

Study Guide
for the
Gospel of Mark



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Bible Translations and Abbreviations

Translations

NET Bible - default translation used

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New King James Version

Scripture marked NKJV

Scripture taken from the New King James Version.

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Contemporary English Version

Scripture marked CEV.

Scripture taken from the Contemporary English Version by the American Bible Society, www.americanbible.org.

From e-sword.net software.

Abbreviations for books of the bible.

Old Testament		New Testament	
Gen - Genesis	Ecc - Ecclesiastes	Mat - Matthew	1Pe - 1 Peter
Exo - Exodus	SoS - Song of Solomon	Mar - Mark	2Pe - 2 Peter
Lev - Leviticus	Isa - Isaiah	Luk - Luke	1Jo - 1 John
Num - Numbers	Jer - Jeremiah	Joh - John	2Jo - 2 John
Deu - Deuteronomy	Lam - Lamentations	Act - Acts	3Jo - 3 John
Jos - Joshua	Eze - Ezekiel	Rom - Romans	Jud - Jude
Jdg - Judges	Dan - Daniel	1Co - 1 Corinthians	Rev - Revelation
Rut - Ruth	Hos - Hosea	2Co - 2 Corinthians	
1Sa - 1 Samuel	Joe - Joel	Gal - Galatians	
2Sa - 2 Samuel	Amo - Amos	Eph - Ephesians	
1Ki - 1 Kings	Oba - Obadiah	Php - Philippians	
2Ki - 2 Kings	Jon - Jonah	Col - Colossians	
1Ch - 1 Chronicles	Mic - Micah	1Th - 1 Thessalonians	
2Ch - 2 Chronicles	Nah - Nahum	2Th - 2 Thessalonians	
Ezr - Ezra	Hab - Habakkuk	1Ti - 1 Timothy	
Neh - Nehemiah	Zep - Zephaniah	2Ti - 2 Timothy	
Est - Esther	Hag - Haggai	Tit - Titus	
Job - Job	Zec - Zechariah	Phm - Philemon	
Psa - Psalms	Mal - Malachi	Heb - Hebrews	
Pro - Proverbs		Jas - James	

All underlining is added by the study guide author for emphasis.

Outline

Section	Location	Description	Cross Reference
1:1-8	Jordan River	Ministry of John the Baptist	Mal 3:1; Isa 40:3
1:9-13	Jordan River / Wilderness	Baptism and Temptation of Jesus	Deu 8:3; 6:16; 6:13; 10:20
1:14-20	Galilee	Preaching in Galilee and the Call of the Disciples	
1:21-28	Capernaum	Jesus' Authority	
1:29-34	Capernaum	Healing at Simon's House	
1:35-39	Galilee	Praying and Preaching	Isa 61:1-2a
1:40-45	Galilee	Cleansing a Leper	Lev 14:1-32
2:1-12	Capernaum	Healing and Forgiving a Paralytic	
2:13-17	Sea of Galilee	The Call of Levi; Eating with Sinners	
2:18-22	Galilee	The Superiority of the New	
2:23-27	Galilee	The Lord of the Sabbath	Gen 2:1-3; Exo 20:8-11; Deu 5:12-15
3:1-6	Capernaum	Healing a Withered Hand	
3:7-12	Sea of Galilee	Crowds by the Sea	
3:13-19	Mountain in Galilee	Appointing the Twelve Apostles	
3:20-30	Nazareth	Jesus and Beelzebul	
3:31-35	Nazareth	Jesus' True Family	
4:1-9	Sea of Galilee	Parable of the Sower	
4:10-20	Galilee	Purpose of Parables	Isa 6:9-10
4:21-25	Galilee	The Parable of the Lamp	
4:26-29	Galilee	The Parable of the Growing Seed	
4:30-32	Galilee	The Parable of the Mustard Seed	
4:33-34	Galilee	The Use of Parables	
4:35-41	Sea of Galilee	Stilling of a Storm	
5:1-20	Gerasenes	Healing of a Demoniac	

Outline

Section	Location	Description	Cross Reference
5:21-43	Capernaum	Restoration and Healing	Jer 9:17-20
6:1-6	Nazareth	Rejection at Nazareth	
6:7-13	Galilee	Sending Out the Twelve Apostles	
6:14-29	Jerusalem	The Death of John the Baptist	
6:30-44	Galilee	The Feeding of the Five Thousand	
6:45-52	Sea of Galilee	Walking on Water	
6:53-56	Gennesaret	Healing the Sick	
7:1-23	Galilee	Breaking Human Traditions	Isa 29:13; Rom 14
7:24-30	Tyre & Sidon	A Syrophoenician Woman's Faith	Acts 10
7:31-37	Decapolis	Healing a Deaf Mute	
8:1-10	Galilee	The Feeding of the Four Thousand	
8:11-13	Galilee	The Demand for a Sign	
8:14-21	Galilee	The Yeast of the Pharisees and Herod	
8:22-26	Bethsaida	A Two-stage Healing	
8:27-30	Caesarea Philippi	Peter's Confession	
8:31-33	Galilee	First Prediction of Jesus' Death and Resurrection	
8:34-9:1	Galilee	Following Jesus	
9:2-13	Galilee	The Transfiguration	
9:14-29	Galilee	The Disciples' Failure to Heal	
9:30-32	Galilee	Second Prediction of Jesus' Death and Resurrection	
9:33-37	Capernaum	Questions About the Greatest	
9:38-50	Capernaum	On Jesus' Side	
10:1-12	Judea, beyond the Jordan	Divorce	
10:13-16	Judea	Jesus and Little Children	
10:17-31	Judea	The Rich Man	
10:32-34	Road to Jerusalem	Third Prediction of Jesus' Death and Resurrection	
10:35-45	Road to Jerusalem	The Request of James and John	

Outline

Section	Location	Description	Cross Reference
10:46-52	Jericho	Healing Blind Bartimaeus	
<i>Events of 11:1 - 16:8 all take place during the last week of Jesus' physical life.</i>			
11:1-11	Jerusalem	The Triumphal Entry	Zec 9:9; Psa 118:25-26
11:12-14	Jerusalem	Cursing of the Fig Tree	Jer 8:13; Mic 7:1
11:15-19	Jerusalem	Cleansing the Temple	Isa 56:7; Jer 7:11
11:20-26	Jerusalem	The Withered Fig Tree	
11:27-33	Jerusalem	The Authority of Jesus	
12:1-12	Jerusalem	The Parable of the Tenants	Psa 118:22-23
12:13-17	Jerusalem	Paying Taxes to Caesar	
12:18-27	Jerusalem	Marriage and the Resurrection	Deu 25:5-10; Exo 3:6
12:28-34	Jerusalem	The Greatest Commandment	Deu 6:4-5; Jos 22:5; Lev 19:18
12:35-37	Jerusalem	The Messiah: David's Son and Lord	
12:38-40	Jerusalem	Warnings About Experts in the Law	
12:41-44	Jerusalem	The Widow's Offering	
13:1-2	Jerusalem	The Destruction of the Temple	
13:3-8	Jerusalem	Signs of the End of the Age	
13:9-13	Jerusalem	Persecution of Disciples	
13:14-23	Jerusalem	The Abomination of Desolation	Dan 9:27; 11:31
13:24-27	Jerusalem	The Arrival of the Son of Man	
13:28-31	Jerusalem	The Parable of the Fig Tree	
13:32-37	Jerusalem	Be Ready!	
14:1-2	Jerusalem	The Plot Against Jesus	
14:3-9	Bethany	Jesus' Anointing	
14:10-11	Jerusalem	The Plan to Betray Jesus	
14:12-21	Jerusalem	The Passover	
14:22-26	Jerusalem	The Lord's Supper	
14:27-31	Jerusalem	The Prediction of Peter's Denial	Zec 13:7
14:32-42	Gethsemane	Gethsemane	

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Section	Location	Description	Cross Reference
14:43-52	Gethsemane	Betrayal and Arrest	
14:53-65	Jerusalem	Condemned by the Sanhedrin	
14:66-72	Jerusalem	Peter's Denials	
15:1-5	Jerusalem	Jesus Brought Before Pilate	
15:6-15	Jerusalem	Jesus and Barabbas	
15:16-20	Jerusalem	Jesus is Mocked	
15:21-32	Jerusalem	The Crucifixion	
15:33-41	Jerusalem	Jesus' Death	
15:42-47	Jerusalem	Jesus' Burial	
16:1-8	Jerusalem	The Resurrection	
16:9-20	Jerusalem	The Longer Ending of Mark	

Foreword

As I was researching for this study guide, I found a foreword in one of the commentaries that I used that aptly described the very essence of this gospel. I wanted to share it with you as well.

Mark is the Gospel of youth; it is so brief, so vivid, so stirring, so strong; and these same qualities adapt the story to the active, restless, vigorous spirit of the whole modern world.

It represents our Lord as the mighty, wonder-working Son of God, and thus bears a special message to an age which needs a word of divine authority, and a new vision of the present, limitless, redeeming power of Christ.

It is a story of service, and is in harmony with the heroism and self-sacrifice which illumine these dark years of cruel suffering, as it pictures to us the Servant of God who came “not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

The purpose of the following outline studies is to aid in fixing the thought upon the successive, swiftly changing scenes of the story, in order to arouse deeper devotion to the Master and to inspire wider service in his name.

Charles R. Erdman
*An Exposition of the Gospel of Mark*ⁱ

It is hope of this author that this study does that same thing that Mr. Erdman set out to accomplish in his commentary so many years earlier – to draw the reader to a closer understanding of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, sacrifice for all and savior to those who believe.

To that end, it is important to remember that there are over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament concerning the Messiah that were fulfilled in the life of Jesus. Statistically, the chances of just eight of these prophecies, let alone over 300, being fulfilled in the life of one person are the same as taking the state of Texas and covering it two (2) feet deep with silver dollar coins, then picking one and putting an X on it and hiding it in the midst of them and asking someone who doesn't know where it is to find it on the first try. Numerically, that would be 1:10¹⁷ or 1:100,000,000,000,000,000.ⁱⁱ It will serve the reader well to keep this in mind as you study this short gospel of the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Authorship

I think it is important to learn what we can of the author who is attributed to this gospel from various passages in the New Testament about him. From the following, what can we learn about his family, his relationship to Christ and the other apostles, and his ministry.

Act 4:36

Act 12:12

1Pe 5:13

Mark 14:51-52

Act 12:25

Act 13:5

Act 13:13

Act 15:38-39

Col 4:10

Phm 24

2Ti 4:11

Chapter 1

Ministry of John the Baptist

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

*"Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,*

*3 the voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.'*"

4 In the wilderness John the baptizer began preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 People from the whole Judean countryside and all of Jerusalem were going out to him, and he was baptizing them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. 6 John wore a garment made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "One more powerful than I am is coming after me; I am not worthy to bend down and untie the strap of his sandals. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

1. What other book of the Bible starts with the word beginning? v1

Gospel n. [L. evangelium, a good or joyful message.]ⁱⁱⁱ

Gospel gos'pel (το ευαγγέλιον, τό euaggélion): The word gospel is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word which meant "the story concerning God." In the New Testament the Greek word euaggelion, means "good news."^{iv}

2. About who is this the beginning of the "good news" of? v1

-
3. What is significant about the titles given to the subject of this gospel? v1

Christ =

Son of God =

4. Even though this is the beginning of the gospel, what clue do we get to the real beginning of it from the reference to a prophecy in Isaiah? v2-3

5. Who was it that was the fulfillment of this prophecy and what was his ministry? v4

6. Who were coming out to hear him preach and what happened when they did? v5

7. What was the manner of John's dress and what was his diet? v6

8. What do the following verses tell us about the dress and diet of prophets?

2Ki 1:7-8

Zec 13:4

Lev 11: 21-23

9. Do you think he would be received as a "preacher" today if he lived this type of lifestyle? Why or why not?

10. What was the message that he preached? v7

11. What would be different about the ministry of the one to come after him? v8

Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

9 Now in those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. 10 And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my one dear Son; in you I take great delight." 12 The Spirit immediately drove him into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness forty days, enduring temptations from Satan. He was with wild animals, and angels were ministering to his needs.

12. Who came to John to be baptized? v9

13. What happened when Jesus was baptized? v10-11

14. What happened after Jesus was baptized and when? v12

15. How long was Jesus in the wilderness and what happened while He was there?
v13

16. From Matthew and Luke, we learn more about these temptations. What are the temptations that Satan tries to use and what was Jesus' response?

Temptation	Response
Mat 4:3-4 Luk 4:3-4	(Deu 8:3)
Mat 4:5-7 Luk 4:9-12	(Deu 6:16)
Mat 4:8-10 Luk 4:5-8	(Deu 6:13; 10:20)

17. What can you learn from Jesus' responses to aid you when you are tempted?

18. Who was with Jesus during this time in the wilderness? v13

19. In this section, Jesus is associated with four types of beings. From what you know of Jesus' life, how is he associated with each of them. v12-13

The Spirit:

Satan:

Wild Beasts:

Angels:

This section reminds us that:

The fact that he is filled with the Spirit does not keep him from being tempted, nor does his sinlessness make him insensible to evil solicitations. Among the followers of Christ none ever attains such spiritual heights that he cannot be assaulted by Satan, none ever becomes so perfect that he is beyond the reach of temptation.^v

The Greek word used for Satan here is a transliterated Hebrew word which means adversary. How appropriate that the first time we see the Devil referred to in the gospel, the name used to identify him clearly defines who he is in relation to Jesus.

Σατανας (G4567)

Satanás; masc. noun transliterated the Hebr. Sātān (H7854), adversary. Satan. The same as Satán (G4566).

שטן (H7854)

śātān: A masculine noun meaning an adversary, Satan, an accuser.^{vi}

Preaching in Galilee and the Call of the Disciples

14 Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel of God. 15 He said, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel!" 16 As he went along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). 17 Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will turn you into fishers of people." 18 They left their nets immediately and followed him. 19 Going on a little farther, he saw James, the son of Zebedee, and

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John his brother in their boat mending nets. 20 Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

20. What happened before Jesus began His ministry? v14

21. Where did Jesus begin His ministry and what did He do? v14

22. What was the message He preached? v14-15

23. Who did Jesus see along the Sea of Galilee and what was their occupation? v16

24. What did Jesus tell to them to do? v17

25. What was Jesus going to make their new occupation? v17

26. When did they respond to Jesus and what did they do? v18

27. Who else did Jesus see a little farther down the shore? v19

28. What did Jesus do when He saw them and when? v20

29. What did James and John do? v20

30. Using these men as examples, how should you respond to Jesus' call?

Jesus' Authority

21 Then they went to Capernaum. When the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people there were amazed by his teaching, because he taught them like one who had authority, not like the experts in the law. 23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 24 "Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!" 25 But Jesus rebuked him: "Silence! Come out of him!" 26 After throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. 27 They were all amazed so that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him." 28 So the news about him spread quickly throughout all the region around Galilee.

31. Where next did the group travel to? v21

32. What did Jesus do on the Sabbath? v21

33. What was the people's response to Jesus' teaching? v22

34. What was different about Jesus' teaching? v22

35. Who entered the synagogue after Jesus finished teaching? v23

36. What did the man say? v24

37. How did Jesus respond to the man's declaration? v25

38. How is Jesus' response to this profession of who he is different from when Peter proclaimed who Jesus was when asked in Mat 16:16-17?

