

A Special activities:

❖ Call disciples. Mark 1:16-20.

- Mark is characterized by his brevity. If we did not consult the other gospels, we might reach erroneous conclusions about this calling.
- This was not the first time these men had encountered Jesus. As followers of John the Baptist, they had heard his words about Jesus, and they had followed him. The first to do so were Andrew and John, followed by their respective brothers (John 1:35-42).
- Jesus preaches from Peter's boat, and then a miraculous catch takes place. The four brothers' nets almost broke because of the number of fish (Lk. 5:1-7). While James and John mend the nets, Peter falls at Jesus' feet (Lk. 5:8-11).
- Jacob and Juan left their father in charge of the family business, and Peter and Andrew left their livelihood to be soul winners. By obeying the call of Jesus, they changed their lives, and the lives of the entire world.

B Activities on Saturday:

❖ Preach in the synagogue. Mark 1:21-28.

- The gospels make it clear that going to the synagogue on Sabbath was a custom of Jesus, not an isolated event (Lk. 4:16).
- How did people react to Jesus' preaching? (Mark 1:22).
- But not everyone was happy. The enemy decided to interrupt the service, hoping to nullify Jesus' influence (Mark 1:23-26). A quick intervention caused the people to be even more influenced by Him (Mark 1:27-28).
- Three facts stand out from this story:
 - (1) **There was a demon in the church.** There are “tares” in the church, and we cannot distinguish them (Mt. 13:24-30).
 - (2) **The demon knew who Jesus was,** and looked for a way to neutralize His influence.
 - (3) **Jesus ordered him to be silent.** It was not the time to openly declare himself as the Messiah.

❖ Heal. Mark 1:29-34.

- While they were preparing the table, they told Jesus about Peter's mother-in-law, attacked by fever (Mark 1:30). Once healed, this woman dedicated herself to serving the guests (Mark 1:31). The benefits that Jesus imparts to us provoke in us the desire to share them with others.
- The miracle of the demon possessed was the topic of conversation in many homes in Capernaum. So, at the end of the sacred hours of the Sabbath, when the sun had set, they brought many sick people to Jesus to be healed (Mark 1:32-34).
- What a joy! What cries of praise resounded in Simon's house! And not only did the healed praise, Jesus himself rejoiced in bringing them healing.

C Daily activities:

❖ Pray and preach. Mark 1:35-39.

- Jesus did not act on his own initiative. As usual, he had gone first to talk to his Father so that he could tell him what he had to do that day (Mk. 1:35; Jn. 8:28).
- Every day Jesus used to seek God in prayer, and invites us to imitate him (Mark 6:46; Luke 3:21; 5:16; 9:18; 11:1; 18:1). In special situations, he even dedicated entire nights to prayer (Lk. 6:12-13; Mt. 14:21-23).
- Should we not, like Jesus, seek God every day in prayer to know his will? In special situations, won't we seek Him especially in prayer?

❖ Heal and respect the Law. Mark 1:40-45.

- The leper, isolated from all human contact due to his illness, knelt before Jesus begging for healing (Lev. 13:45; Mark 1:40).
- Jesus touches the leper and therefore he becomes unclean. But, instead of receiving the leper's uncleanness, the leper received Jesus' healing.
- As we come to Jesus with our sins and filth, He will not depart from us. He will give us forgiveness and healing, making us clean like Him.
- After healing him, he gave two orders with a dual purpose (Mark 1:44):
 - (1) Showing himself to the priests: He demonstrated his respect for the law; and gave the priests the opportunity to accept him as the Messiah
 - (2) Keep silent: It prevented the priests from being predisposed against the leper; and avoided awakening messianic expectation in the crowds