<u>OBSERVATION</u> <u>INTERPRETATION</u> <u>APPLICATION</u>

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <a href="http://www.missioncalvary.com/">http://www.missioncalvary.com/</a> Click on "Bible Studies" on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

#### JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY

Mar 1:1 The <u>beginning of the gospel</u> of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mar 1:2 As it is <u>written in the Prophets</u>: "BEHOLD, I SEND <u>MY MESSENGER</u> BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU."

Mar 1:3 "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS: 'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.'"

Mar 1:4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Mar 1:5 Then <u>all</u> the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, <u>went</u> out to him and were all <u>baptized</u> by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

Mar 1:6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate <u>locusts</u> and <u>wild honey</u>.

Mar 1:7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

Mar 1:8 I indeed baptized you with water (the symbol), but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (the reality)"

#### JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

Mar 1:9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Mar 1:10 And <u>immediately</u>, coming up <u>from</u> (out of) the water, He saw <u>the heavens parting (rent, torn)</u> and <u>the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove</u>.

<u>v. 1</u> The beginning of the gospel - The gospel is neither a discussion nor a debate. It's not good views, but Good News. And Mark wastes no time in getting to its heart.

vs. 2-3 Mark quotes only two prophecies in his entire Gospel: this one, from *Malachi 3:1*; and *Isaiah 40:3(A voice crieth, 'In the wilderness prepare ye the way of <u>Yahweh.'</u>), which refers, of course, to John the Baptist.* 

v. 4 The baptism of John—this one who came to prepare the way for Jesus Christ—was not for salvation, but for preparation. It was for the one who knew he had missed the mark, the one who knew he was a sinner, the one who knew he needed a Redeemer. Thus, John's baptism was preparatory, but not complete, for Jesus had not yet died for their sins. John was a radical guy, delivering an unpopular message!! A real message in the face of a phony, dead religious world. Repentance - to change the mind-making a U-turn! Does your sharing the gospel include the necessity of repentance?

v. 6 – <u>locust - Lev 11:21-22</u> Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. [22] These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind.: In his personality and ministry, John the Baptist was patterned after the bold Elijah (<u>2 Kings 1:8</u>), who fearlessly called Israel to repentance.

vs. 5-9 As John called people to repent, suddenly Jesus showed up, requesting to be baptized. Jesus had no sin. What did He need to confess? Why would He ask to be baptized by John? Two possible reasons... Although baptism is indeed a symbol of death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6), the word baptizo was initially used with regard to dying cloth. Material "baptized" in colored dye would assume the color of the dye. Therefore, baptism is not only a symbol of dying, but of dyeing. What is Jesus doing here? He's identifying with us. Dipped in the same water we are, not ashamed of us, but identifying with us, He meets us. We take on the same color in the water of baptism. Regardless of the fact that two thousand years separate us from this event chronologically and six thousand miles geographically, we identify with Jesus and He with us through baptism. Not only does Jesus' baptism illustrate His identification with us, it shows His submission to the Father, for through baptism, Jesus said, "I have come to die." Every other teacher, philosopher, or guru came to live-and yet, their so-called "ministries" were interrupted by their deaths. Not so with Jesus. He came to die. Death didn't interrupt His ministry. It fulfilled it

v. 10 Conceived as He was by the Spirit in the womb of Mary, the Spirit was already in Jesus. But here we see the Spirit coming upon Him at the beginning of His ministry, empowering Him for service.

### Mark 1 - The Beginning of the Gospel

Background to Mark: The shortest of the four gospels, Mark's is only sixteen chapters. It's a fast-moving presentation of the life of Christ.