39. What happened to the man after Jesus spoke? v26

40. What was the response of the people in the synagogue to these events? v27

41. What happened as a result of these events? v28

42. Do you respond to the teachings of Jesus today as they did then? Why or why not?

Healings at Simon's House

29 Now as soon as they left the synagogue, they entered Simon and Andrew's house, with James and John. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was lying down, sick with a fever, so they spoke to Jesus at once about her. 31 He came and raised her up by gently taking her hand. Then the fever left her and she began to serve them. 32 When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered by the door. 34 So he healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. But he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

43. Where did Jesus' group go after they left the synagogue? v29

44. Who was sick and what did the people in the house do about it? v30

45. What did Jesus do and what happened? v31

46. How do we know that Simon's mother-in-law was completely healed? v31

47. What happened that evening? v32

48. What was the size of the crowd that gathered? v33

49. How did Jesus respond? v34

50. Do you bring people to Jesus to be healed? Why or why not?

Praying and Preaching

35 Then Jesus got up early in the morning when it was still very dark, departed, and went out to a deserted place, and there he spent time in prayer. 36 Simon and his companions searched for him. 37 When they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you." 38 He replied, "Let us go elsewhere, into the surrounding villages, so that I can preach there too. For that is what I came out here to do." 39 So he went into all of Galilee preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

51. What was the first thing Jesus did the next day? When and where did He do it?
v35

52. What did Simon and the others do? v36

53. What did they say to Jesus when they found Him? v37

54. What was Jesus' response? v38

55. Jesus gives an important principle regarding His ministry, what is it? v38

56. What did the group do next? v39

57. If preaching was an important aspect of Jesus' ministry, what place should it have
in your's?

Cleansing a Leper

40 Now a leper came to him and fell to his knees, asking for help. "If you are willing, you can make me clean," he said. 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing. Be clean!" 42 The leprosy left him at once, and he was clean. 43 Immediately Jesus sent the man away with a very strong warning. 44 He told him, "See that you do not say anything to anyone, but go, show yourself to a priest, and bring the offering that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." 45 But as the man went out he began to announce it publicly and spread the story widely, so that Jesus was no longer able to enter any town openly but stayed outside in remote places. Still they kept coming to him from everywhere.

58. Who does Jesus meet next? v40

59. What does the leper do when he sees Jesus? v40

60. What was the man's attitude regarding Jesus' ability to heal him? v40

61. How does Jesus respond to him? v41

62. What happened after Jesus said, "Be clean!" and how soon? v42

63. What did Jesus do next? v43-44

64. What did the man do instead? v45

65. What happened as a result of this man's testimony? v45

66. Do you tell people about Jesus the way this man did? Why or why not?

67. Do you live each day expecting Jesus, if He is willing, to do something in the

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world around you? Why or why not?

68. What will you change about how you respond to Jesus as a result of studying this chapter?

Chapter 2

Healing and Forgiving a Paralytic

1 Now after some days, when he returned to Capernaum, the news spread that he was at home. 2 So many gathered that there was no longer any room, not even by the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some people came bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. 4 When they were not able to bring him in because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Jesus. Then, after tearing it out, they lowered the stretcher the paralytic was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the experts in the law were sitting there, turning these things over in their minds: 7 "Why does this man speak this way? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 Now immediately, when Jesus realized in his spirit that they were contemplating such thoughts, he said to them, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up, take your stretcher, and walk?' 10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," – he said to the paralytic – 11 "I tell you, stand up, take your stretcher, and go home." 12 And immediately the man stood up, took his stretcher, and went out in front of them all. They were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

1. Jesus was originally from Nazareth but where does he make his home now? v1

2. What happens when Jesus comes to His home? v2

3. Who was being brought to Jesus and by whom? v3

4. What obstacle did the men carrying the stretcher face and what did they do to overcome it? v4

5. How did Jesus respond to the actions of these men and why? v5

6. Who was it that was critical of Jesus' actions and what did they say? v6

7. How did Jesus respond to these "experts"? v8-9

8. Why did Jesus respond in the way that He did? v10-11

9. What happened when Jesus told the man to get up and go home? v12

10. Where did the man do this? v12

11. What was the response of the people there? v12

12. What are some of the obstacles that keep you from bringing your friends to Christ? What can you do to overcome them?

The Call of Levi; Eating with Sinners

13 Jesus went out again by the sea. The whole crowd came to him, and he taught them. 14 As he went along, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax booth. "Follow me," he said to him. And he got up and followed him. 15 As Jesus was having a meal in Levi's home, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the experts in the law and the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 When Jesus heard this he said to them, "Those who are healthy don't need a physician, but those who are sick do. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

13. Where did Jesus go next, who followed him and what did Jesus do? v13

14. Who did Jesus meet along the way? v14

15. What did Jesus ask Levi to do and how did he respond? v14

16. Where did Jesus go next and who was He socializing with? v15

17. What did the experts in the law and the Pharisees think of Jesus associating with these people and who did they complain to? v16

18. How did Jesus respond to the statements of these "religious" leaders? v17

19. What reason does Jesus give for His coming? v17

20. Who do you know that is separated from Christ, caught up in sin, and is in need of the Great Physician?

21. Thinking back to the friends of the man that was lowered through the roof to be healed by Jesus, what obstacles keep you from bringing your friends to Christ? What do you need to do to overcome them?

The Superiority of the New

18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. So they came to Jesus and said, "Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples don't fast?" 19 Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they do not fast. 20 But the days are coming when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and at that time they will fast. 21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and the tear becomes worse. 22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins will be destroyed. Instead new wine is poured into new wineskins."

22. What act did John's disciples and the Pharisees do that Jesus' disciples not do?
v18

FASTING^{vii}

ppr. Abstaining from food.

n. The act of abstaining from food.

23. What reason does Jesus give for His disciples not fasting? v19

24. When does Jesus say that they will fast? v20

25. Jesus then gives two illustrations about why His disciples act the way they do. What are they and what is the end result of each? v21-22

A. Result:

B. Result:

26. What do these illustrations tell us about the things that Jesus is teaching compared to the things that the experts in the Law and the Pharisees were teaching?

Lord of the Sabbath

23 Jesus was going through the grain fields on a Sabbath, and his disciples began to pick some heads of wheat as they made their way. 24 So the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is against the law on the Sabbath?" 25 He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry – 26 how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the sacred bread, which is against the law for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to his companions?" 27 Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. 28 For this reason the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

27. Where do we meet up with Jesus and His disciples next? v23

28. What did the Pharisees say when they saw this? v24

29. What example does Jesus give supporting why His disciples could do this? v25-26

30. What was the significance of what David and his men did and why did they do it?
v25-26

31. What was to be the purpose of the Sabbath then? (see Gen 2:1-3; Exo 20:8-11;
Deu 5:12-15) v27

32. How should Christians approach the Sabbath, or day of rest, since Jesus is the
Lord of the Sabbath? v28

33. In this chapter, Mark showed Jesus' ability to heal and forgive sins, how the focus
of His ministry was on sinners, how His teaching was new and different compared to
what the experts in the Law and the Pharisees taught, and how He is even the lord of
the Sabbath rest. Jesus is beginning to differentiate His message from what has been
given for the last 400+ years. What is at the root of the message that Jesus is giving
based on what has been presented so far?

Chapter 3

Healing a Withered Hand

1 Then Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. 2 They watched Jesus closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they could accuse him. 3 So he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Stand up among all these people." 4 Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath, or evil, to save a life or destroy it?" But they were silent. 5 After looking around at them in anger, grieved by the hardness of their hearts, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 So the Pharisees went out immediately and began plotting with the Herodians, as to how they could assassinate him.

1. We see one of the habits that Jesus has in his ministry. What is it? v1

2. Who did Jesus encounter upon entering the synagogue? v1

3. What happened when Jesus encountered this man? v2

4. What did "they" want to do by watching Jesus? v2

5. What did Jesus say to the man? v3

6. What question does Jesus ask concerning the Sabbath? v4

7. How does this relate to what Jesus has already taught concerning the Sabbath?
Mar 2:25-26

8. What was the reaction of the people when Jesus asked the question concerning the Sabbath? v4

9. What did Jesus do next and why? v5

10. What does Jesus say to the man? v5

11. What happened when the man did as Jesus said? v5

12. This marks a turning point in Jesus' ministry, what did the Pharisees do after this? v6

Herodians^{viii}

A Jewish political party who sympathized with (Mar 3:6; 13; Mat 22:16; Luk 20:20) the Herodian rulers in their general policy of government, and in the social customs which they introduced from Rome. They were at one with the Sadducees in holding the duty of submission to Rome, and of supporting the Herods on the throne. (Compare 15; Mat 16:6.)

Crowds by the Sea

7 Then Jesus went away with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him. And from Judea, 8 Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan River, and around Tyre and Sidon a great multitude came to him when they heard about the things he had done. 9 Because of the crowd, he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him so the crowd would not press toward him. 10 For he had healed many, so that all who were afflicted with diseases pressed toward him in order to touch him. 11 And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." 12 But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

13. Where did Jesus and His disciples go next? v7

14. Who followed him there? v7

15. Where else are the people from that are following Jesus? v7-8

16. Why were they following Jesus? v8

17. How did Jesus instruct His disciples to be prepared and why? v9

18. Why did the crowds press toward Jesus? v10

19. What did the people with unclean spirits do when they saw Jesus? v11

20. What did Jesus instruct the spirits to do when that happened? v12

21. What principle for ministry can we learn from Jesus in this passage?

Appointing the Twelve Apostles

13 Now Jesus went up the mountain and called for those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve (whom he named apostles), so that they would be with him

and he could send them to preach 15 and to have authority to cast out demons. 16 He appointed twelve: To Simon he gave the name Peter; 17 to James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee, he gave the name Boanerges (that is, "sons of thunder"); 18 and Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

22. After the healing ministry that took place by the sea, where did Jesus go next?
v13

23. What did Jesus do there? v14

24. What was the title that was given to the twelve? v14

25. What was Jesus calling them out to do? v14-15

26. Who were the twelve that were appointed and what unique characteristics can be learned about some of them in this section? v16-19

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12

Apostle^{ix}

Apostle. (*one sent forth*). In the New Testament, originally the official name of those twelve of the disciples whom **Jesus** chose to send forth first to preach the gospel and to be with him during the course of his ministry on earth. The word also appears to have been used in a non-official sense to designate a much wider circle of Christian messengers and teachers. See 2Co 8:23; Php 2:25. It is only of those who were officially designated apostles that we treat in the article. Their names are given in Mat 10:2-4, and **Christ's**

charge to them in the rest of the chapter.

- (1) The original qualification of an apostle, as stated by St. Peter on the occasion of electing a successor to the traitor Judas, was that he should have been personally acquainted with the whole ministerial course of our Lord from his baptism by John till the day when he was taken up into heaven.
- (2) They were chosen by Christ himself.
- (3) They had the power of working miracles.
- (4) They were inspired. Joh 16:13.
- (5) Their world seems to have been preeminently that of founding the churches and upholding them by supernatural power specially bestowed for that purpose.
- (6) The office ceased, a matter of course, with its first holders-all continuation of it, from the very condition of its existence (Compare 1Co 9:1), being impossible.

Death of the Twelve Apostles*

Here is a synopsis of the life of the twelve apostles as a result of their life following Jesus.

Simon surnamed Peter: died 33-34 years after the death of Christ. According to Smith's Bible Dictionary there is "satisfactory evidence that he and Paul were the founders of the church at Rome, and died in that city. The time and manner of the apostle's martyrdom are less certain. According to the early writers, he died at or about the same time with Paul, and in the Neronian persecution, A.D. 67-68. All agree that he was crucified. Origen says that Peter felt himself to be unworthy to be put to death in the same manner as his Master, and was therefore, at his own request, crucified with his head downward."

James the son of Zebedee: He was put to death by Herod Agrippa I shortly before the day of the Passover, in the year 44 or about 11 years after the death of Christ. From Act 12:1-2. (Fox's Book of Martyrs reports that he was beheaded.)

John the son of Zebedee: No death date given by early writers. Death date is by conjecture only and is variously assigned as being between 89 AD to 120 AD.

Andrew: No accurate death date given. A variety of traditions say he preached in Scythia, in Greece, in Asia Minor and Thrace. He is reported to have been crucified at Patrae in Achaia.

Philip: Again, the Bible does not say when he died nor do we have accurate information. According to tradition he preached in Phrygia, and died at Hierapolis. (Fox's Book of Martyrs reports that he was crucified.)

Bartholomew: There is no information concerning his death, not even by tradition. (Fox's Book of Martyrs reports that he was beaten and crucified.)

Matthew: He must have lived many years as an apostle, since he was the author of the Gospel of Matthew which was written at least twenty years after the death of Christ. There is reason to believe that he stayed for fifteen years at Jerusalem, after which he went as missionary to the Persians, Parthians and Medes. There is a legend that he died a martyr in Ethiopia. (Fox's Book of Martyrs reports that he was speared to death.)

Thomas: The earlier traditions, as believed in the fourth century, say he preached in Parthia or Persia, and was finally buried at Edessa. The later traditions carry him farther east. His martyrdom whether in Persia or India, is said to have been by a lance, and is commemorated by the Latin Church on December 21 the Greek Church on October 6, and by the Indians on July 1.

James Alpheus: We know he lived at least five years after the death of Christ because of mentions in the Bible. According to tradition, James son of Alpheus was thrown down from the temple by the scribes and Pharisees; he was then stoned, and his brains dashed out with a fuller's club.

Simon the Canaanite: No information either in the Bible or by tradition.

Jude (Thaddeus): according to tradition Jude taught in Armenia, Syria and Persia where he was martyred. Tradition tells us he was buried in Kara Kalisa in what is now Iran. (Fox's Book of Martyrs reports that he was stoned to death.)

Judas Iscariot: Shortly after the death of Christ, Judas killed himself. According to the Bible he hanged himself, (Mat 27:5) at Aceldama, on the southern slope of the valley of Hinnom, near Jerusalem, and in the act he fell down a precipice and was dashed into pieces.

Jesus and Beelzebul

20 Now Jesus went home, and a crowd gathered so that they were not able to eat. 21 When his family heard this they went out to restrain him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." 22 The experts in the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "By the ruler of demons he casts out demons." 23 So he called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom will not be able to stand. 25 If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan rises against himself and is divided, he is not able to stand and his end has come. 27 But no one is able to enter a strong man's house and steal his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can thoroughly plunder his house. 28 I tell you the truth, people will be forgiven for all sins, even all the blasphemies they utter. 29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, but is guilty of an eternal sin" 30 (because they said, "He has an unclean spirit").

