

From Every Direction

“...and they came to Him from every direction.” Mark 1:45

Jesus was becoming famous without having a personal marketing manager, website or TV sponsor. He had no newspapers or billboards to display His stuff... just people who could not contain themselves. Jesus told them not to tell but... how could they not?!



He comes onto the public scene as an _____ after living a fairly quiet, unobserved life, gets baptized by John and then it all begins... There was a report that after He was baptized the sky parted and something like a dove landed on Him. Some people even claimed that the voice of God was heard to be telling Him how pleased He was with His ‘Son’.¹ No one saw Him for over a month² and then there were reports of Him teaching in the synagogues and preaching that the kingdom of God was at hand.³ He started to gather a group of men to work with Him⁴ and people were being healed and set free from demons. Everywhere He went, He preached and spoke with an astounding authority.⁵ Everywhere He went, people were looking for Him. His fame had spread widely throughout the region of Galilee.⁶

They were coming to Him from every direction.

Jesus was out of the _____ and out of the shoot. He had finally come forward knowing that it was the right time to do so, but surprisingly (to others😊) nothing was happening quietly or without provoking a response. He had a job to do and declared it openly.

“And He said to them, Let us be going on into the neighbouring country towns that I may preach there also; for that is why I came out.” Mark 1:38

And the people were thronging to Him in multitudes (whatever number that is!):

- the rich – the poor
- the sick – the healthy

- the thrill seekers – the truth seekers
- those looking for a Saviour – those looking for what they could get
- those who wanted Him – those who wanted to destroy Him

Every position of status, health and mental state came to Him. Every age, gender, and origin of birth flocked to Him.

They were literally coming from every possible direction! It was God's time. It was the right time for the cause of Jesus to be fulfilled.

When it is the right time for something; when you are sitting in the will of God you will not have to strive to see something accomplished. His favour will be on it and it will simply flourish.



Have you ever been impatient to see a dream fulfilled? Have you ever had a cause that burned so deep within you that you could not stand the 'wait of Wisdom'? ^{1 Corinthians 1:30} Have you ever impulsively run out ahead of 'Wisdom' and caused havoc to the dream? What have you learnt through these moments of truth?

 WRITE YOUR THOUGHTS HERE:

We must allow the timing of God to play out in our lives. Allow Him to birth His cause when the season is ripe.

We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God's purpose prevails. Proverbs 19:21 MSG

Here are some more scriptures to consider: John 7:8 & Romans 5:6

Jesus caused a lot of _____! As He launched into ministry, He freaked a lot of people out! In particular, the church of the day (the Jewish synagogue) and His family were the ones who seemed to struggle the most. This was a dramatic season of change and those who could not move with it could not really see or accept what was happening.

Jesus explained that new wine could not be held by old wineskins.⁷ If the people were not willing to change, to open their minds & spirits and become new, the effect that He would have on them would be anything but saving & pleasant. Jesus was truth expanded and the mystery of God explained and yet more profound to the human eye than ever before! He was God made flesh. God revealed. Take a look at John 1:14 and Romans 16:25-27.

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The masses were upon Him and we read how Jesus frequently tried to find some space alone, but inevitably the crowds found Him out. He always welcomed & invited them to come near. The 'multitudes' crowded Him, followed Him, and packed into buildings just to be near, to listen and to touch Him.

From the Outside...

Now let's go to a scene that caught my heart and really inspired this whole lesson. Look at Mark 3:31-35 with me.

Jesus' mother and His brothers come to where He is teaching. He is in some type of building that is apparently packed out with people sitting around Him. I imagine that they are pressing into His every word; hungry & listening and then all of a sudden there is a break as someone tells Jesus that His mom is outside calling for Him. Now, this may not seem odd at first glance ... the place is crowded and maybe there wasn't room for more people to come in. We aren't really told specifically why they were outside, but we can make some pretty good assumptions from what Jesus says in His response to their beckoning.

Do you see it? The Bible says that they were standing _____ and _____ for Him. It was this very phrase that made me stop.

Remember now, this was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Earlier in the chapter we read that some of 'His own people' thought He was out of His mind! (Mark 3:21) The Amplified Bible actually says 'His kinsmen' or... His family "went out to take Him by force, for they kept saying, He is out of His mind (beside Himself, deranged)!" They simply thought that Jesus was 'loosing it'.

Jesus was causing a scene. People were rushing to Him. The town was not so quiet and orderly when He was around. This was new, out of the ordinary and definitely not the norm! Those in leadership & especially His family were taking this very close to heart. This was not how they envisioned God to be and certainly not how they envisioned Jesus to be. For 30 years Jesus had led a relatively quiet, unnoticed life and this was totally contrary to who they knew Him to be. Thus, we have the scene in Mark 3.

They did not go in to where He was; they called Him out. Had Mary forgotten? Were they all embarrassed... scared? Did they want Him to come back to their identity and family culture? Did they want Him back in their 'wineskin' so to speak?

They could not see that Jesus was _____ them. They did not yet have ears that could hear (Mark 4:9). The tables had turned and somehow they hadn't noticed. Now it was Jesus calling to them; calling them to His family culture & Name, to His Spirit, to His side and His way

of doing things. He was constantly inviting people in close to Him and to the new wine that He was serving.

It was only in the coming and in the following that people could then start to enter in and receive His teaching. One had to 'come inside' to understand the mystery of who Jesus was and forever will be.

From the Inside

a parable:
an earthly
story with a
heavenly
meaning

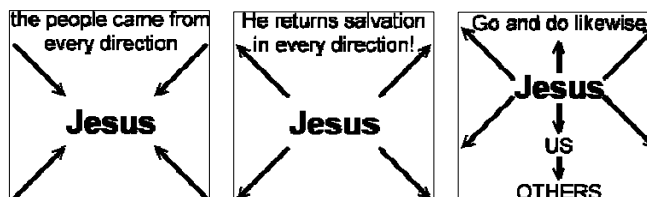
Look at Mark 4:11. Jesus' disciples asked Him to explain a parable that He had just told the crowd. The above comment is what He responded with.

Now look at Mark 4:33-34. It was those who were close to Him, who came to Him and spent time with Him that understood the truth. I love what is said in Mark 4:34! He explained all things to them when _____ were _____. James 4:8 says: *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.* We must hear Him beckoning to us, calling us closer and deeper with Him.

Jesus Responds from Every Direction

People came to Him from every direction. He responded in every direction.

He came to serve. He came to us on our playing field, as a human being. He was tempted as we are and experienced life just as we do. He, Himself covered every direction and has complete understanding of our hopeless situation. But, just as He understands our need He also has the answer to it, for He is the answer! What a wonderful Saviour!! *Hebrews 4:15-16; Galatians 3:28*



Conclusion

1. You too, can come from any direction, but please do not come all the way to the door of His house and decide not to go in.
2. He is waiting for you with great understanding and compassion, but most importantly: with Salvation.
3. Ask Him to reveal Himself to You; to open the eyes of your understanding. (Ephesians 1:17,18)
4. Do the same for others. Meet them on their level, in their territory if needs be and lead them to Jesus.

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:37

NOTES

1. Mark 1:10-11
2. Mark 1:12-13
3. Mark 1:14-15
4. Mark 1:16-20
5. Mark 1:21-28
6. Mark 1: 28,37
7. Mark 2:22