- Introduction: The unique character of the Gospel of Mark.
- Matthew presents Jesus as the <u>King</u>. Luke presents <u>Him</u> as the <u>Perfect Man</u>. And John presents <u>Him</u> as the <u>Son</u> of God. Mark presents Jesus as a Servant.
- Chapters 1–10 portray the Servant living His life in service; 11–16 portray Him giving His life in sacrifice. In
- Rev. 4:7 describes the cherubim around God's throne as beings with four faces: a <u>lion</u>, a <u>calf</u>, a <u>man</u>, and an <u>eagle</u>. By long tradition, the church has attributed one of these "faces" to each of the Gospels, according to the character and message of the particular Gospel. By tradition, the creature that represents the Gospel of Mark is the <u>calf or the ox</u> a creature of <u>work</u> and <u>service</u>. The Gospel of Mark shows Jesus as the <u>Servant</u> of God, a Workman of God.
- For this reason, the Gospel of Mark is a "busy" book. In this Gospel, Jesus seems the busiest, quickly moving from one event to another. One of the key words in the Gospel is immediately, occurring 36 times in Mark (NKJV). We see Jesus as a servant - busy meeting needs and busy being God's Messiah.
- In Mark, the emphasis is on the deeds of Jesus more than
  on the words of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark pictures Christ
  in action. There is a minimum of discourse; a maximum
  of deed.
- Strong church tradition says that the Apostle Peter is the main source of Mark's gospel. Some think of Mark as "The Gospel According to Peter."
- Many believe Mark to be the first of the four Gospels written, and that it was written in Rome. Precisely how early is not definitely known, but there are leading scholars who hold that A.D. 50 is quite probable.
- The early church met at the home of Mark's mother, Mary, in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12).
- To the hard-working and accomplishment-oriented Romans, Mark wrote a gospel that emphasized *Jesus as God's Servant*. Because no one cares about the pedigree of a servant, the Gospel of Mark has no genealogy of Jesus. Mark wrote it for the Romans.

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Mar 1:11 Then a voice came from heaven, "You are (state of being – didn't become, He had always been!) My beloved (in whom My soul delights) Son, in whom I am (already) well pleased."

Mar 1:12 Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.

### **SATAN TEMPTS JESUS**;

Mar 1:13 And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted (on going for 40 days- since You're the Son...three examples — "Man does not live...) by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

(about 1 year gap between vs. 13 &14)

#### JESUS BEGINS HIS GALILEAN MINISTRY

Mar 1:14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Mar 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel (good news!)"

#### **FOUR FISHERMEN CALLED**

Mar 1:16 And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw <u>Simon</u> and <u>Andrew</u> his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

Mar 1:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Mar 1:18 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.
Mar 1:19 When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw

<u>James</u> the son of Zebedee, and <u>John</u> his brother, who also were in
the boat mending their nets.

Mar 1:20 And immediately He called them, and they left their father

v. 11 Although it seems too good to be true, if you're a believer, this word of the Father applies to you as well, for, according to 2 Corinthians 5:21, you are in Christ. I can go through the day praising the Lord, casting my burdens upon Him—not because of who I am, but because of where I am, not because of what I've done or haven't done—but because I'm in Christ.

v. 12 immediately... Mark's use of the words "immediately" and "straightway" eight times in his first chapter alone illustrate the speed with which he moves through his account.

Mark 1:12 (b) ...the Spirit drove Him Directly following the glorious experience of hearing the voice of His Father, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Why? Not to do Him in, but to show Him off.... Suppose you go to the local Jeep dealer and say, "I'm thinking about buying a Jeep." After opening the door of his latest model, a salesman would say, "Hop in"—and proceed to drive you to some rough terrain, where he would shift into four-wheel drive and take you off-road—flying over hills, splashing through rivers. Why? Not to damage the car, but to show you what it can do. So, too, in driving Jesus to the wilderness, the Father was saying, "Watch My Son. No matter what Satan throws at Him, He will come through beautifully." And the same thing is true of you and me. You see, only what the Father allows can come into our lives. Therefore, when temptations, trials, difficulties, wilderness experiences, hard times come our way, it is because the Father has allowed them in order to silence Satan's accusation that you only serve God in easy times, and to show you off to a doubting world.

v. 13 forty days, tempted of Satan... Forty days puts us in mind of the forty years God's people wandered in the wilderness. Because the law will never lead a man into the Land of Promise, Moses, who speaks of the law, was unable to lead the people into the land. No, it was Joshua, whose name is the Hebrew form of "Jesus," who brought the people into the land flowing with milk and honey. was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered Because of his sin, the first Adam lost the dominion over nature given to him (Gen. 1:28). Contrast this with the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, to whom dominion is returned as evidenced by the wild beasts that surrounded Him in the wilderness—a sneak preview of the coming kingdom wherein the wolf shall lie down by the lamb (Is. 11:6). Where Adam failed in the garden, Jesus came through in the desert.