27. What happened when Jesus came home? v20

28. How did Jesus' family react when they heard about this? v21

29. What did they think about Jesus? v21

30. What did some of the experts in the law think about Jesus? v22

31. How did Jesus respond to the critique of His family and the experts in the law?
v23-26

32. What principle do we learn from Jesus regarding demon possession? v27

33. What sins will be forgiven and what one will not? v28-29

34. Why did Jesus teach these things at this time? v30

Jesus' True Family

31 Then Jesus' mother and his brothers came. Standing outside, they sent word to him, to summon him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him and they said to him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are outside looking for you." 33 He answered them and said, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking at those who were sitting around him in a circle, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

35. Who came to see Jesus next? v31

36. What did the crowd say to Jesus when this happened? v32

37. Who does Jesus say are His mother and brothers and sisters? v33-35

38. What do the following verses teach us about the will of God?

Mat 10:28-31

Joh 7:17

Rom 12:1-2

2Co 8:1-5

1Th 4:3

1Th 5:12-22

Heb 10:35-36

1Jn 2:15-17

Chapter 4

The Parable of the Sower

1 Again he began to teach by the lake. Such a large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there while the whole crowd was on the shore by the lake. 2 He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching said to them: 3 "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground where it did not have much soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. 6 When the sun came up it was scorched, and because it did not have sufficient root, it withered. 7 Other seed fell among the thorns, and they grew up and choked it, and it did not produce grain. 8 But other seed fell on good soil and produced grain, sprouting and growing; some yielded thirty times as much, some sixty, and some a hundred times." 9 And he said, "Whoever has ears to hear had better listen!"

1. Where was Jesus teaching? v1

2. What did he have to do since the crowd was so large? v2

3. What technique did Jesus use to teach the crowds? v3

4. In this parable, who is the main character? v4

5. What are the types of soils that the sower sows on and what is the result of the seed being sown?

Type of Soil	Result
v4	
v5-6	

Type of Soil	Result
v7	
v8	

6. What is the warning that Jesus gives at the end of the parable? v9

The Purpose of Parables

10 When he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 He said to them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those outside, everything is in parables, 12 so that

***although they look they may look but not see,
and although they hear they may hear but not understand,
so they may not repent and be forgiven.***

13 He said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? Then how will you understand any parable? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: Whenever they hear, immediately Satan comes and snatches the word that was sown in them. 16 These are the ones sown on rocky ground: As soon as they hear the word, they receive it with joy. 17 But they have no root in themselves and do not endure. Then, when trouble or persecution comes because of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 Others are the ones sown among thorns: They are those who hear the word, 19 but worldly cares, the seductiveness of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it produces nothing. 20 But these are the ones sown on good soil: They hear the word and receive it and bear fruit, one thirty times as much, one sixty, and one a hundred."

7. Who was it that asked Jesus about the parables? v10

8. What is Jesus' response to the question? v11

9. Jesus quotes Isa 6:9-10 to give the purpose for teaching in parables. What is it? v12

10. What does Jesus then say about not understanding this parable? v13

11. What does the sower sow? v14

12. What happens to the seed sown on the path? v15

13. What happens to the seed sown on the rocky ground? v16-17

14. What happens to the seed sown on thorny ground? v18-19

15. What happens to the seed sown on good ground? v20

The Parable of the Lamp

21 He also said to them, "A lamp isn't brought to be put under a basket or under a bed, is it? Isn't it to be placed on a lampstand? 22 For nothing is hidden except to be revealed, and nothing concealed except to be brought to light. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, he had better listen!" 24 And he said to them, "Take care about what you hear. The measure you use will be the measure you receive, and more will be added to you. 25 For whoever has will be given more, but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

16. What is the main object of this parable? v21

17. What do you think it represents?

18. What do the following verses have to say about things supposedly hidden or in darkness? v22

Luk 12:3

Mat 5:15-16

Mat 6:22-23

19. What is the warning that Jesus gives then? v23

20. What is the warning that Jesus then gives about the things that you do hear? v24-25

The Parable of the Growing Seed

26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is like someone who spreads seed on the ground. 27 He goes to sleep and gets up, night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 By itself the soil produces a crop, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 And when the grain is ripe, he sends in the sickle because the harvest has come."

21. Again Jesus uses an agricultural setting for this parable. What is the event that is taking place? v26

22. What does the sower do after sowing the seed? v27

23. Does the sower know how the growth process works? v27

24. What is the growth process that is described in the text? v28

25. What happens when the grain is ripe? v29

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

30 He also asked, "To what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to present it? 31 It is like a mustard seed that when sown in the ground, even though it is the smallest of all the seeds in the ground – 32 when it is sown, it grows up, becomes the greatest of all garden plants, and grows large branches so that the wild birds can nest in its shade."

26. What is to be this parable? v30

27. What is it compared to? v31

28. What are the characteristics of the seed and what does it turn into? v31-32

29. How does this describe the kingdom of God?

The Use of Parables

33 So with many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear. 34 He did not speak to them without a parable. But privately he explained everything to his own disciples.

30. What do these verses teach us about Jesus' use of parables? v33-34

Stilling of a Storm

35 On that day, when evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go across to the other side of the lake." 36 So after leaving the crowd, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat, and other boats were with him. 37 Now a great windstorm developed and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was nearly swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. They woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?" 39 So he got up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Be quiet! Calm down!" Then the wind stopped, and it was dead calm. 40 And he said to them, "Why are you cowardly? Do you still not have faith?" 41 They were overwhelmed by fear and said to one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and sea obey him!"

31. What was the destination for the disciples and Jesus? v35

32. When did they embark on this journey, who all went, and what was their means of transportation? v36

33. What happened while they were on this journey? v37

34. What was Jesus doing while this was happening? v38

35. What did the disciples say to Jesus? v38

36. What did Jesus say and do after that? v39

37. What does Jesus say to his disciples after he calms the sea? v40

38. Why did the disciples react the way they did and what did they say about Jesus?
v41

Chapter 5

Healing of a Demoniac

1 So they came to the other side of the lake, to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 Just as Jesus was getting out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came from the tombs and met him. 3 He lived among the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 4 For his hands and feet had often been bound with chains and shackles, but he had torn the chains apart and broken the shackles in pieces. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Each night and every day among the tombs and in the mountains, he would cry out and cut himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him. 7 Then he cried out with a loud voice, "Leave me alone, Jesus, Son of the Most High God! I implore you by God – do not torment me!" 8 (For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of that man, you unclean spirit!") 9 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "My name is Legion, for we are many." 10 He begged Jesus repeatedly not to send them out of the region. 11 There on the hillside, a great herd of pigs was feeding. 12 And the demonic spirits begged him, "Send us into the pigs. Let us enter them." 13 Jesus gave them permission. So the unclean spirits came out and went into the pigs. Then the herd rushed down the steep slope into the lake, and about two thousand were drowned in the lake.

1. Using the map at the right, locate the areas that would be called the Gerasenes and Decapolis. It will be the area surrounding the city of Gerasa.

2. Who met Jesus when they reached the region? v2

3. Where did he come from? v2

4. Where did he live? v3

5. How was he treated by the people of the surrounding region? v3-4

6. What was the man's daily experience like? v5

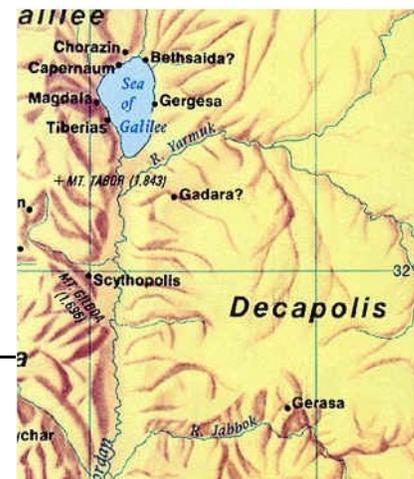


Illustration A:
http://www.gforceministry.com/map_of_israel.htm

7. What did he do when he saw Jesus? v6

8. What did he say to Jesus when he saw him? v7

9. Why did the man say that? v8

10. What did Jesus ask the man and how did he respond? v9

11. What did he further ask Jesus not to do? v10

12. What was close by, on the hillside? v11

13. What did the man then ask Jesus to do? v12

14. What did Jesus do then? v13

15. What did the unclean spirits do? v13

16. What happened to the pigs? v13

17. What does this tell us about the spirit world in relation to Jesus?

14 Now the herdsmen ran off and spread the news in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man sitting there, clothed and in his right mind — the one who had the "Legion" — and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen what had happened to the demon-possessed man reported it, and they also told about the pigs. 17 Then they asked Jesus to leave their region. 18 As he was getting into the boat the man who had been demon-possessed asked if he could go with him. 19 But Jesus did not permit him to do so. Instead, he said to him, "Go to your home and to your people and tell them what the Lord has done for you, that he had mercy on you." 20 So he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him, and all were amazed.

18. What was the reaction of the pigs herdsman? v14

19. How did the people who heard the news respond? v14

20. What did the people see when they came to Jesus? v15

21. What happened next? v16

22. How did the people of the region respond? v17

23. Why do you think they responded that way?

24. What happened as Jesus was preparing to leave? v18

25. Did Jesus let the man go with him? v19

26. What did Jesus tell him to do instead? v19

27. What did the man do and how did people respond? v20

28. Do people still respond that way today? Why or Why not?

Restoration and Healing

21 When Jesus had crossed again in a boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he was by the sea. 22 Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came up, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He asked him urgently, "My little daughter is near death. Come and lay your hands on her so that she may be healed and live." 24 Jesus went with him, and a large crowd followed and pressed around him.

29. What happened when Jesus returned to the other side of the lake? v21

30. Who met Jesus and how did he act when he came to Jesus? v22

31. What did Jairus ask Jesus to do and why? v23

32. What is the description of how Jairus asked Jesus? v23

33. Do you ask Jesus for things like that? Why or why not?

34. How did Jesus respond? v24

35. What did the crowd do? v24

25 Now a woman was there who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years. 26 She had endured a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 for she kept saying, "If only I touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 At once the bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30 Jesus knew at once that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" 31 His disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing against you and you say, 'Who touched me?' " 32 But he looked around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Chapter 5

36. Who was in the crowd while Jesus was going to Jairus' house? v25

37. What was her condition? v25

38. What was her life like before coming to Jesus? v26

39. What did she do? v27

40. What does the scripture say was the reason that she did this? v28

41. What happened when she did this? v29

42. What did she feel when this happened? v29

43. How did Jesus respond and why? v30

44. What was the reaction of the disciples? v31

45. What did Jesus do then? v32

46. What was the woman's reaction and what did she do? v33

47. What did Jesus say had healed her? v34

48. What does Jesus tell her to do next? v34

49. How might this story help someone who has been sick for a long time?

50. This is a story of physical sickness. How might it apply to spiritual sickness?

35 While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue ruler's house saying, "Your daughter has died. Why trouble the teacher any longer?" 36 But Jesus, paying no attention to what was said, told the synagogue ruler, "Do not be afraid; just believe." 37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. 38 They came to the house of the synagogue ruler where he saw noisy confusion and people weeping and wailing loudly. 39 When he entered he said to them, "Why are you distressed and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." 40 And they began making fun of him. But he put them all outside and he took the child's father and mother and his own companions and went into the room where the child was. 41 Then, gently taking the child by the hand, he said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up." 42 The girl got up at once and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). They were completely astonished at this. 43 He strictly ordered that no one should know about this, and told

them to give her something to eat.

51. What happened next? v35

52. How did Jesus respond and what did he say to Jairus? v36

53. Who was allowed to go with Jesus? v37

54. What did Jesus see when he came to the house of Jairus? v38

Wailing (αλαλάζοντας) A descriptive word of the hired mourners crying *al-a-lai!*^{xi}

This group probably includes outside or even professional mourners, not just family, because a large group seems to be present.^{xii}

This practice seems to come from Jer 9:17-20.

55. What did Jesus say to the people who were mourning the child? v39

56. What did the people do in response? v40

57. What did Jesus do next? v40

58. What did Jesus do upon entering the child's room? v41

59. How did the girl respond? v42

60. What else do we learn about the girl at this time? v42

61. What orders does Jesus give next? v43

62. How does would this story help someone who is terminally ill?

63. From the miracle at the end of chapter 4 and the miracles of chapter 5, we see the Lord show his authority over what four areas of life and what confidence should we gain from it?

Calming the Storm:

Healing the Demoniac:

Healing the woman with an issue of blood:

Raising the daughter from the dead:

Chapter 6

Rejection at Nazareth

1 Now Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did he get these ideas? And what is this wisdom that has been given to him? What are these miracles that are done through his hands? 3 Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?" And so they took offense at him. 4 Then Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, and among his relatives, and in his own house." 5 He was not able to do a miracle there, except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was amazed because of their unbelief. Then he went around among the villages and taught.

1. Where is Jesus' hometown? Use the map from the previous section to find it. v1 (cf Mar 2:1)

2. Who when with him there? v1

3. What did he do on the Sabbath? v2

4. What was the reaction of many in the crowd? v2

5. Why did they react that way? v3

6. How did others react to him because of that? v3

7. How did Jesus respond to this? v4

8. Jesus names three groups. What are some characteristics of these groups? v4

9. How was Jesus' ministry effected as a result? v5

10. What was Jesus' reaction to this? v6

11. What did Jesus next? v6

Sending Out the Twelve Apostles

7 Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two. He gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no bag, no money in their belts – 9 and to put on sandals but not to wear two tunics. 10 He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the area. 11 If a place will not welcome you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." 12 So they went out and preached that all should repent. 13 They cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

12. What did Jesus do with the twelve? v7

13. What type of ministry did he give them authority to do? v7

14. What instructions did he give regarding their journey? v8-9

15. Where were the disciples to stay during their journey? v10

16. What were the disciples to do if they weren't received by the places they were going to visit? v11

17. What did the disciples preach? v12

18. What did the disciples do? v13

19. Is this a good example of ministry for today? Why or why not?

The Death of John the Baptist

14 Now King Herod heard this, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and because of this, miraculous powers are at work in him." 15 Others said, "He is Elijah." Others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets from the past." 16 But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised!" 17 For Herod himself had sent men, arrested John, and bound him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. 18 For John had repeatedly told Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not 20 because Herod stood in awe of John and protected him, since he knew that John was a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard him, he was thoroughly baffled, and yet he liked to listen to John.

20. Who became aware of the disciples going out? v14

21. What was the “scuttlebutt” around the palace regarding this? v14-15

22. How did Herod react? v16

23. What had Herod done for him to respond this way? v17

24. Who influenced Herod to do this? v17

25. What did John say to Herod to provoke him? v18

26. What did Herodias try to do? v19

27. Did it work? Why or why not? v19-20

28. Why did Herod respond to John the Baptist the way he did? v20

21 But a suitable day came, when Herod gave a banquet on his birthday for his court officials, military commanders, and leaders of Galilee. 22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you." 23 He swore to her, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." 24 So she went out and said to her mother, "What

Chapter 6

should I ask for?" Her mother said, "The head of John the baptizer." 25 Immediately she hurried back to the king and made her request: "I want the head of John the Baptist on a platter immediately." 26 Although it grieved the king deeply, he did not want to reject her request because of his oath and his guests. 27 So the king sent an executioner at once to bring John's head, and he went and beheaded John in prison. 28 He brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When John's disciples heard this, they came and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

29. What is the setting of this flashback? v21

30. Who was the entertainment for this reception? v22

31. How did the king and his guests respond to her "entertainment"? v22-23

32. How did she respond? v24

33. What did her mother say she should ask for? v24

34. How soon did the girl return to the king with the request? v25

35. How did the king respond to the request and why? v26

36. What did the king do? v27

37. What were the chain of events that then followed? v28

38. What did John's disciples do? v29

39. What can we learn from this episode?

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

30 Then the apostles gathered around Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, "Come with me privately to an isolated place and rest a while" (for many were coming and going, and there was no time to eat). 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to some remote place. 33 But many saw them leaving and recognized them, and they hurried on foot from all the towns and arrived there ahead of them. 34 As Jesus came ashore he saw the large crowd and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he taught them many things.

