

Of Course I'm Willing

Mark 1:21-45

by Don Falkos

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One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. There was a man there who was possessed by an evil spirit. He cried out, "What do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!"

Jesus commanded, "Be quiet! Come out of him." And it did. The people were amazed.

Then Jesus went home with Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever. Jesus took her by the hand and helped her up. The fever was gone.

That evening the people of Capernaum gathered at the door. Jesus healed those who were sick and expelled many evil spirits. But he wouldn't allow the evil spirits to speak because they knew who he was.

Early the next morning Jesus went off to a solitary place to pray. Simon and the others found him and said, "Everyone's looking for you."

Jesus replied, "We must go on to other towns. They also need to hear the good news. That is why I have come."

A man with leprosy came to Jesus, fell to his knees and said, "If you are willing, you can heal me."

Jesus was angry, "If I'm willing!" He reached out and touched the man saying, "Of course I'm willing. You are healed." Immediately the leprosy was gone. Jesus told the man, "Don't talk about this to anyone. Go straight to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for this kind of healing."

Instead the man told everyone he met. News of what Jesus had done spread far and wide. Large numbers of people came to see him. He could no longer enter a town openly and had to stay out in secluded places.