vs. 13-20 Of the twelve men Jesus called, at least seven were fishermen. To be a fisherman, one must possess patience and perseverance—qualities as valuable in fishing for men as in fishing for fish. I find it interesting that Peter and Andrew were casting their nets into the sea when Jesus called them. On the other hand, James and John were mending nets. The ministry of Peter and Andrew was evangelism, as evidenced by Andrew repeatedly bringing people to Christ, and Peter preaching the sermon on the Day of Pentecost that "caught" three thousand people in the net of the gospel. The ministry of John and James, by contrast, was that of mending people through their emphasis on both the heartfelt and practical nature of love. Whatever your temperament personally, watch the Lord use it in your own ministry.

#### **SATAN TEMPTS JESUS:**

Mar 1:13-14 - Matthew's account:

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. [2] And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. [3] Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If (since) You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." [4] But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.' " [5] Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, [6] and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU! and IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.' " [7] Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.' " [8] Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. [9] And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." [10] Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' " [11] Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

v.17 – "I will make you fishers of men"! Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

2Co 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. [15] For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. [16] To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, [6] who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

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### JESUS CASTS OUT UNCLEAN SPIRIT

Mar 1:21 Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught.

Mar 1:22 And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Mar 1:23 Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,

Mar 1:24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Mar 1:25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet (be muzzled), and come out (get out!) of him!"

Mar 1:26 And when the unclean spirit had <u>convulsed</u> him and <u>cried</u> <u>out</u> with a loud voice, <u>he came out</u> of him.

Mar 1:27 Then they were <u>all amazed</u>, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "<u>What is this?</u> What <u>new doctrine is this?</u> For with authority <u>He commands</u> even the unclean spirits, and <u>they obey Him.</u>"

Mar 1:28 And <u>immediately His fame spread</u> throughout all the region around Galilee.

#### PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW HEALED

Mar 1:29 Now <u>as soon</u> as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Mar 1:30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever (in the grip of a great fever), and they told Him about her at once.

v. 21 synagogue, and taught. The synagogue is not the temple. The temple—where sacrifices were made, where the priesthood served—was in Jerusalem. Synagogues, on the other hand, dotted the countryside of Israel, having come into being during the Babylonian captivity when Jews were unable to worship at the temple in Jerusalem. Usually small in structure, synagogues were established wherever ten or more Jewish males lived, and were not places of sacrifice, but of study, worship, and prayer. They were overseen not by the traditional priesthood, but by laymen through a council of elders—one of whom was appointed ruler. When a rabbi would come into the area, the ruler of the synagogue would invite him to come and speak on the Sabbath day. As we see in the Book of Acts, Paul took advantage of this, going from synagogue to synagogue preaching Jesus.

v. 22 for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. The scribes would speak from authorities, quoting rabbis in their teachings. Jesus, however, spoke with authority. "You have heard it said... but I say to you...." He declared (Mt. 5--6).

vs. 23-24 a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Although this man may have sat undetected in the synagogue week after month after year, it wasn't until Jesus showed up that all hell broke loose quite literally. This should not be surprising. Whenever the Son of God shows up, the forces of hell respond.

vs. 25-28 The demon left, but not before he tore up this individual. So, too, when we rid evil from our lives—when we say, "Yes, Lord, have Your way," as old habits, relationships, patterns are forsaken—there may be some tearing initially, but we will also experience freedom and blessing eventually. What an exciting thing for the new disciples to witness!

<u>v. 29</u> Peter took Jesus home with him after church—always a good thing to do. I hope we'll increasingly get to the place where, when we leave Bible studies and services, we won't be those who quickly move into the next activity, but will learn to bring the Lord home.

<u>v. 30</u> You who spend time in worship and Bible study, beware. Satan will attempt to discourage you by causing fever in your home, heat in your house. But bring Jesus home with you and watch a miracle happen.