40. What did the disciples of Jesus do when they returned from their journey? v30

41. What did Jesus tell them to do next and why? v31

42. Where did they go and how did they get there? v32

43. Were they able to get away unseen? Why or why not? v33

44. What was Jesus' reaction to the crowd? v34

45. Why does it say that he responded this way? v34

46. What did he do? v34

35 When it was already late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is an isolated place and it is already very late. 36 Send them away so that they can go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." 37 But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "Should we go and buy bread for two hundred silver coins and give it to them to eat?" 38 He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five – and two fish." 39 Then he directed them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they reclined in groups of hundreds and fifties. 41 He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. He gave them to his disciples to serve the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. 42 They all ate and were satisfied, 43 and they picked up the broken pieces and fish that were left over, twelve baskets full. 44 Now there were five thousand men who ate the bread.

47. How long did this go on? What time of day did it last until? v35

48. What was the concern of the disciples? v35-36

47. Where did the disciples want Jesus to send the people? v36

48. How did Jesus respond? v37

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49. How did the disciples reply? v37

50. Jesus then gives them a plan of action. What does he tell them to do? v38

51. How much did they find? v38

52. What was Jesus' next step in the plan? v39

53. How did the disciples carryout that part of the plan? v40

54. What did Jesus do next in his plan? v41

55. How many people ate and to what extent? v42

56. What did the disciples do with the leftovers? v43

57. How much did they gather? v43

58. How many men does it say ate? v44

59. What lessons can we learn from this episode?

Walking on Water

45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dispersed the crowd. 46 After saying good-bye to them, he went to the mountain to pray. 47 When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea and he was alone on the land. 48 He saw them straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. As the night was ending, he came to them walking on the sea, for he wanted to pass by them. 49 When they saw him walking on the water they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, 50 for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them: "Have courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." 51 Then he went up with them into the boat, and the wind ceased. They were completely astonished, 52 because they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

60. What did Jesus do next and when? v45

61. Where were they to go? v45

62. What did Jesus do in the meantime? v45

63. What did Jesus do next and where? v46

64. How long did he stay there and where were the disciples on the sea at that point? v47

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65. What kind of progress were the disciples making and why? v48

66. What did Jesus do and what time of day was it? v48

67. How did the disciples react upon seeing Jesus? v49-50

68. What did Jesus say to them and when? v50

69. What did Jesus do next? v51

70. How did the disciples respond? v51

71. Why did the disciples respond this way? v52

72. What do you think the meaning of the loaves was?

Healing the Sick

53 After they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and anchored there.

Chapter 6

54 As they got out of the boat, people immediately recognized Jesus. 55 They ran through that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever he was rumored to be. 56 And wherever he would go – into villages, towns, or countryside – they would place the sick in the marketplaces, and would ask him if they could just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

73. Where did the boat land next? v53

74. What happened as they got out of the boat and when? v54

75. What was the reaction of the citizens of the region to Jesus' arrival? v55

76. What happened as Jesus traveled throughout the region? v56

77. Do we still get this excited about bringing people to Jesus? Why or why not?

Chapter 7

Breaking Human Traditions

1 Now the Pharisees and some of the experts in the law who came from Jerusalem gathered around him. 2 And they saw that some of Jesus' disciples ate their bread with unclean hands, that is, unwashed. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they perform a ritual washing, holding fast to the tradition of the elders. 4 And when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. They hold fast to many other traditions: the washing of cups, pots, kettles, and dining couches.) 5 The Pharisees and the experts in the law asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with unwashed hands?" 6 He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written:

***'This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.***

***7 They worship me in vain,
teaching as doctrine the commandments of men.'***

8 Having no regard for the command of God, you hold fast to human tradition." 9 He also said to them, "You neatly reject the commandment of God in order to set up your tradition. 10 For Moses said, '***Honor your father and your mother,***' and, '***Whoever insults his father or mother must be put to death.***' 11 But you say that if anyone tells his father or mother, 'Whatever help you would have received from me is *corban*' (that is, a gift for God), 12 then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother. 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like this."

1. Who came to meet with Jesus and from where? v1

2. What did they witness? v2

3. What is the "tradition of the elders" that the Jews hold onto? v3

4. What other traditions do they hold onto? v4

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5. What question do they ask Jesus? v5

6. Which prophet does Jesus quote? v6-7

7. What is the message of the prophet? v6-7 (Isa 29:13)

8. Here is a more contemporary translation:

6 Jesus replied: You are nothing but show-offs! The prophet Isaiah was right when he wrote that God had said, "All of you praise me with your words, but you never really think about me. 7 It is useless for you to worship me, when you teach rules made up by humans." (CEV)

What do you think Jesus was trying to get across to the leaders?

9. What did the leaders hold in more regard? v8

10. What should they have been holding in more regard? v8

11. What were some of the commandments of God that they had rejected in order to setup their traditions? v9-10

12. What was the tradition that they setup for themselves? v11-12

13. What was the effect of these traditions? v13

14. Was this the only instance of the leaders setting traditions that “overruled” God's law? v13

14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand. 15 There is nothing outside of a person that can defile him by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles him." 16 (*TEXT OMITTED* - If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear! NKJV)

15. Who did Jesus address next? v14

16. What did he ask them to do? v14

17. What is the message that Jesus then gives? v15

18. How does this relate back to the original question? v5 & 15

19. What is the overall understanding that we should have as it relates to the Bible and its application to life?

17 Now when Jesus had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 He said to them, "Are you so foolish? Don't you understand that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him? 19 For it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and then goes out into the sewer." (This means all foods are clean.) 20 He said, "What comes out of a person defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the human heart, come evil ideas, sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, evil, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, and folly. 23 All these evils come from within and defile a person."

20. What happened next? v17

21. How did Jesus respond? v18-19

22. Why do you think that Jesus is so frustrated?

23. What is Jesus then teaching concerning food? v19

24. What is it that defiles a person? v20-22

25. What is the source of these things? v23

Let's look at another passage that talks about clean and unclean foods.

Rom 14

Exhortation to Mutual Forbearance

1 Now receive the one who is weak in the faith, and do not have disputes over differing opinions. 2 One person believes in eating everything, but the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 The one who eats everything must not despise the one who does not, and the one who abstains must not judge the one who eats everything, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on another's servant? Before his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person regards one day holier than other days, and another regards them all alike. Each must be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes the day does it for the Lord. The one who eats, eats for the Lord because he gives thanks to God, and the one who abstains from eating abstains for the Lord, and he gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for himself and none dies for himself. 8 If we live, we live for the Lord; if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For this reason Christ died and returned to life, so that he may be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 But you who eat vegetables only – why do you judge your brother or sister? And you who eat everything – why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God." 12 Therefore, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Exhortation for the Strong not to Destroy the Weak

13 Therefore we must not pass judgment on one another, but rather determine never to place an obstacle or a trap before a brother or sister. 14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean in itself; still, it is unclean to the one who considers it unclean. 15 For if your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy by your food someone for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore do not let what you consider good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God does not consist of food and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For the one who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by people.

19 So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. For although all things are clean, it is wrong to cause anyone to stumble by what you eat. 21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything that causes your brother to stumble. 22 The faith you have, keep to yourself before God. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself by what he approves. 23 But the man who doubts is condemned if he

eats, because he does not do so from faith, and whatever is not from faith is sin.

26. What is the principle that Paul teaches regarding eating food?

27. How would this apply to other things?

28. Does this affirm what Jesus taught? Why or why not?

A Syrophenician Woman's Faith

24 After Jesus left there, he went to the region of Tyre. When he went into a house, he did not want anyone to know, but he was not able to escape notice. 25 Instead, a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him and came and fell at his feet. 26 The woman was a Greek, of Syrophenician origin. She asked him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to her, "Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and to throw it to the dogs." 28 She answered, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he said to her, "Because you said this, you may go. The demon has left your daughter." 30 She went home and found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

29. Where does Jesus go next? v24

30. What was Jesus trying to do and what happened? v24

31. Who heard about Jesus and what did they do when they found Jesus? v25

32. What did she keep asking Jesus to do? v26

33. What does Jesus say to her? v27

34. How does the person respond? v28

35. What does Jesus say next? v29

36. What happens when the person return home? v30

37. How does this situation correlate to what happened in the section before this?

Let's look at another instance where something like this happened.

Act 10

Peter Visits Cornelius

1 Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort. 2 He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was all his household; he did many acts of charity for the people and prayed to God regularly. 3 About three o'clock one afternoon he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God who

came in and said to him, "Cornelius." 4 Staring at him and becoming greatly afraid, Cornelius replied, "What is it, Lord?" The angel said to him, "Your prayers and your acts of charity have gone up as a memorial before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa and summon a man named Simon, who is called Peter. 6 This man is staying as a guest with a man named Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." 7 When the angel who had spoken to him departed, Cornelius called two of his personal servants and a devout soldier from among those who served him, 8 and when he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

9 About noon the next day, while they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted to eat, but while they were preparing the meal, a trance came over him. 11 He saw heaven opened and an object something like a large sheet descending, being let down to earth by its four corners. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth and wild birds. 13 Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; slaughter and eat!" 14 But Peter said, "Certainly not, Lord, for I have never eaten anything defiled and ritually unclean!" 15 The voice spoke to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not consider ritually unclean!" 16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into heaven.

17 Now while Peter was puzzling over what the vision he had seen could signify, the men sent by Cornelius had learned where Simon's house was and approached the gate. 18 They called out to ask if Simon, known as Peter, was staying there as a guest. 19 While Peter was still thinking seriously about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look! Three men are looking for you. 20 But get up, go down, and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them." 21 So Peter went down to the men and said, "Here I am, the person you're looking for. Why have you come?" 22 They said, "Cornelius the centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man, well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to summon you to his house and to hear a message from you." 23 So Peter invited them in and entertained them as guests.

On the next day he got up and set out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. 24 The following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting anxiously for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 So when Peter came in, Cornelius met him, fell at his feet, and worshiped him. 26 But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up. I too am a mere mortal." 27 Peter continued talking with him as he went in, and he found many people gathered together. 28 He said to them, "You know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile, yet God has shown me that I should call no person defiled or ritually unclean. 29 Therefore when you sent for me, I came without any objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?" 30 Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock in the afternoon, I was praying in my house, and suddenly a man in shining clothing stood before me 31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your acts of charity have been remembered before God. 32 Therefore send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter. This man is staying as a guest in the house of Simon the tanner, by the

sea.' 33 Therefore I sent for you at once, and you were kind enough to come. So now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to say to us."

34 Then Peter started speaking: "I now truly understand that God does not show favoritism in dealing with people, 35 but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is welcomed before him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all) – 37 you know what happened throughout Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 with respect to Jesus from Nazareth, that God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him. 39 We are witnesses of all the things he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him up on the third day and caused him to be seen, 41 not by all the people, but by us, the witnesses God had already chosen, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to warn them that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 About him all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were greatly astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 "No one can withhold the water for these people to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" 48 So he gave orders to have them baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for several days.

38. What does this passage teach us about food?

39. Does it contradict or support Jesus' teaching about food? Why or why not?

40. What does this passage teach us about who can receive the gospel?

41. How should this effect our evangelism then?

Healing a Deaf Mute

31 Then Jesus went out again from the region of Tyre and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee in the region of the Decapolis. 32 They brought to him a deaf man who had difficulty speaking, and they asked him to place his hands on him. 33 After Jesus took him aside privately, away from the crowd, he put his fingers in the man's ears, and after spitting, he touched his tongue. 34 Then he looked up to heaven and said with a sigh, "Ephphatha" (that is, "Be opened"). 35 And immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue loosened, and he spoke plainly. 36 Jesus ordered them not to tell anything. But as much as he ordered them not to do this, they proclaimed it all the more. 37 People were completely astounded and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

42. Where does Jesus travel to next? v31

43. Who was brought to Jesus and what did the people who brought him want Jesus to do? v32

44. What does Jesus do next? v33-34

45. What happens after this? v35

46. What does Jesus command the people to do or not do? v36

47. Did it do any good? Why or why not? v36

48. Why did the people not do what Jesus commanded? v37

49. How often do you tell others about the things Jesus has done in your life or in the life of others around you? Why or why not?

Chapter 8

The Feeding of the Four Thousand

1 In those days there was another large crowd with nothing to eat. So Jesus called his disciples and said to them, 2 "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have already been here with me three days, and they have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them home hungry, they will faint on the way, and some of them have come from a great distance." 4 His disciples answered him, "Where can someone get enough bread in this desolate place to satisfy these people?" 5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They replied, "Seven." 6 Then he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. After he took the seven loaves and gave thanks, he broke them and began giving them to the disciples to serve. So they served the crowd. 7 They also had a few small fish. After giving thanks for these, he told them to serve these as well. 8 Everyone ate and was satisfied, and they picked up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. 9 There were about four thousand who ate. Then he dismissed them. 10 Immediately he got into a boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

1. What is the setting of this event? v1

2. What did Jesus do? v1

3. Why does Jesus give for doing what he is about to tell his disciples to do? v2-3

4. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' observation? v4

5. What does Jesus then ask the disciples and what was there answer? v5

6. What does Jesus do next? v6

7. What else was available for Jesus with which to feed the crowd? v7

8. What was the result of Jesus' feeding the crowd? v8

9. How many baskets of "left-overs" were collected after the meal? v8

10. How many people were in the crowd that ate the meal? v9

11. What did Jesus do after the meal was over? v9

12. What did Jesus and the disciples do next? v10

The Demand for a Sign

11 Then the Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, asking for a sign from heaven to test him. 12 Sighing deeply in his spirit he said, "Why does this generation look for a sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to this generation." 13 Then he left them, got back into the boat, and went to the other side.

13. What happened while they were there? v11

14. How did Jesus respond the argument? v12

15. What did Jesus do after that? v13

The Yeast of the Pharisees and Herod

14 Now they had forgotten to take bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. 15 And Jesus ordered them, "Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod!" 16 So they began to discuss with one another about having no bread. 17 When he learned of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you arguing about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Have your hearts been hardened? 18 Though you have eyes, don't you see? And though you have ears, can't you hear? Don't you remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?" They replied, "Twelve." 20 "When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?" They replied, "Seven." 21 Then he said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

16. What did the disciples forget to bring with them? v14

17. What did they have with them? v14

18. What did Jesus warn the disciples about? v15

19. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' statement? v16

20. What did Jesus say when he learned of that? v17

21. Jesus continues his reprimand in v18. What does he say?

22. Jesus then begins to explain the recent events to the disciples. How does he do that? v19-20

23. What was Jesus' final statement to them concerning this? v21

So that we understand fully the impact of these two events, let's compare them by filling in this table.

	Mar 6:30-44	Mar 8:1-10
State of multitude?		
How many?		
Food available?		
Seating arrangement?		
Leftovers?		

Here are some quotes from various commentaries to help us fully comprehend the impact of these events?

Believer's Bible Commentary^{xiii}

The disciples completely missed the point. All they could think of was food. So He directed nine rapid questions to them. The first five reproved them for their obtuseness. The last four rebuked them for worrying about the supply of their needs as long as He was with them. Had He not fed **five thousand** with **five** loaves, leaving **twelve baskets** over? Yes! Had He not fed **four thousand** with **seven** loaves, leaving **seven** hampersful over? Yes, He had. Then why did they not understand that He was abundantly able to supply the needs of a handful of disciples in a boat? Didn't they realize that the Creator and Sustainer of the universe was in the boat with them?

