you learn from Jesus about priorities, about spending time alone with God?
Is there a change that you would like to make? How? Write it down.

Let's Remember: But Jesus withdrew to the wilderness and prayed. (Luke 5:16)