

THE GOSPEL OF MARK - 4

The Secret to Prayer

Mark 1:25-28 “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” **26** The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.”

28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Mark 1:29-39 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. **30** Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. **31** So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. **33** The whole town gathered at the door, **34** 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.

Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. **36** Simon and his companions went to look for him, **37** and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” **39** So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Three dangers at the start of the journey:

- _____ can actually keep us from _____.
- Chasing the _____, not the _____.
- Seeking God for _____, not _____.

The secret to prayer:

The secret to prayer is simply having _____.

Prayer is:

- Not something _____, it's someone _____.
- Not about getting what _____, but connecting with who we are _____.
- Both _____ and _____.
- The key to _____ with God, and _____ from the enemy.
- More about changing _____, not changing _____.

Two things to consider:

- If we are only coming to God to get _____,
he may be _____ from us.
- Prayerlessness may be our greatest _____, because of
what it says about who we really think is _____.