Preacher's Commentary^{xiv}

How many times have you found yourself physically present with another person, but worlds apart in thought? The situation is ripe for misunderstanding. Just the cue of a single word can set you and your companion running down opposite tracks. This is what happened with Jesus and the disciples.

. . . .

Put yourself in the place of the poor disciples who have completely forgotten to bring bread in the rush to the boat. To them, "leaven" can mean only one thing: their failure to bring bread. Guilt is like a genie in a bottle; one magic word calls it out and creates a monster. A lie detector test works on the same principle. Into a list of neutral words, a psychologist inserts cue words that relate to the crime under investigation. Unless the person is a psychopath with no conscience at all, guilt will show in the emotional reactions to the loaded words. Because we are all guilty of preoccupation with physical necessity rather than spiritual truth, we should understand rather than condemn the disciples' reaction to the cue word "leaven."

. . . .

Jesus' warning to His disciples "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod" (Mar 8:15) is one that has timeless relevance. The history of our twentieth century is being written by the coalitions of religious rigidity and secular expediency at home as well as abroad. "Open your eyes and use your mind," Jesus says to His disciples. He gives the same charge to us today.

The disciples miss the point. Fixated on their failure to bring enough bread, they reveal the other side of Jesus' problem in dealing with human nature. Moments earlier, His thoughts centered upon two institutionalized systems of sin represented by the Pharisees and Herod. Now, His attention turns to two personal barriers to belief. One is the hardness of heart of the Pharisees. Jesus has given up on them. Their protective religiosity has grown so thick and calloused that not even the Good News of the gospel can penetrate the shell. The other is the dullness of heart of the disciples. After being witnesses and doers of miracles, they still are deaf, dumb, and blind to spiritual truth. How patient Jesus is with them. Rather than blasting their stupidity, He couches His distress in nine questions that are designed to help them open their eyes, see the evidence, and understand the meaning of His words. Using the miracles of feeding five thousand and four thousand people, Jesus asks, "Do you

not remember?" (Mar 8:18). Repeating the details of the broken loaves and the unique nature of the leftover baskets, He credits the disciples by asking them questions rather than giving them answers. Slowly, their eyes will see and their ears will hear as they remember the twelve baskets left over from the first feeding and the seven large baskets that remained the second time. As the dim light begins to dawn, Jesus leaves them with a question to ponder, "How is it you do not understand?" (Mar 8:21).

A Two-stage Healing

22 Then they came to Bethsaida. They brought a blind man to Jesus and asked him to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and brought him outside of the village. Then he spit on his eyes, placed his hands on his eyes and asked, "Do you see anything?" 24 Regaining his sight he said, "I see people, but they look like trees walking." 25 Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again. And he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 Jesus sent him home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

24. Where did the group travel to next? v22

25. What happened when he arrived there? v22

26. What did Jesus do with the man? v23

27. How did the man respond when asked the question, "Do you see anything?" v24

28. What did Jesus do next? v25

29. What happened this time? v25

First Prediction of Jesus' Death and Resurrection

31 Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke openly about this. So Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But after turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are not setting your mind on God's interests, but on man's."

Here we get some insight into why Jesus would make a comment like the one that he ended the last section with.

38. What does Jesus then begin to teach the disciples about? v31

39. Who were the three groups that would reject him? v31

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

40. What does Jesus teach would happen after that? v31

41. How was Jesus teaching about this? v32

42. What did Peter do when this happened? v32

43. How does Jesus respond to Peter's rebuke? v33

44. What do you think made Jesus respond like this?

45. Have you ever felt like you were rebuked by God for disrupting His plans? Why or why not?

Following Jesus

34 Then Jesus called the crowd, along with his disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the gospel will save it. 36 For what benefit is it for a person to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his life? 37 What can a person give in exchange for his life? 38 For if anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." 9:1 And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, there are some standing here who will not experience death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

46. Evidently, Jesus and his disciples were not alone on this journey. Who does Jesus call out to? v34

47. What is the message that Jesus begins to share with the group? v34

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

48. Jesus then begins to explain what this means. How does he begin this? v35

49. What do you think Jesus means by forfeiting ones life? v36

50. Is there an answer for the question in v37? What would it be?

51. Jesus then gives a warning concerning discipleship. What does he say? v38

52. Jesus then makes a prophetic statement. What is it? v9:1

53. Which of the disciples saw a vision of the coming kingdom and where is it recorded?

If you would like some additional resources on discipleship, you can go to your local Christian bookstore and search for books on discipleship. You will find a wide variety of books and small group study materials on the subject.

Chapter 9

The Transfiguration

2 Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John and led them alone up a high mountain privately. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became radiantly white, more so than any launderer in the world could bleach them. 4 Then Elijah appeared before them along with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 So Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6 (For they were afraid, and he did not know what to say.) 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, "This is my one dear Son. Listen to him!" 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down from the mountain, he gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 They kept this statement to themselves, discussing what this rising from the dead meant.

11 Then they asked him, "Why do the experts in the law say that Elijah must come first?" 12 He said to them, "Elijah does indeed come first, and restores all things. And why is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be despised? 13 But I tell you that Elijah has certainly come, and they did to him whatever they wanted, just as it is written about him."

1. Jesus took 3 of his disciples with him somewhere. Which disciples, where did they go and what happened when they got there? v2

2. What description of Jesus is given while they were on the mountain? v3

3. Who then appeared before the group? v4

4. What was Peter's suggestion regarding the place and the events? v5

5. Even though Peter was quick to speak, what does the author add about the groups feelings and Peter's true feelings? v6

6. What happened next? How is this different than the voice in Mark 1:11? v7

7. What happened next? v8

8. What command does Jesus give concerning the events that took place? v9

9. What was the response of the disciples to the command? v10

10. What question did the disciples have concerning a particular prophecy? v11

11. What was Jesus' response? v12-13

12. Based on what we have studied so far, who was this "Elijah" that had already come and what happened to him?

The Disciples' Failure to Heal

14 When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and experts in the law arguing with them. 15 When the whole crowd saw him, they were amazed and ran at once and greeted him. 16 He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" 17 A member of the crowd said to him, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that makes him mute. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able to do so." 19 He answered them, "You unbelieving generation! How much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I endure you? Bring him to me." 20 So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 21 Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 It has often thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 Then Jesus said to him, "If you are able? All things are possible for the one who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the boy cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

25 Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." 26 It shrieked, threw him into terrible convulsions, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He is dead!" 27 But Jesus gently took his hand and raised him to his feet, and he stood up.

28 Then, after he went into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we cast it out?" 29 He told them, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

13. As the group returns to the rest of the disciples, what kind of scene is playing out for them? v14

14. How did the crowd react when they saw Jesus? v15

15. What question does Jesus ask of the crowd? v16

16. What does someone from the audience say has happened? v17-18

17. How does Jesus respond to the description of the situation? v19

18. What happens when the boy is brought to Jesus? v20

19. What question does Jesus ask of the parents and what is their response? v21-22

20. How does Jesus respond? v23

21. How did the father of the boy respond? v24

22. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you needed additional help in believing that God can do anything? How did God provide for your unbelief?

23. What does Jesus do next and why? v25

24. What happened when Jesus rebuked the spirit? v26

25. What was the crowd's reaction? v26

26. What did Jesus do? v27

27. What question do the disciples ask Jesus after entering the house? v28

28. What is Jesus' response? v29

29. How does the following verse shed additional light on this subject?

Mat 17:20

Second Prediction of Jesus' Death and Resurrection

30 They went out from there and passed through Galilee. But Jesus did not want anyone to know, 31 for he was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." 32 But they did not understand this statement and were afraid to ask him.

30. Where did Jesus go next? v30

31. What did Jesus do while he was there? v31

32. What was the response of the disciples? v32

Questions About the Greatest

33 Then they came to Capernaum. After Jesus was inside the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" 34 But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35 After he sat down, he called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." 36 He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, 37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

33. Where did the group travel to next and what did Jesus ask the group next upon arriving there? v33

34. How did the disciples respond and why? v34

35. What was Jesus' response? v35

36. What did Jesus do next to illustrate the point that he was making? v36-37

37. What are some of the characteristics of children that make a child a good example of what the disciples must be like with regard to heaven?

On Jesus' Side

38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us." 39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, because no one who does a miracle in my name will be able soon afterward to say anything bad about me. 40 For whoever is not against us is for us. 41 For I tell you the truth, whoever gives you a cup of water because you bear Christ's name will never lose his reward.

42 "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a huge millstone tied around his neck and to be thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life crippled than to have two hands and go into hell, to the unquenchable fire. 44 *(TEXT OMITTED – where 'THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.'* NKJV) 45 If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. 46 *(TEXT OMITTED – where 'THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.'* NKJV) 47 If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out! It is better to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 48 where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched. 49 Everyone will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

38. The disciples were concerned about something, what was it? v38

39. This is a great example of the US v. THEM battle that can happen even between churches. What things can we do to make sure that we don't create a "silo" mentality between churches who all name Christ as their savior?

The Preacher's Commentary has this to say regarding this attitude.

Jesus' disciples range along a wide spectrum of spiritual maturity. Those who are blessed with seniority, experience, insight, and leadership in the kingdom have a special responsibility to those who are "babes in Christ." In fact, Jesus goes so far as to make the disciples' accountability for weaker members of the body a matter of eternal life and death. Whatever the sacrifice, a disciple dare not put a stumbling block or an ensnaring trap along the growth line of a new, weak, or struggling believer. The attitude of "me" vs. "you" has no part in the kingdom of God. Therefore, the stronger disciple will discipline the work of his hands, the way of his feet, and the watch of his eyes with the least of God's children in mind. And if necessary, the stronger disciple will perform radical surgery on the things he does, the direction he pursues, and the views he takes in order to avoid offending a weaker brother. Paul follows this principle when he refuses to eat meat offered to idols, not because of his convictions about the meat, but because of his concern for new believers who still struggle to shake off the remnants of idolatry.^{xv}

39. How did Jesus respond to the disciples concern? v39

40. What does Jesus say about who does things in Jesus' name? v40

41. What does Jesus say then regarding acts of kindness? v41

42. Christ then makes a statement regarding people who cause children to sin. What is it? v42

43. Jesus then gives a principle regarding sin in your body? What is it? v43, 45, & 47

44. If we compare this to what Jesus taught in Mar 7:20-23, what is the true source of the sin that is found in a person's life?

45. Does Jesus mean this literally? Why or why not? How can we fulfill this command of Jesus?

46. If you were to summarize this section, how would you say it?

The Preacher's Commentary closes with this comment:

As radical as it may be, our identification as disciples of Christ begins not with the grandeur of confessing God the Father, but in the humility of serving the least of all His children. Are we any different than the disciples? The truth is almost more than we can bear.^{xvi}

Warren Wiersbe adds this:

The three lessons Jesus taught in this section are basic to Christian living today. If we are yielded to Him, then suffering will lead to glory, faith will produce power, and our sacrificial service will lead to honor.^{xvii}

Chapter 10

Divorce

1 Then Jesus left that place and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan River. Again crowds gathered to him, and again, as was his custom, he taught them. 2 Then some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" 3 He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." 5 But Jesus said to them, "He wrote this commandment for you because of your hard hearts. 6 But from the beginning of creation he made them male and female. 7 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother, 8 and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

10 In the house once again, the disciples asked him about this. 11 So he told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. 12 And if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

1. Where does Jesus travel to next? v1

2. What happens when he arrives there? v1

3. What does Jesus then proceed to do? v1

4. What was the purpose that some of the Pharisees came to see him? v2

5. What question did the Pharisees ask of Jesus? v2

6. How did Jesus respond? v3

7. What did the Pharisees say that Moses commanded them to do regarding this

matter? v4

8. Why did Jesus say that Moses gave this command? v5

9. Jesus continued to teach regarding the union of a man and a woman. What principle does He teach? V6-8 (Compare with Gen 2:24)

10. Finally, what principle does Jesus share that is still reiterated in most Christian marriages today? v9

11. The disciples wanted some additional clarification of this principle. How did Jesus explain it to them? v10-11

12. What do the following passages add what the Bible teaches regarding divorce.

Mat 5:31-32

Mat 19:1-12

Luke 16:8

1Co 7:1-16, 25-40

Jesus and Little Children

13 Now people were bringing little children to him for him to touch, but the disciples scolded those who brought them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." 16 After he took the children in his arms, he placed his hands on them and blessed them.

13. What were people bringing to Jesus and why? v13

14. How did the disciples respond? v13

15. How did Jesus react when he saw the actions of his disciples? v14

16. What reason does Jesus give for not stopping people from bringing children to Jesus? v14

17. What warning does Jesus then give regarding the hindering of children? v15

18. What does Jesus then do to emphasize this teaching? v16

The Rich Man

17 Now as Jesus was starting out on his way, someone ran up to him, fell on his knees, and said, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" 20 The man said to him, "Teacher, I have wholeheartedly obeyed all these laws since my youth." 21 As Jesus looked at him, he felt love for him and said, "You lack one thing. Go, sell whatever you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 But at this statement, the man looked sad and went away sorrowful, for he was very rich.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 The disciples were astonished at these words. But again Jesus said to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 26 They were even more astonished and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and replied, "This is impossible for mere humans, but not for God; all things are possible for God."

28 Peter began to speak to him, "Look, we have left everything to follow you!" 29 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, there is no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the gospel 30 who will not receive in this age a hundred times as much – homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, fields, all with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

19. What happens when Jesus starts to leave for another location? v17

20. What is Jesus' first reaction to the request? v18

Definition:

GOOD

αγαθός

agathós; fem. *agathe*, neut. *agathón*, adj. Good and benevolent, profitable, useful.

(I) Good, excellent, distinguished, best, of persons (Mat 19:16-17; 17-18; Luk 18:18-19; Sept.: 1Sa 9:2); of things (Luk 10:42; Joh 1:46; 2Th 2:16; Sept.: Ezz 8:27). . .

(II) Good, i.e., of good character, disposition, quality. . .

(III) Good, in respect to operation or influence on others, i.e., useful, beneficial, profitable. . .

(IV) Good in respect to the feelings, excited, i.e., pleasant, joyful, happy (1Pe 3:10; Rom 10:15, blessed times; Sept.: Psa 34:12; Zec 8:19).^{xviii}

21. Who then is the only type of person who can be be classified as good? v18

22. What then does Jesus tell the person to do? v19

23. How does the man respond to Jesus teaching regarding what he should do? v20

24. How does Jesus respond to the man's response? v21

25. What does Jesus then tell him to do? v20

26. How did the man respond to the command regarding the principles? v21

27. What then does Jesus tell the man to do and why? v21

28. How did the man react to this and why? v22

29. What does Jesus then teach His disciples regarding the man's departure? v23

30. What was the reaction of the disciples? v24

31. What analogy does Jesus regarding the ability of a rich man to enter heaven? v25

32. How did the disciples respond to this statement? v26

33. What question did they ask of Jesus as a result of this teaching? v26

34. How did Jesus respond to the question? v27

35. Who responded and what did he say? v28

36. Jesus then teaches an important principle regarding following Jesus. What is it?
V29-30

37. It is interesting that Jesus adds persecutions to the list. What do the following
verses teach regarding persecutions and the Christian life?

