

Big moments in Jesus' life
Home Group Notes 5
Jesus' priorities Mark 1:14ff, 35ff

Introduction

It is a big moment in life when we become clear about our priorities and follow them consistently. With Jesus, we see it working out in several places.

1. What are your priorities during Lent?
2. **Read Mark 1:14-20** When Jesus called the core 4 of his 12 disciples, how were his priorities shown?
If you are a disciple of Jesus, are your priorities similar?
3. **Read Mark 1:35-39** In what way were Jesus' priorities not determined by the immediate needs of needy people?
In what way were Jesus' priorities not going along with the strong urging of his friends?
How did Jesus help ensure he stuck to his priorities despite the demands of friends and strangers?
4. The passage shows that Jesus' first priority is to preach God's word to the people he had prioritised.
How did he aim to do this? Do you think he succeeded?
5. If churches are called to follow Jesus, how can we try to make sure that his first priority is also ours?
6. When we have good priorities our goals are called SMART - Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, Time-related.
Do you think Jesus would have agreed with this approach to goals?

7. **Read Mark 7:24-30** Why did Jesus refuse to help the Gentile lady? Was Jesus the saviour of Gentiles as well as Jews? What are his clear priorities in this rather edgy conversation?
8. Jesus did go against his clear priorities at the end of the conversation, even though he had stated them strongly at the beginning. How able are you to combine strong priorities with a willingness to go against your priorities on special occasions?
9. If you had a pen and paper, could you write down your Christian principles and priorities? Challenge for Lent?
10. **Read Luke 9:51-55** How many of Jesus' priorities can you see in this passage? What is his greatest priority?
11. Was Jesus more someone who reacted in Godly way to the demands of those around him? Or more someone who stuck to his Godly calling and priorities in the face of many demands and dangers? He was both, but which do you think he was more?
12. Are you more driven by the demands of those around you? Or more driven by your own considered priorities?
13. Do you need to become more influenced by Godly priorities? Do you need a clearer grasp of such priorities?
14. How different are peoples' lives if they have strong clear priorities and follow them? For better or worse?

Prayer Points

Thank God for a time of year to ponder our priorities

Thank Jesus that he worked out strong priorities and followed them
Pray for good meditation and reflection on the first Easter during this Lent to enable our own love and service to increase

Pray for the Besom Project and a further church partner to come forward with a willing core team member

Pray for Mary as the school recovers after floods and bereavement