



THE GOSPEL *of*

MARK

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Lonely
Places

Community Group Headlines:

Vandenborn Group:

“Man in Capernaum facing charges for assuming someone’s gender and calling them possessed”

“Local house-guest catching flack for forcing Peter’s sick mother-in-law to get up, feed everyone and clean up.” #Sexism #ForcedToWork

Erling Group:

Man was blind, what happens next is eye-opening.

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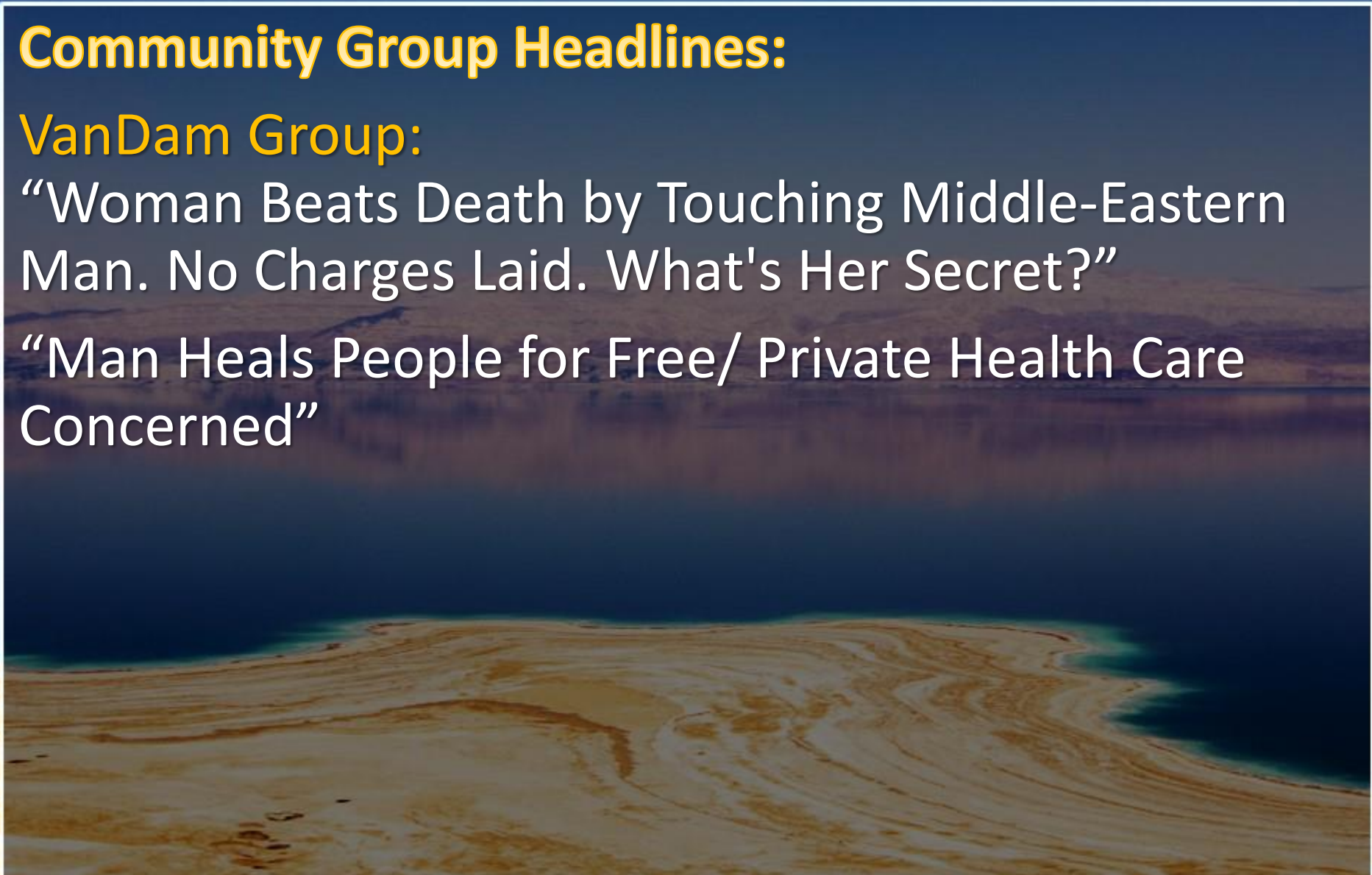
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Community Group Headlines:

VanDam Group:

“Woman Beats Death by Touching Middle-Eastern Man. No Charges Laid. What's Her Secret?”

“Man Heals People for Free/ Private Health Care Concerned”



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Book of Mark

- cryptic & direct
- Peter's accounts compiled by John Mark
- Inspired by Holy Spirit – encounter Gospel
- covers the three years of Jesus Public Ministry

Proclaimed as the Promised One

- John the Baptist, Spirit of God, Enemy

Authority Revealed

- teaching, leading, over demons, over sick

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Mark 1:35-45 “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean

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Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean."⁴² And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter."

1. Missing in Action

a) Jesus retreats to pray

- early, without fanfare, time with Father

b) Disciples search

- many wait – ministry ready to rumble
- huge expectations of today

c) Jesus Clear on next Steps

- bigger plan here – why I came
- going elsewhere to preach

2. Loose Lipped Leper

- leper in this society:
 - set apart from community life
 - unable to participate religiously
 - seen as unclean, avoided and cast out

a) see his faith and initiation

- know you can, will you?

b) heart of Jesus revealed

- moved with pity (compassion)
- touched him, healed him

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c) clear instruction

- do what the law states to be declared whole
- say nothing about being healed

d) blabbermouth leper

- tells everyone, spreads Jesus fame

e) unintended consequences

- Jesus cannot openly enter towns
- sleeps in desolate places
- crowds seeking him

So What?

1. Importance of Alignment

- pattern set of spending time with Father in prayer

Thoughts on Patterns of Solitude

- a) Good things and God things
- b) Surrender to Lordship in my Life
- c) Perspective on.....
 - expectations and demands of others
 - the big picture, eternal perspective

2. There will be Response to God

- heart of Jesus, restore and renew the leper
- actions of leper make life difficult for Jesus
- glimpse of Kingdom of heaven – with instructions
 - when we say – got it from here, know better
 - sometimes clear instructions – He knows
- love the heart of God to renew and restore
 - allow him to set the parameters

3. When we Cannot Deny yet are Disappointed

- Picture of those awaiting Jesus
 - expectation – healings and deliverance
 - reality – Jesus moved to another community
 - disappointment – why can't I have.....
- Issues for me
 - Comparison & Fairness
 - If I encountered I would not doubt
 - Knowing the reality, choosing my response, trusting Gods sovereign will