### "He Touched Me"!- Presley

1. Shackled by a heavy burden 'Neath a load of guilt and shame

Then the hand of Jesus touched me And now I am no longer the same

Refrain: For He touched me, Oh, He touched me And Oh the joy that floods my soul Something happened and now I know He touched me and made me whole

2. Oh Since I met this blessed Savior And since He cleansed and made me whole I'll never cease to praise Him I'll shout it while eternity rolls. (Refrain)

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Mar 1:31 So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. (if you had Jesus over for dinner, what would you make?)

#### MANY HEALED AFTER SABBATH SUNSET

Mar 1:32 At evening (three stars can be seen), when the sun had set, they brought to Him <u>all who were sick</u> and those who were demonpossessed.

Mar 1:33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door.

Mar 1:34 Then He healed many ("all" in Mt.' gospel) who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

### **PREACHING IN GALILEE**

Mar 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen <u>a long while before</u> <u>daylight</u>. He went out and departed to a solitary place; and <u>there He</u> <u>prayed</u>.

Mar 1:36 And Simon and those who were with Him <u>searched</u> for Him.

Mar 1:37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

Mar 1:38 But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach (spread the good news!) there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

Mar 1:39 And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

v. 31 Throughout his Gospel, Mark emphasizes the touch of Jesus. Jesus heals not only through the word He speaks, but through the touch He shares—not only telling us what to do, but touching us and encouraging us as well

<u>vs. 32-35</u> Jesus had been serving, touching, giving, teaching, praying, healing. And yet, as was His practice morning by morning, He woke early to receive instruction concerning the day before Him. If Jesus would get up early to pray, how much more do we to pray?

vs. 36-37 "This is great!" said the disciples. "All men seek You! Everyone wants You!" You will find yourself frazzled and fried if you listen to such voices. Your priorities will get mixed up; you'll feel wiped out; your ministry will be done in; your heart will be weighed down. Mark 1:38 And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth. It was having "come forth" from the place of prayer that Jesus could say with confidence, "Let's split. My Father has other plans for Me today."

**v. 39** Jesus did the unthinkable when He reached out to touch the leper.

v. 35 - there He prayed: Jesus did not need to pray because He was weak but because He was strong, and the source of His strength was His relationship with God His Father. Jesus knew that pressure and busyness should drive us towards prayer, not from prayer.

We don't know exactly what Jesus prayed for, but as much as anything, Jesus used this time of prayer for that close, intimate communion with God the Father that He longed for, which nourished and strengthened His soul. We can also surmise that Jesus prayed for Himself. He prayed for His disciples. He prayed for those He met and ministered to the previous night. He prayed for those He would meet and minister to that coming day.

A solitary place: Jesus knew the importance of solitary time with God. While it is good and important for us to join with others in the presence of God, there is much in our Christian life that can only be learned and experienced in a solitary place with God.

<u>Vs.40-45 – a leper -</u> A leper came to Him: Leprosy was one of the horrific diseases of the ancient world. Today, leprosy afflicts 15 million across the world. Leprosy begins as small red spots on the skin. The spots soon spread over the body and hair begins to fall out - first from the head, then even from the eyebrows. As things get worse, fingernails and toenails become loose; they start to rot and eventually fall off. Then the joints of fingers and toes begin to rot and fall off, piece by piece. Gums begin to shrink and they can't hold the teeth anymore, so each tooth is lost. Leprosy keeps eating away at the face until the nose, the palate, and even the eyes rot - and the leper wastes away until he or she dies.

As horrible as the physical suffering was, the worst part of having leprosy might have been the way people treated the leper. In the Old Testament, God said that when there were lepers among the people of Israel, they should be **carefully quarantined and examined** (Lev. 13-14).

Lepers had to dress like people who were in mourning for the dead, because they were considered to be the living dead. They had to warn the people around them by crying out, "Unclean! Unclean!" whenever people were near them.

You can make me clean: The leper really believed in the power of Jesus, and had confidence that Jesus *could* heal him. This shows that the leper had great faith because as far as we know, Jesus had not yet healed a leper in His ministry. In that day, everyone knew *only* God could heal a leper. There was no cure, and no one just got better. A leper could never get better without a direct healing from God.