Mat 5:10-12

Jas 1:2-4

Jas 1:12

Jas 5:11

1Pe 4:12-16

38. Jesus summarizes this section how in v31?

Third Prediction of Jesus' Death and Resurrection

32 They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem. Jesus was going ahead of them, and they were amazed, but those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was going to happen to him. 33 "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles. 34 They will mock him, spit on him, flog him severely, and kill him. Yet after three days, he will rise again."

39. Jesus and the group are on the move again, where are they going? v32

40. Where was Jesus at in relation to the group and what was the mental state of various people in the group? v32

Jesus:

The Twelve:

Those following:

Preacher's Commentary:

Mark's picture of the resolute Jesus leading the way to Jerusalem in order to fulfill the will of God packs the same emotion. By His position ahead of the crowd and the posture of His walk, Jesus communicates the meaning of leadership as a position, a tone, and a responsibility. As always, when these qualities are displayed, close followers are amazed and the masses are paralyzed with fear. . .

Leadership is being alone and ahead of the crowd.

Leadership is the tone of courage in the midst of fear.

Leadership is the responsibility for living with the consequences of our decisions.

To follow Christ is to lead with Him—alone, courageous, and realistic.^{xix}

41. What does Jesus then begin to teach the twelve? v32

42. There are 9 things that Jesus tells the twelve that will happen to him. What are they? v33-34

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	

The Request of James and John

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask." 36 He said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" 37 They said to him, "Permit one of us to sit at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I experience?" 39 They said to him, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism I experience, 40 but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give. It is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41 Now when the other ten heard this, they became angry with James and John. 42 Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions use their authority over them. 43 But it is not this way among you. Instead whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

42. What do James and John request of Jesus? v35

43. What question does Jesus ask them? v36

44. What do James and John request? v37

45. How does Jesus respond to their request? v38

Adam Clarke's Commentary:

According to the prediction of Christ, these brethren did partake of his afflictions: James was martyred by Herod, Act 12:2; and John was banished to Patmos, for the testimony of Christ, Rev 1:9.^{xx}

46. How do James and John boldly respond to Jesus' query? v39

47. What pronouncement does Jesus make regarding James and John? v39

48. What does Jesus say though regarding the positions requested by James and John? v40

49. How did the other disciples respond to this request of James and John? v41

50. How does Jesus describe how Gentile leaders exercise their authority? v42

51. How does Jesus then describe the way leadership should work among his followers? v43-44

52. Jesus then gives the reason why it must be like that by using himself as an example. What does Jesus say about his life? v45

Healing Blind Bartimaeus

46 They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many scolded him to get him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up! He is calling you." 50 He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied, "Rabbi, let me see again." 52 Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has healed you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the road.

53. Where does the group arrive at next? v46

54. What was happening as the group arrived at Jericho? v46

55. What did Bartimaeus shout upon he heard that Jesus was passing by? v47

56. What did some of the people around him say to him and what was his response?

v48

57. What did Jesus do? v49

58. Now what were the people around him saying to him? v49

59. What did Bartimaeus do when he heard this? v50

60. What did Jesus ask him and how did Bartimaeus respond? v51

61. What reason does Jesus give for why the healing was accomplished? v52

62. What did Bartimaeus do then? v53

Chapter 11

The Triumphal Entry

1 Now as they approached Jerusalem, near Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here soon.'" 4 So they went and found a colt tied at a door, outside in the street, and untied it. 5 Some people standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" 6 They replied as Jesus had told them, and the bystanders let them go. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. 8 Many spread their cloaks on the road and others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Both those who went ahead and those who followed kept shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" 11 Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. And after looking around at everything, he went out to Bethany with the twelve since it was already late.

1. Where did the group travel to next and what places did they pass along the way?
v1

2. Who did Jesus send ahead of the group and what did he tell them to do? v1-2a

3. What were the disciples to look for and where? v2

4. How does this passage fulfill the prophecy in Zec 9:9?

5. What were the disciples to do upon finding what they were looking for and what were they to say when asked what they were doing? v2-3

6. Did they find things as Jesus said they would and what happened when they started to do what Jesus told him to do? v4-5

7. How did the disciples respond to the questions asked of them and what did the crowd do after the disciples answered the question? v6

8. What did the disciples do next and what did Jesus do? v7

9. What did some of the crowd do as Jesus entered Jerusalem? v8-10

Hosanna - The expression Ὡσαννά (hōsanna, literally in Hebrew, "O Lord, save") in the quotation from Psa 118:25-26 was probably by this time a familiar liturgical expression of praise, on the order of "Hail to the king," although both the underlying Aramaic and Hebrew expressions meant "O Lord, save us."

Hosanna is an Aramaic expression that literally means, "help, I pray," or "save, I pray." By Jesus' time it had become a strictly liturgical formula of praise, however, and was used as an exclamation of praise to God.^{xxi}

10. What did Jesus do upon entering Jerusalem? v11

We can now understand why Jesus pays personal attention to the details of getting, preparing, and returning the animal upon which to ride through the gates into Jerusalem. In the symbol of the foal of an ass, He predicts His role as the King who comes in dignity and peace. Roman Christians to whom Mark writes can visualize the contrast between the triumphal entry of Jesus and the pageantry that greeted Roman emperors on return from their wars. As a symbol of bloody conquest, Caesar chose a prancing horse at the head of a processional that included his warriors, a shackled contingent of the conquered people, and an extravagant display of the booty that the army had taken by force. Jesus makes His triumphal entry on a donkey—a symbol of peace, not war; of humility, not pride. Behind Him comes an entourage of twelve fishermen, called to be disciples, and a rabble of common people whom He has healed and set free. They serve as trophies of His conquest—not by bloody violence, but by unremitting love.

In our day, a donkey is the butt of our jokes and the symbol of stupidity. Someplace in the history of changing symbols, we went awry. By choosing the foal of an ass, Jesus gives us the symbol for His prophetic future. He comes in peace, not war, and He conquers by His Spirit, not by might nor power. For those of us who want to see Christianity represented by a leader on a prancing horse at the head of a conquering army showing off its trophies, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is a defeat rather than a triumph.^{xxii}

11. What did Jesus do after entering the Temple and where did He go after that? v11

Cursing of the Fig Tree

12 Now the next day, as they went out from Bethany, he was hungry. 13 After noticing in the distance a fig tree with leaves, he went to see if he could find any fruit on it. When he came to it he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

12. What condition does Mark describe as Jesus being in upon leaving Bethany? v12

13. What does Jesus see in the distance and what is the condition of the object? v13

14. What does Jesus do? v13

15. What is the condition of the tree upon Jesus inspecting it and why? v13

16. What does Jesus do next? v14

17. What does Jesus say to the fig tree and who hears him say it? v14

This is a peculiar passage. The *Preacher's Commentary* might help us to understand why Jesus performs this miracle.

In the last miracle recorded by Mark, Jesus curses the fig tree, "*Let no one eat fruit from you ever again*" (14). All other miracles had been performed for human benefit. Why, then, did Jesus leave us with a destructive show of power as the final reminder of His miracles? The generally accepted reason is that Jesus chooses the fig tree as a parable of His coming to Jerusalem as the Lord of Judgment. Chosen by divine appointment, given God's Law, protected from annihilation, led to a new land, disciplined in exile, blessed beyond measure, Israel stands at the center of the world as the source of God's redemptive hope. Alas, instead of fulfilling the hope by accepting Jesus as the Messiah, God's own people counter His coming with a rigid display of empty

rituals, human interpretations, and meaningless symbols.

The nature of God calls for severe judgment as the other side of His longsuffering love. Even then, Jesus chooses a fig tree, rather than a person, on which to pronounce His curse. As spiritually barren as Israel had proved to be, one more warning is given by a parable. God's judgment is still restrained, but as the poet wrote, "The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine." Seventy years later, the judgment on Jerusalem will be so devastatingly complete that Josephus will remember that the Romans will run out of space in which to erect one more cross. A fig tree with nothing but leaves remains as a grim reminder of Jesus as the Lord of Judgment as well as the King of Life.^{xxiii}

Cleansing the Temple

15 Then they came to Jerusalem. Jesus entered the temple area and began to drive out those who were selling and buying in the temple courts. He turned over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, 16 and he would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. 17 Then he began to teach them and said, "Is it not written: '***My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations***'? But you have turned it into ***a den of robbers***!" 18 The chief priests and the experts in the law heard it and they considered how they could assassinate him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed by his teaching. 19 When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

18. Where does Jesus go upon entering the city? v15

19. What does Jesus do upon entering the temple? v15-16

20. What does Jesus do next? v17

21. How do the following passages give added insight to this passage?

Isa 56:7

Jer 7:1

22. What did the chief priests and the experts in the law then decide to do? v18

23. Why did the chief priests and the experts in the law want to do this? v18

24. What happened at the end of the day? v19

The Withered Fig Tree

20 In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered." 22 Jesus said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 I tell you the truth, if someone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24 For this reason I tell you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your sins." 26 (*TEXT OMITTED* - But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses. NKJV)

25. What was observed as Jesus and disciples again made their way to Jerusalem?
v20

26. Who spoke to Jesus and what did he say? v21

27. What is Jesus immediate response to the observation? v22

28. Jesus then teaches a Christian life principle regarding prayer. What is it? v23

29. What are some of the reasons that Jesus gives for our prayers not being answered? v23-26

The *Preacher's Commentary* has this to say regarding this teaching on prayer:

The unlimited power of prayer. Jesus' teaching about prayer complements the creativity of His teaching. Behind the promise of the unlimited power of prayer are three limiting conditions. One is the *will of God*. A person cannot pray outside of that which God has said "*will come to pass*" (23). His Word is the revelation of His will.

A second limitation is the *faith of the person who prays*. Doubt is a deterrent to answered prayer and unlimited power. To receive what you ask in prayer, you must "*believe that you receive them*" (24).

A final limiting factor on unlimited power through prayer is the *failure to forgive* someone who has sinned against you. To go to prayer holding anything against anyone is to invite unanswered prayer and limited power.

Every time that Jesus speaks, He upsets the assumptions by which we live. For instance, we make creativity something beyond us and unlimited power a matter reserved for God's will. Neither assumption can stand before the example and teaching of Jesus. Our intellectual dullness is caused by a narrow and negative viewpoint and our spiritual impotency is the natural result of our failure to know the will of God, believe what He has promised, or refuse to forgive those who have sinned against us. If only we would understand His

teaching and follow His example, the creative mind of Christ and the unlimited power of God would be unbelievably released in us.^{xxiv}

The *Believer's Bible Commentary* gives this warning concerning praying with right motives:

However, these verses do not give a person authority to pray for miraculous powers for his own convenience or acclaim. Every act of faith must rest on the promise of God. If we know that it is God's will to remove a certain difficulty, then we can pray with utter confidence that it will be done. In fact, we can pray with confidence on any subject as long as we are confident it is according to God's will as revealed in the Bible or by the inner witness of the Spirit.^{xxv}

The Authority of Jesus

27 They came again to Jerusalem. While Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the experts in the law, and the elders came up to him 28 and said, "By what authority are you doing these things? Or who gave you this authority to do these things?" 29 Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question. Answer me and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: 30 John's baptism – was it from heaven or from people? Answer me." 31 They discussed with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Then why did you not believe him?' 32 But if we say, 'From people – ' " (they feared the crowd, for they all considered John to be truly a prophet). 33 So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

30. Where did Jesus go upon entering Jerusalem and what did he do? v27

31. Who approached Jesus? v27

32. What did they ask Jesus? v27-28

33. How did Jesus respond to them? v29-30

34. What were the two options that the group discussed as possible answers and what objections did they have for not answering with them? v31-32

A.)

B.)

The *Preacher's Commentary* has this to say about this event and the need for Christians to be prepared when challenged regarding their faith:

Jesus' tactic puts the chief priests, scribes, and elders on the spot. Because they initiated the debate, chose the issue, and advanced an implicit charge, fairness dictates that He has the right of asking for the first response. Like a life-and-death chess game in which the player sets his strategy, Jesus positions Himself for an early checkmate with just the push of a pawn.^{xxvi}

35. How did the group respond instead of giving one of the two obvious answers that they discussed? v33

36. As a result, how does Jesus respond? v33

Matthew Henry also gives some additional insight into this exchange between Jesus and the “religious” leaders of the day:

They knew what they *thought* of this question; they could not but think that *John Baptist* was a man sent of God. But the difficulty was, what they should *say to it* now. Men that oblige not themselves to speak *as they think* (which is a certain rule) cannot avoid perplexing themselves thus.

1. If they own the baptism of John to be *from heaven*, as really it was, they *shame themselves*; for Christ will presently turn it upon them, *Why did ye not then believe him*, and receive his baptism? They could not bear that Christ should say this, but they could bear it that their own consciences should say so, because they had an art of stifling and silencing them, and because what conscience said, though it might gall and grate them a little, would not *shame them*; and then *they* would do well enough, who looked no further than Saul's care, when he was convicted, *Honour me now before this people*, 1Sa 15:30.

2. If they say, “*It is of men*, he was not sent of God, but his doctrine and baptism were inventions of his own,” they *expose themselves*, the people will be ready to do them a mischief, or a least clamour upon them; for *all men counted John that he was a prophet indeed*, and therefore they could not bear that he should be reflected on. Note, There is a carnal slavish fear, which not only wicked subjects but wicked rulers likewise are liable to, which God makes use of as a means to keep the world in some order, and to suppress *violence*, that it shall not always *grow up into a rod of wickedness*. Now by this dilemma to which Christ brought them, (1.) They were confounded and baffled, and forced to make a dishonourable retreat; to pretend ignorance - *We cannot tell* (and that was mortification enough to those proud men), but really to discover the greatest malice and wilfulness. What Christ did by his wisdom, we must labour to do by our well doing - *put to silence the ignorance of foolish men*, 1Pe 2:15. (2.) Christ came off with honour, and justified himself in refusing to give them an answer to their imperious demand; *Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things. They did not deserve to be told; for it was plain that they contended not for truth, but victory; nor did he need to tell them, for the works which he did, told them plainly that he had authority from God to do what he did; since no man could do those miracles which he did unless God were with him.* Let them wait but three or four days, and his resurrection shall tell them who gave him his authority, for by that he will be *declared to be the Son of God with power*, as by their rejecting of him, notwithstanding, they will be declared to be the enemies of God. (underlining added by study guide author)^{xxvii}

Chapter 12

The Parable of the Tenants

1 Then he began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a pit for its winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and went on a journey. 2 At harvest time he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his portion of the crop. 3 But those tenants seized his slave, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. 4 So he sent another slave to them again. This one they struck on the head and treated outrageously. 5 He sent another, and that one they killed. This happened to many others, some of whom were beaten, others killed. 6 He had one left, his one dear son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and the inheritance will be ours!' 8 So they seized him, killed him, and threw his body out of the vineyard. 9 What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Have you not read this scripture:

'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

11 This is from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'

12 Now they wanted to arrest him (but they feared the crowd), because they realized that he told this parable against them. So they left him and went away.

