

Boundaries
Mark 1:35-39
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the various ways boundaries can help mankind.

- Intro: 1. Does mankind need boundaries? If so, for what purpose?
2. Boundary defined: “a line that marks the limits of an area; a dividing line.”

I. The Purpose of Boundaries

A. Isolate & Protect

1. Boundaries are sometimes for the ill or afflicted (**Num 5:1-4**)
2. Boundaries are sometimes in place to protect us from those who cause us harm (mentally or physically).

B. Closeness

1. Boundaries & Isolation can bring one closer to God (**Ps 119:15-16**)
2. Meditation can bring one closer to God (**Ps 63:6**)

C. Isolation can bring sinners to God

1. Those whose sin has changed their relationship with Christians should see the need to repent and turn back to God (**Mt 18:17b**)

II. Examples Setting Boundaries

A. Jesus

1. **Mark 1:35-39**
2. **Matthew 14:22-25**
3. **Luke 9:18**

B. Other Examples

1. The Disciples – Acts 2, were alone together (**Acts 2:1**)
2. **The Apostle Paul was in prison when doing most of his writing, thus he may have done some of it in solitude.**

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. Boundaries encourage growth

1. Boundaries are created when mankind
2. We draw close to God when we make time for Him alone (**Ps 63:8**)

B. Boundaries prevent spiritual harm

1. The unfaithful are outside of Christ (**Rom 8:1-2**)
2. Boundaries help keep the faithful – faithful. (**Rev 22:15**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. **There are times that man needs isolation.**
 - a. Sometimes to get away from others, sometimes to get closer to God, sometimes both.
3. **Boundaries are needed and when used properly can help the Christian in daily life.**
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9