

## Keynotes from Tim Shenton's Sermon on 26/7/2020

**"Have confidence in Jesus"** (Second of 2 sermons from Mark 1)  
(Please read these notes whilst listening to the sermon audio file.)

### **Have confidence in Jesus – Tim Shenton**

**Mark 1: 29-34 (NIV)** As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. <sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

The reason why anyone becomes a Christian, why they are reconciled to God and have their sins forgiven, is to bring them in to a living, daily and eternal relationship with God. Christians pray and read the Bible as part of that communion we enjoy with him. We speak to him in prayer and he speaks to us through his word. There has to be communication in any kind of relationship. We can see that there was communication between Jesus and his disciples – he spoke to them and they spoke to him. The reason we go to heaven is so we can have a perfect relationship with God – never to be interrupted again.

Our relationship with God is the crucial part of the practical applications of this message.

#### **1. Take Jesus home with you**

Follow the example of Simon and Andrew, who, after they had left the synagogue, took Jesus home with them.

The true Christian will take Jesus with him not just home but wherever he goes, because he wants Jesus to be by his side at all times, while a nominal Christian will leave Jesus in church and only visit him on Sundays.

##### **a) To take Jesus home means:**

- we **want** to live with him, just as we want to live with those we love
- we are not ashamed to introduce him to our family and friends
- we want to talk to him and listen to what he has to say

We want to do all this because we are in a relationship with him, and where better to do it than at home? Someone who has a relationship with Jesus believes that Jesus is able to help in any and every situation.

**b) To take Jesus home means:**

- We allow him behind the scenes and into our private life since there is nothing we do not want him to see (maybe things we don't show anyone else).
- When we watch TV, we want him to sit next to us
- When we surf the internet, we can show him what we are looking at.
- He is the unseen guest at the dinner table and in our bedroom
- We have not left him outside, because we have a living relationship with him and are comfortable in his presence.
- We have nothing to hide from him, so whether we are ironing, washing up or reading, we can talk with him and enjoy his company.

**Jesus is our friend so take him home with you, just as Simon and Andrew did – you never know what might happen.**

**2. Make Jesus your first resort**

**As soon as** Simon and Andrew went in through the front door (**v30**), they told Jesus about the sick woman. The whole town gathered **as soon as** they heard Jesus was there. We too must go to Jesus **as soon as** we can, not when all else fails. We must not be like the woman in **Mark 5:25 ff** for whom Jesus was the last resort, though she was healed. She had tried all the doctors and spent all her money.

**Mark 5<sup>25</sup>** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought,

“If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”<sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

There are so many situations where only Jesus can help. No one else can:

- Deal with our sin. Only Jesus can wash this away to make us clean - no pastor, friend or politician can do this.
- Reconcile us to God. Jesus is the only mediator who can stand in the gap between God and sinful man.
- Prepare us for heaven
- Fill us with his Spirit and strengthen us in the fight

In a time of trouble, we **run** to Jesus as our first resort. The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous **run** to it and are safe. (**Prov 18:10**). Note that we should **run** to it – not wander up to it casually! Follow the example of Hezekiah when he received a threatening letter (**2 Kings 19:14ff**). His first resort was to run to the Lord and pour out his troubles. As soon as Lazarus was sick, his sisters sent for Jesus. (**John 11:3 ff**).

Whatever your trouble is today, take it to Jesus and tell him about it. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you (**1 Peter 5:7**)

**A Christian takes all his burdens and lays them at the feet of Jesus – he makes Jesus his first resort.**

### **3. Have confidence in Jesus**

Simon expected Jesus to heal his mother-in-law, and the townspeople expected deliverance. Jesus never let anyone down when they came to him for help. Rather we are told ‘whoever comes to me I will never drive away’ **John 6:37** and again **Hebrews 4:16** Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Note that it is a throne of **grace**.

When we sin and confess that sin, we have the confidence and assurance that that the blood of Jesus will cleanse us and purify us. We go to Jesus and confess our sins, pleading the blood of Jesus to cover us because we have the confidence that our sins will be washed away and we will be made clean in the sight of God.

There is no one who:

- Can calm a storm more effectively than Jesus
- Can sympathise more fully than Jesus
- Can carry our burdens like Jesus
- Is as strong and as gentle as Jesus.

Jesus says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" **Matthew 11:28**

A sailor in a shipwreck was thrown onto a rock, where he clung on in great danger until the tide went down. Later a friend asked him, 'Jim, didn't you shake with fear when you were hanging onto that rock?'

'Yes I did, but the rock didn't shake.'

Jesus is our Rock of Ages, strong and dependable

**Have confidence in Jesus when you pray:** When Hudson Taylor first went to China he was in a sailing vessel that was becalmed very close to the shore of a cannibal island. The tide was taking the ship closer and closer to the shore, and no doubt the savages were eagerly anticipating a feast. The captain hurried to Taylor and asked him to pray. 'I will,' said Taylor, 'as long as you set the sails to catch the breeze.' The captain said that he would not make himself a laughing stock by unfurling the sails in a dead calm. Taylor replied, 'I will not pray for the ship unless you prepare the sails.' So the captain relented. While Taylor was praying, there was a knock at his door. It was the captain, who shouted out, 'Are you still praying for wind?' 'Yes.' said Taylor 'Well,' said the captain, 'you'd better stop praying, for we have more wind than we can manage.'

**Have confidence in Jesus when you pray. Trust him. He is a God who hears and answers prayer.**

When Stephen was being stoned to death, he called out to Jesus. He had complete confidence that Jesus was with him, and that he would hear and help him in his hour of need.

- What are you afraid of? Put your trust in the Lord.

D.L.Moody's favourite verse was **Isaiah 12:2** "I will trust, and not be afraid." He used to say: "You can travel first class or second class to heaven. Second class is, 'When I am afraid, I will trust.' First class is, 'I will trust, and not be afraid.'"

- Are you afraid of death?

When Michael Faraday, that great Christian and scientist, was dying, some journalists asked him about his speculations for a life after death. 'Speculations!' Faraday

exclaimed. 'I know nothing about speculations. I am resting on certainties. I know that my Redeemer lives, and because he lives, I shall live also.'

It is that kind of confidence and faith we see when:

- the paralytic was lowered through the roof (Mark 2:3ff)
- when Jairus pleaded for his little daughter (Mark 5:22ff)
- when the blind man begged to be healed (Mark 10:46ff)
- when sinners & tax collectors came to Jesus (Mark 2:15ff)
- when Simon and Andrew told Jesus about Simon's sick mother-in-law (Mark 1:30)

**Have confidence in Jesus.** Trust him, for he is big enough and strong enough to deal with our lives and all their problems

Tis far, far better to let him choose  
The way that we should take  
If only we leave our lives to him  
He will guide without mistake  
We in our blindness would never choose  
A pathway dark and rough  
But he leads us down that road to know  
The God who is enough

**Whatever your difficulties are, God is enough for you.**