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### **JESUS CLEANSES A LEPER**

Mar 1:40 Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing (not questioning His ability, but is it Your will?), You can make me clean."

Mar 1:41 Then Jesus, <u>moved with compassion</u> (gripped with emotion, with his pain), <u>stretched out</u> His hand and <u>touched him</u> (how long it been?), and said to him, "<u>I am willing; be cleansed</u> (catherized)."

Mar 1:42 As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed (make whole).

Mar 1:43 And He strictly warned (very serious) him and sent him away at once,

Mar 1:44 and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as <u>a testimony to them.</u> (to the priests)"

Mar 1:45 However, he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.

v. 40 a leper came - There is a tremendous psychological side to this miracle. One doesn't touch a leper. This man hadn't been touched in many years. Nor had he been able to touch anyone. I imagine his family brought out the food and drink for him, left it, and after they had retired he would come up and get it. He probably could wave to them, but he could never come to them again, never hold them in his arms, never touch them. But now the Lord touches this man, and He cleanses him! What were your circumstances when you heard about Jesus? When cleansed, was there great emotion?

vs. 41-44 By going to the priest, the leper would be able to confirm his healing, and Jesus would be insulated from the circus mentality that all too often typifies today's healing ministries. *Lev. Chapters 13-14*, which is the very center of the Torah, gives out specific instructions on Leprosy—diagnosis, not healing!-- and the sacrifices, when healed! When you touch a defiled thing, are you defiled, or is the thing being touched, being healed? Annas was High Priest from 6-15AD; Caiphas from 18-36AD

v. 45 Over and over again in the Gospel accounts, we hear Jesus say, "Don't tell anyone." And yet, as did the leper, we see people spreading the word radically. Then, after His death and resurrection, we hear Jesus say, "Now go into all the world." And what do we do? We "say nothing to any man." We have it all backward. Because the healed leper spoke too soon, Jesus was hindered from going into the city. But how many times do we speak too late and hinder someone from coming to Him? Whether we be over-eager ex-lepers, or staid and shy churchgoers, what we must do is God's will—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

Make me clean: The **leper knew what he needed** from Jesus. He **didn't ask to be healed, but** *cleansed*. The leper needed much more than healing.

Whatever you think you need from God, what you most need from Jesus is cleansing - to be cleansed from sin and a life lived for self. Vs. (41-45) Jesus cleanses the leper. Jesus, moved with compassion: We are often moved with compassion when we meet sick people, but lepers usually did not arouse compassion. Their whole appearance was too repulsive, and they usually made people feel disgust instead of compassion. Luke says this man was full of leprosy (Luke 5:12), meaning that the disease was in the advanced stages. This man's whole body and life was rotting.

Put out His hand and touched him: Jesus healed many people many different ways, but here He chose to heal this man with a touch. He could have spoken a word or even just thought a thought and the man would have been healed, but Jesus used a touch.

Since his disease was in the advanced stages, it must have been a long time since he had felt a loving touch. It was against Jewish

ceremonial law to touch a leper. Yet Jesus did not break that law,

because as soon as He touched the man, he was no longer a leper. Show yourself to the priest: Jesus told the former leper to go to the priests to carry out the ceremony the law required when a leper was cleansed. Jesus did this first to honor the law of God, but also as a testimony to the priests that an incurable disease had been cured. The elements used in the Levitical ceremony for the cleansing of a leper (cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet) are the same elements used in cleansing someone who was defiled by a dead body (Numbers 19:6, 19:13, 19:18 and Leviticus 14:4-7).

Since lepers were never healed, these priests had never conducted this ceremony. When they had to look up the procedure for this ceremony and had to carry it out for the first time, it would be a strong witness that the Messiah was among them.

Say nothing to anyone . . . But he went out and began to proclaim it freely: The man may have meant well and might have thought he was helping Jesus, but his disobedience hindered the ministry of Jesus. Jesus could no longer openly enter the city. It's best to always obey Jesus, and we should never think that we have a better plan than He does.

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