

The Audacity of Jesus

Mark 1:16-45

1) What's the first thing Jesus does after announcing that the Kingdom is near?

- He calls ordinary people to _____ Him. (1:16-20)

→ This word is used three times in 5 verses

2) Why is it so audacious for Jesus to call people to “follow” Him?

- Rabbis would invite people to study the _____ from them.
- Prophets would call people to follow _____.
- But neither would have the audacity to say: “Follow _____.”

3) What was so audacious about the way Jesus healed the leper?

- According to the religious leaders, leprosy could only be cleansed by _____.
- Instead of pronouncing the leper clean, Jesus stretches out his hand (like _____) – and touches the leper.
- Jesus touches the leper while the leper is still _____.

4) How did Jesus part ways from the “isolationist spirituality” of the day?

- Jesus didn't teach that godliness was measured by how far you _____ yourself from sinners and lepers.
- Jesus' power and purity were so potent that when He came into contact with the unclean, His purity would _____ them – not the other way around.

Responding to Audacious Claims of Jesus

1) Are we ready to follow Jesus? Not just learn about him. Not just believe the right things about Him – but truly become His *follower*. Because that’s what He’s looking for: *followers*.

2) Do we need to confess and repent of an “isolationist” spirituality? Do we need to start living as if the Kingdom of Heaven really can transform every “unclean thing” it comes into contact with – whether in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces, in Nigeria, in Burundi, or anywhere else God may call us?