

THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING

The Gospel of Mark 1:16-45

Bible Study Tools

Repeating Words: It is always important to look for words or phrases that repeat in a passage. The Bible writers use the repetition of words to set the mood of the story or to draw the attention of the reader to certain details.

Inclusio: this is a term used for the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning and at the end of a passage. This is a literary device used to "bracket" a portion of text and tell the reader that it is one unit. Remember, the Bible originally did not have chapters and verses to divide it up. The authors built divisions into the text itself.

Time and Place: Pay careful attention to when and where the events of the story are taking place. Is there an indication of what day of the week? What time of day? Are the events all taking place in the same day? Where are the events taking place? Look at a map. Are they taking place in a town, city or in the countryside? Details are important.

Questions to Consider

- Where does the word "Galilee" show up in the Old Testament? How does this verse foreshadow Jesus' ministry?
- What is the pace of the events taking place? How does the author convey that? Look at Isaiah 59:19-20 - how does this verse relate to Jesus' appearance in Galilee?
- What do you notice about the calling of the disciples? Reflect on the words of Jesus.
- Trace the events in the section. Over what period of time do they take place? Is there a sense of progression in the stories?
- Think about the story of Jesus praying. How does it relate to the rest of the text?
- What are the consequences of the leper's disobedience?

Comments & Applications

Capernaum becomes Jesus' home base for his Galilean ministry. It was a small fishing town on the northern shore of the lake. It was significant because a major trade route passed through the area making it a place of commerce and Gentile influence. These towns to the north of the lake, however, were a stronghold for Jews who were faithfully trying to live out the Law.

Synagogues were the local places of worship for the Jews and the very center of the life of these small towns. Everyone who was "righteous" was involved in the synagogue, including the fisherman like Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

Jesus' prayer life: This is one of the greatest stories about Jesus praying. Think about it in the context of all that happened the day before. What does this say about Jesus? About the need for prayer? What is the end result of his prayer time?