1. Jesus then began to teach again using a parable. What is the subject of the parable? v1

2. What does the man do at the harvest time? v2

3. How did the tenants treat the slave that was sent to retrieve the portion that was due the owner? v3

4. Who does the owner send next and how is he treated? v4

5. What happens to the next emissary that the owner sends? v5

6. From verse 5, how often did the owner send people to the farmers that leased the winepress to receive the portion that was due him?

7. Who does he send as a last resort and what reason does the owner give for sending him? v6

8. What is the reaction of the farmers when they see who the owner sends this time? v7

8. How is this final emissary treated by the farmers that leased the winepress? v8

9. What question does Jesus ask of the crowd then regarding what the owner will do then? v9

10. How does Jesus answer His own question? v9

11. What scripture does Jesus quote to give emphasis to the parable that He just taught them with? v10-11

12. What was the reaction of the Pharisees when they heard Jesus' explanation of the parable? v12

13. What do the following verses teach us about this stone and who or what it represents?

Act 4:11

1Pe 2:6-8

Eph 2:20-22

14. In this parable who would the characters and the winepress represent?

Character / Story Item	Represents
Owner	
Farmers	
Servants	
Son	
Winepress	

15. Why do you think the Pharisees react so harshly to Jesus' parable?

Paying Taxes to Caesar

13 Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to trap him with his own words.

14 When they came they said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are truthful and do not

court anyone's favor, because you show no partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn't we?" 15 But he saw through their hypocrisy and said to them, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." 16 So they brought one, and he said to them, "Whose image is this, and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." 17 Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.

16. Who were the next group of people sent to "trap" Jesus? v13

17. What was to be their *modus operandi* to accomplish this task? v13

18. What question did they ask to Jesus to fulfill their assignment? v14

19. What did Jesus recognize immediately upon hearing the question? v15

20. What question and command did Jesus then give to His inquisitors? v15

21. What does Jesus ask after they have done as He requested? v16

22. How does the group respond? v16

23. What does Jesus then tell them to do based upon their response? v17

24. What is the reaction to Jesus' teaching by the group? v17

25. What does this teach us regarding giving to God and paying taxes?

Marriage and the Resurrection

18 Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) also came to him and asked him, 19 "Teacher, Moses wrote for us: ***'If a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, that man must marry the widow and father children for his brother.'*** 20 There were seven brothers. The first one married, and when he died he had no children. 21 The second married her and died without any children, and likewise the third. 22 None of the seven had children. Finally, the woman died too. 23 In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For all seven had married her." 24 Jesus said to them, "Aren't you deceived for this reason, because you don't know the scriptures or the power of God? 25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 26 Now as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God said to him, ***'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'***? 27 He is not the God of the dead but of the living. You are badly mistaken!"

26. Who is the next group that comes to question Jesus and what do we learn about their teachings? v18

27. What tactic does this group employ to begin their testing of Jesus? v19

28. What scenario do they then lay out for Jesus? v20-22

29. Now that they have made their scriptural premiss and then layed out a case, what question do they ask of Jesus? v23

30. What is Jesus' initial response and what do you think he meant by it? v24

31. What does Jesus then proceed to teach regarding the true nature of resurrected beings in heaven? v25

32. Jesus then decides to tackle the root problem with their teaching. What does He teach regarding the resurrection of the dead? v26-28

33. What is the ultimate truth that Jesus wants the Sadducees to learn from this teaching and how would it affect the doctrine that they teach?

The Greatest Commandment

28 Now one of the experts in the law came and heard them debating. When he saw that

Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is: ***'Listen, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'*** 31 The second is: ***'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*** There is no other commandment greater than these."

32 The expert in the law said to him, "That is true, Teacher; you are right to say that ***he is one, and there is no one else besides him. 33 And to love him with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength*** and ***to love your neighbor as yourself*** is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus saw that he had answered thoughtfully, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." Then no one dared any longer to question him.

34. Who was the next person to come to Jesus and what prompted him to come over to the group that was gathered around Jesus? v28

35. What prompted him to ask Jesus a question? v28

36. What question did he ask? v28

37. How did Jesus respond? v29-31

38. What was the questioner's initial response to Jesus' answer? v32

39. The questioner then gives additional reasoning for why what Jesus said was true. What did he say that the truth in Jesus' answer was of greater importance? v32-33

40. How did Jesus respond to the questioner's answer and why? v34

41. What should this teach us regarding our knowledge of the scriptures and fulfilling the law?

The Messiah: David's Son and Lord

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he said, "How is it that the experts in the law say that the Christ is David's son? 36 David himself, by the Holy Spirit, said, *'The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet."*'

37 If David himself calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

42. Now Jesus poses a question to the crowd instead of him being asked a question. What does He ask of the crowd? v35

43. What does Jesus say regarding what inspired David to write what he did in the psalm that Jesus is about to quote? v36

44. Jesus then quotes Psa 110:1 to give an answer to His question. What does Jesus ask next of the group that was gathered? v37

45. How did the group around Jesus react to this teaching? v37

The Preacher's Commentary has this to say regarding this particular exchange between Jesus and the crowds in the temple.

When His enemies lose their daring for further debate, Jesus takes up the initiative and asks a question for Himself. He frames it by contradiction in the scribes' teaching. They teach that "Christ," the anointed One, is to be a direct descendant of David and that He will restore the Davidic kingdom upon His return as the Messiah. This line of reasoning feeds the prevailing false notion that the kingdom of God is political rather than spiritual, and nationalistic rather than universal. To dispel this notion, Jesus puts into juxtaposition an equal and opposite truth. Deliberately noting that David writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, He quotes the messianic psalm Psa 110:1 (KJV), "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." The conundrum He creates is even clearer to the common people, "Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" (Mar_12:37).^{xxviii}

Warnings About Experts in the Law

38 In his teaching Jesus also said, "Watch out for the experts in the law. They like walking around in long robes and elaborate greetings in the marketplaces, 39 and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 40 They devour widows' property, and as a show make long prayers. These men will receive a more severe punishment."

46. What warning does Jesus give the crowd next? v38

47. What examples of their actions does Jesus then give regarding these particular people? v38-40

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

48. What is the result of these actions that are contrary to what Jesus and the scribe discussed in verses 28-34?

The Widow's Offering

41 Then he sat down opposite the offering box, and watched the crowd putting coins into it. Many rich people were throwing in large amounts. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth less than a penny. 43 He called his disciples and said to them, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. 44 For they all gave out of their wealth. But she, out of her poverty, put in what she had to live on, everything she had."

49. What did Jesus do next? v41

50. What two groups of people did Jesus observe and how much did they give? v41-42

Group	Amount of Gift

51. What principle does Jesus then teach His disciples? v43

52. What is the reason that Jesus' gives for why the widow gave more compared to the others? v44

53. What is the principle that Jesus is trying to teach His disciples with this interchange?

The Preacher's Commentary uses this to describe what the Christian's attitude should be regarding giving.

Giving is to be measured

- not by its count, but its cost
- not by its amount, but its portion
- not by what is given, but by what is kept
- not by money, but by spirit^{xxix}

54. How does this principle relate to the following passages that teach about giving?

Gen 14:17-20

Lev 27:30-33

Mal 3:8-10

2Co 9:5-9

Chapter 13

The Destruction of the Temple

1 Now as Jesus was going out of the temple courts, one of his disciples said to him, "Teacher, look at these tremendous stones and buildings!" 2 Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left on another. All will be torn down!"

1. What question was Jesus asked as He and his disciples were leaving the temple courts? v1

2. What does Jesus predict will happen to these buildings? v2

Signs of the End of the Age

3 So while he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that all these things are about to take place?" 5 Jesus began to say to them, "Watch out that no one misleads you. 6 Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and they will mislead many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. These things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise up in arms against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines. These are but the beginning of birth pains.

Jesus' prediction regarding the temple must have been the topic of conversation while they traveled to the Mount of Olives and then, upon arriving, could see the buildings on the temple mount just across the valley from where they were.

3. Who approached Him with a question? v3

4. What was the question that they wanted answered? v4

5. Jesus begins by giving them a warning. What is it? v5

6. What does Jesus say would happen that they had to be aware of? v6

7. What will be the result of this happening? v6

8. What else does Jesus say will happen in the future? v7

9. How does Jesus say we should respond to these events? v7

10. Why does Jesus say we should respond this way? v7

11. What does Jesus say regarding these events? v7

12. Jesus then gives a list of things that will happen. What are they? v8

1.

2.

3.

4.

13. How does Jesus describe these events? v8

14. Do we experience any of these events today? If so, describe some of the more recent events that might fit this description.

Persecution of Disciples

9 "You must watch out for yourselves. You will be handed over to councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a witness to them. 10 First the gospel must be preached to all nations. 11 When they arrest you and hand you over for trial, do not worry about what to speak. But say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. 12 Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise against parents and have them put to death. 13 You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

15. Jesus then gives another warning to His disciples. What is it? v9

16. What does Jesus say will happen to His disciples and why He gives them the warning? v9

17. What does Jesus say must happen in relationship to these events? v10

18. Jesus then begins to give some instructions to His disciples regarding these future events. How does He tell them to prepare for what is going to happen to them? v11

19. Who does Jesus say will be doing the speaking during this time? v11

20. Jesus then begins to describe the state of relationships during this time in the future. What does He say regarding them? v12

21. Why does Jesus say these things will happen to His disciples? v13

22. Jesus gives some additional encouraging words to His disciples. What are they? v13

23. Even though Jesus was speaking of a particular event in the past, have there been times when these things have been true since Jesus predicted event? Describe some of those times that you can think of.

The Abomination of Desolation

14 "But when you see *the abomination of desolation* standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. 15 The one on the roof must not come down or go inside to take anything out of his house. 16 The one in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 17 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing their babies in those days! 18 Pray that it may not be in winter. 19 For in those days there will be suffering unlike anything that has happened from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, or ever will happen. 20 And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved. But because of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut them short. 21 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe him. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, the elect. 23 Be careful! I have told you everything ahead of time.

24. Jesus predicts that a particular event was to take place that was to be a signal for the disciples to take action. What is it? v14

25. Who were suppose to take action and what were they suppose to do? v14

26. Jesus then gives some examples of people involved in particular events and how they were suppose to react when they see these events unfolding before them. Who were they and what does He say about them? v15-17

27. What does Jesus say regarding the season that these events might take place and why do you think He says this? v18

28. Jesus gives a fuller description of the events that He has been describing. What does He say about them? v19

29. Jesus offers a glimmer of hope in the midst of these events. What does He say regarding the length of time for this to take place? v20

30. What would happen if this time frame wasn't adjusted by God and why does Jesus say this time would be affected like this? v21

31. Jesus then gives some additional warnings regarding the time of these events. What are they and what will be the possible result of these events? v22

32. The disciple of Jesus can take comfort in what regarding the things Jesus has predicted? v23

The NET Bible describes this Abomination of Desolation like this.

The reference to *the abomination of desolation* is an allusion to Dan 9:27. Though some have seen the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy in the actions of Antiochus IV (or a representative of his) in 167 B.C., the words of Jesus seem to indicate that Antiochus was not the final fulfillment, but that there was (from Jesus' perspective) still another fulfillment yet to come. Some argue that this was realized in A.D. 70, while others claim that it refers specifically to Antichrist and will not be fully realized until the period of the great tribulation at the end of the age (cf. Mar 13:19; Mar 13:24; Mat 24:21; Rev 3:10).^{xxx}

The Preacher's Commentary has this to say regarding this event.

The sign that will signal the beginning of the Great Tribulation is to see the "abomination of desolation" violating the sacred altar of the temple, or as Mark writes, "standing where it ought not" (Mar 13:14). Jesus is not referring to violations of the Most Holy Place by Roman soldiers or unjust priests. Evil is personified in words which coincide with Daniel's prophecy: "... and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate" (Dan 11:31, KJV).

Scholars believe that Daniel's prophecy of the appalling horror against the temple refers to the sacrilege of Antiochus Epiphanes, the Seleucid ruler, in 168 B.C. He tried to destroy Jewish religion by erecting an altar to Zeus over the altar of burnt offerings, sacrificing a pig, setting up brothels in the outer courts, and banning Judaism.

Looking forward to A.D. 40, the Emperor Caligula will advance the abomination by ordering a statue of his image to be built on the altar of burnt offerings for worship by the Jews. The greater abomination, however, will come from within the Jewish community. Josephus, the renowned historian of first century Jewish history, reports that Zealots occupied the temple during A.D. 67-68, murdering Jewish brothers and piling up the dead in the Most Holy Place. Their acts of abomination climaxed with a ceremonial farce in which a clown named Phanni was installed as the chief priest of the temple. Faithful Jews who heeded Jesus' warning read this sacrilege as "... the abomination that maketh desolate" (Dan 11:31, KJV) and fled to the Peraean city of Pella just in time to escape the onslaught of Titus' armies.

Still further forward, when the wheel of prophecy turns again to signal the Great Tribulation, appalling horror will be fulfilled with the personification of

Evil standing on the Most Holy Place. Mark's Gospel infers that the sacrilege will be committed by a person, not by a social movement, a political ideology or a public attitude. Who the "Antichrist" will be, where he will stand, and when he will arrive are matters beyond our present knowledge, but not beyond Jesus' warning to "take heed" (Mar 13:23) and flee.^{xxx1}

The Arrival of the Son of Man

24 "But in those days, after that suffering, *the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.* 26 Then everyone will see *the Son of Man arriving in the clouds* with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send angels and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

33. Jesus then describes what the universe will be like during the time of the events described in the previous section. How does Jesus describe the state of different things in the universe listed below? v24-25

Sun	
Moon	
Stars	
Powers	

34. What will happen when these events are taking place? v26

35. What will the Son of Man do at that time? v27

The Parable of the Fig Tree

28 "Learn this parable from the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also you, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, right at the door. 30 I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

36. What is the parable that Jesus uses next to teach His disciples concerning how to read the times and seasons? v28

37. What are Jesus' disciples suppose to learn from the parable of the fig tree? v29

38. Jesus then gives a reference to a specific time when these events will take place. What is it? v30

39. Jesus then gives some reassurance regarding how much His predictions could be depended upon. What metaphor does He use to give credence to His predictions? v31

Be Ready!

32 "But as for that day or hour no one knows it – neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son – except the Father. 33 Watch out! Stay alert! For you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey. He left his house and put his slaves in charge, assigning to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to stay alert. 35 Stay alert, then, because you do not know when the owner of the house will return – whether during evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or at dawn – 36 or else he might find you asleep when he returns suddenly. 37 What I say to you I say to everyone: Stay alert!"

40. Even though Jesus' predictions could be depended upon, and His disciples will know what to be watching for, what does Jesus say regarding the timing of these events? v32

41. Jesus gives three specific people or groups of people and their knowledge of when these events will take place. Who are they and what do they know? v32

Person/Group	What do they know

42. Jesus then gives another warning. What is it and why does He give the warning?
v33

43. Jesus then gives a parable to further illustrate the roles and activities of His disciples during all of these events. v34

44. Why are the people in the parable suppose to do the things assigned to them by the man going on a journey? v35

45. What does He say that the people in the story should not want the owner of the house to find them doing upon his return? v36

46. Who does Jesus give this warning to? v37

47. What can modern day disciples learn from this parable in relation to the future?

Chapter 14

The Plot Against Jesus

1 Two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the chief priests and the experts in the law were trying to find a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. 2 For they said, "Not during the feast, so there won't be a riot among the people."

1. Starting in chapter 11, Mark has been writing about events in Jesus' life that were taking place within a one week time span prior to His crucifixion and resurrection. What day of the week do you think this chapter is taking place on? v1

2. Certain people of the Jewish religious and political leaders were planning something in regard to Jesus. Who were they and what were they planning? v1

3. What was the one concern that these people had at this particular time? v2

Jesus' Anointing

3 Now while Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of costly aromatic oil from pure nard. After breaking open the jar, she poured it on his head. 4 But some who were present indignantly said to one another, "Why this waste of expensive ointment? 5 It could have been sold for more than three hundred silver coins and the money given to the poor!" So they spoke angrily to her. 6 But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a good service for me. 7 For you will always have the poor with you, and you can do good for them whenever you want. But you will not always have me! 8 She did what she could. She anointed my body beforehand for burial. 9 I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

4. Who was Jesus visiting and what was He doing? v3

5. What happened while Jesus was in this home? v3

The NET Bible Notes have this to say regarding the oil used to anoint Jesus.

A jar made of alabaster stone was normally used for very precious substances like perfumes. It normally had a long neck which was sealed and had to be broken off so the contents could be used.

Μύρον (muron) was usually made of myrrh (from which the English word is derived) but here it is used in the sense of ointment or perfumed oil (L&N 6.205). The adjective πιστικῆς (pistikē) is difficult with regard to its exact meaning; some have taken it to derive from πίστις (pistis) and relate to the purity of the oil of nard. More probably it is something like a brand name, "pistic nard," the exact significance of which has not been discovered.

Nard or spikenard is a fragrant oil from the root and spike of the nard plant of northern India. This *aromatic oil*, if made of something like nard, would have been extremely expensive, costing up to a year's pay for an average laborer.^{xxxii}

6. The woman is unidentified here, but who is she identified as in Joh 11:2?

7. What is the reaction to Jesus' being anointed with such costly oil? v4

8. What suggestions were given for other possible uses of the expensive commodity?
v5

9. How did Jesus react and what did He say? v6

10. Jesus then defends the woman's actions. Why does Jesus say it was good for the woman to do what she did? v7

11. Jesus then, with a view to His impending crucifixion, gives a further reason why she did what she did? v8

12. Jesus then makes a very bold statement regarding this woman. What was it and did it come true? v9

The Plan to Betray Jesus

10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus into their hands. 11 When they heard this, they were delighted and promised to give him money. So Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray him.

13. What does Judas Iscariot then do as a result of these events? v10

14. What was the reaction of the chief priests to this turn of events regarding one of Jesus' disciples? v11

15. How did Judas occupy his time from this point on? v11

The Passover

12 Now on the first day of the feast of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?" 13 He sent two of his disciples and told them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. 14 Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ' 15 He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." 16 So the disciples left, went into the city, and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. 17 Then, when it was evening, he came to the house with the twelve. 18 While they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me will betray me." 19 They were distressed, and one by one said to him, "Surely not I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who dips his hand with me into the bowl. 21 For the Son of Man will go as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for him if he had never been born."

16. What Jewish holiday was about to take place and what did Jesus' disciples ask Him regarding this holiday? v12

17. What instructions did Jesus give concerning the preparations? v13

18. What were the two disciples to say when they came to the place they were to go to? v14

19. How will the owner of the house respond after the disciples would tell him about their plans? v15

20. Did the events happen the way Jesus predicted? v16

21. When did the group celebrate the Passover and who was present? v17

22. What surprise announcement does Jesus make in the middle of this celebration?
v18

23. What is the reaction of the group and how did they respond? v19

24. Since they were all trying to guess who it would be, how does Jesus identify who
would betray Him? v20

A.

B.

25. Who is identified as the person that Jesus is speaking about in Joh 13:26?

26. Why does Jesus say that this must happen? v21

27. What does Jesus say would be the future of the betrayer? v21

The Lord's Supper

22 While they were eating, he took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it. This is my body." 23 And after taking the cup and giving thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 He said to them, "This is my blood, the

blood of the covenant, that is poured out for many. 25 I tell you the truth, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." 26 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

28. In the middle of the passover meal, Jesus does something, what is it? v22

29. What does Jesus say the bread is? v22

30. What does Jesus and His disciples do next? v23

31. What does Jesus say the cup represents? v24

32. How many people are impacted by this blood of the covenant? v24

33. Jesus then gives a prediction regarding this. What is it? v25

34. What does the text say that the group did next? v26

The Prediction of Peter's Denial

27 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, ***'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'***

28 But after I am raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." 29 Peter said to him, "Even if they all fall away, I will not!" 30 Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth, today – this very night – before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." 31 But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you." And all of them said the same thing.

35. Now that the group has arrived at the Mount of Olives, what does Jesus announce to the group and what how does Jesus give credibility to His prediction? v27

36. Jesus then gives them an message of assurance regarding His connection with them and the events that are about to take place. What is it? v28

37. Peter responds rather emphatically with what proclamation? v29

38. Jesus them gives a prediction regarding Peter and the events that were to take place that evening. What was it? v30

39. Peter led the group in responding to Jesus' prediction by announcing what? v31

40. What does the text say that the rest of the group did along with Peter? v31

Gethsemane

32 Then they went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 He took Peter, James, and John with him, and became very troubled and distressed. 34 He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to the point of death. Remain here and stay alert." 35 Going a little farther, he threw himself to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour would pass from him. 36 He said, "*Abba*, Father, all things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." 37 Then he came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake for one hour? 38 Stay awake and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39 He went away again and prayed the same thing. 40 When he came again he found them sleeping; they could not keep their eyes open. And they did not know what to tell him. 41 He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough of that! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Get up, let us go. Look! My betrayer is approaching!"

41. Where did the group travel to next? v32

42. What did Jesus ask the group to do? v32

43. Jesus then took the members of a smaller group with Him to another place. Who was in the group? v33

44. What was Jesus' state of mind at this point? v33

45. How does Jesus describe His condition to Peter, James, and John? v34

46. What does Jesus ask the group to do? v34

47. What does Jesus do next? v35

48. Jesus then begins praying. How does Jesus refer to God and what are the three basic components of the prayer that Jesus offers? v35

49. Since Jesus knew the scriptures, let's look at some passages that will remind us of God's ability to do anything.

Gen 18:14

Jer 32:27

Mar 10:27

50. Jesus then takes a break in His praying and what does He do? v37

51. What questions does Jesus ask Peter? v37

52. Jesus then gives two commands for the group to follow? v38

53. Jesus gives an explanation for the difficulty of doing the commands He just gave. What does Jesus say v38

54. What does Jesus do next? v39

55. After this time of prayer, what does Jesus do next? v40

56. The text offers an explanation for why the disciples were having difficulties. What was it? v40

57. How did the group respond to this second time of being caught falling asleep? v41

58. Jesus returns to His prayers and then what does Jesus discover upon returning this third time? v41

59. What does Jesus then announce that the time has come to have happen? v41-42

Betrayal and Arrest

43 Right away, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived. With him came a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and experts in the law and elders. 44 (Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him and lead him away under guard.") 45 When Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus immediately and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 Then they took hold of him and arrested him. 47 One of the bystanders drew his sword and struck the high priest's slave, cutting off his ear. 48 Jesus said to them, "Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me like you would an outlaw? 49 Day after day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, yet you did not arrest me. But this has happened so that the scriptures would be fulfilled." 50 Then all the disciples left him and fled. 51 A young man was following him,

wearing only a linen cloth. They tried to arrest him, 52 but he ran off naked, leaving his linen cloth behind.

60. Who is it that arrives as Jesus is telling the group that He is about to be betrayed and who is with him? v43

61. What was the sign that the betrayer would give to the group to identify who was to be the one they were looking for? v44

62. What did Judas do upon arriving? v45

63. What happened to Jesus at that point? v46

64. What was the reaction by one of the group to Jesus being arrested? v47

65. At this point Jesus then begins to question the group regarding His arrest. What does He ask? v48

66. Where does Jesus say that He was available to them for being arrested all the days prior to this? v49

67. What reason does Jesus give for His being arrested in this manner? v49

68. Here are some verses related to this event.

Psa 41:9

Isa 53:7

Psa 22:12

Zec 13:7

69. What happens next to fulfill what Jesus said His disciples would do earlier that evening? v50

70. There was a young man, possibly Mark, that was following the group. What happens to him? v51-52

Condemned by the Sanhedrin

53 Then they led Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests and elders and experts in the law came together. 54 And Peter had followed him from a distance, up to the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the guards and warming himself by the fire. 55 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find anything. 56 Many gave false testimony against him, but their testimony did not agree. 57 Some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58 We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and in three days build another not made with hands.' 59 Yet even on this point their testimony did not agree. 60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is this that they are testifying against you?" 61 But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest questioned him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 I am, said Jesus, and you will see *the Son of Man sitting at the right hand* of the Power and *coming with the clouds of heaven*. 63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? 64 You have heard the

blasphemy! What is your verdict?" They all condemned him as deserving death. 65 Then some began to spit on him, and to blindfold him, and to strike him with their fists, saying, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him and beat him.

71. After Jesus is taken into custody, where is he led to? v53

72. Which of the disciples followed the group after Jesus was arrested? v54

73. To what location did he follow the group to and what did he busy himself doing? v54

74. What were the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin looking for and why? v55

75. Of the witnesses that came forward, what was it about their testimony that made unusable? v56

76. Verses 57-59 gives a sample of this false testimony. What did it consist of and why couldn't it be used against Jesus?

77. The following verses give the reason for why this testimony couldn't be used by this group. Summarize them here:

Deu 17:6

Deu 19:15

78. What does the High Priest do next since Jesus wouldn't answer the charges that others offered against Him? v61

79. What additional insight do we see from the account given in Mat 26:63?

80. Jesus responds in two parts, how does Jesus respond? v62

1.

2.

81. What is significant regarding the first part of the response compared to Exo 3:13-14?

82. What is significant regarding the second part of the response when we compare it to some of the prophecies attributed to the expected Messiah?

Psa 110:1

Dan 7:13

83. What does the High Priest do next? v63

84. What two questions does he ask of the group and how do they respond? v64

85. At this point, the group begins to take action, what do they do? v65

Peter's Denials

66 Now while Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's slave girls came by. 67 When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus." 68 But he denied it: "I don't even understand what you're talking about!" Then he went out to the gateway, and a rooster crowed. 69 When the slave girl saw him, she began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." 70 But he denied it again. A short time later the bystanders again said to Peter, "You must be one of them, because you are also a Galilean." 71 Then he began to curse, and he swore with an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" 72 Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

86. While these events are taking place, what is happening in the courtyard? v66

87. What question is asked of Peter? v67

88. How does Peter respond? v68

89. What does Peter do after he responds to the girl and what happens? v68

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90. What does the girl do next? v69

91. How does Jesus respond to the statements being made around him? v70

92. Peter is again asked about his connection to Jesus' group by a bystander. What is he asked and what do they give as the reason for the question? v70

93. How does Peter respond to this question? v71

94. What happens after Peter responds and what does it remind him of? v72

95. What does Peter do upon remembering this? v72

Chapter 15

Jesus Brought Before Pilate

1 Early in the morning, after forming a plan, the chief priests with the elders and the experts in the law and the whole Sanhedrin tied Jesus up, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2 So Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He replied, "You say so." 3 Then the chief priests began to accuse him repeatedly. 4 So Pilate asked him again, "Have you nothing to say? See how many charges they are bringing against you!" 5 But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

1. A group formed and set about to do something. Who made up the group and what steps did they take? v1

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

2. What did Pilate ask Jesus? v2

3. How did Jesus respond? v2

4. What did the group of accusers do when Jesus responded this way? v3

5. What did Pilate ask in response? v4

6. How does Jesus respond to Pilate? v5

7. What was Pilates reaction to Jesus' actions? v6

8. How does Jesus' actions reflect both the fulfillment of scripture and his own teaching?

Isa 53:7

Mat 5:43-48

Jesus and Barabbas

6 During the feast it was customary to release one prisoner to the people, whomever they requested. 7 A man named Barabbas was imprisoned with rebels who had committed murder during an insurrection. 8 Then the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to release a prisoner for them, as was his custom. 9 So Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to release the king of the Jews for you?" 10 (For he knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of envy.) 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas instead. 12 So Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?" 13 They shouted back, "Crucify him!" 14 Pilate asked them, "Why? What has he done wrong?" But they shouted more insistently, "Crucify him!" 15 Because he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them. Then, after he had Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.

8. Mark adds some context to this section. What was customary to take place during this time of the feast? v6

9. Who was identified in the text and what was he imprisoned for? v7

10. What did the crowd begin to do? v8

11. What did Pilate ask the crowd at this time? v9

12. Mark adds a comment here to give a purpose for Pilate's actions. What does he say was the reasons for Pilate's question? v10

13. What did the chief priests do in response? v11

14. What was Pilate's questions back to them regarding Jesus? v12

15. How did the crowd respond? v13

16. What question did Pilate ask in response and how did the crowd respond? v14

Pilate:

Crowd:

17. What did Pilate do next and why did he do it? v15

18. After Pilate did this, what did he do to Jesus? v15

Jesus is Mocked

16 So the soldiers led him into the palace (that is, the governor's residence) and called together the whole cohort. 17 They put a purple cloak on him and after braiding a crown of thorns, they put it on him. 18 They began to salute him: "Hail, king of the Jews!" 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Then they knelt down and paid homage to him. 20 When they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

19. After Jesus turned over Jesus, what did the soldiers do with Him? v16

20. The soldiers then called together the whole group and went through a series of actions. What were they? v17-20

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

The Crucifixion

21 The soldiers forced a passerby to carry his cross, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country (he was the father of Alexander and Rufus). 22 They brought Jesus to a

place called Golgotha (which is translated, "Place of the Skull"). 23 They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 Then they crucified him and *divided his clothes, throwing dice* for them, to decide what each would take. 25 It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26 The inscription of the charge against him read, "The king of the Jews." 27 And they crucified two outlaws with him, one on his right and one on his left. 28 *(TEXT OMITTED - So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS."* NKJV) 29 Those who passed by defamed him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who can destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30 save yourself and come down from the cross!" 31 In the same way even the chief priests – together with the experts in the law – were mocking him among themselves: "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! 32 Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, that we may see and believe!" Those who were crucified with him also spoke abusively to him.

21. Who was pressed into service to assist Jesus in carrying the cross? v21

22. It appears that Mark adds some additional information about who this man was and that the original audience might recognize him and his family. What does Mark say about them? v21

23. Where do they take Jesus to at this time? v22

24. What did they offer Jesus to drink and what did he do with it? v23

25. What did the soldiers do with Jesus' clothes? v24

26. What does Psa 22:18 predict regarding the clothes of the expected Messiah?

27. What time does Mark say it was when Jesus was crucified? v25

28. What is the inscription that was read against Jesus? v26

29. Who was crucified at the same time as Jesus? v27-28

(Verse 28 doesn't appear in all of the original manuscripts, that is why I added the text from the NKJV. Yet we learn from it that Jesus' being crucified with criminals was all part of God's original plan when you compare it to Isa 53:12.)

30. What was the reaction by the crowds that passed by? v29-30

31. What were the chief priests and the experts in the law saying among themselves? v31-32

32. How were the people who were being crucified with him acting toward him? v32

Jesus' Death

33 Now when it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the

afternoon. 34 Around three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "***Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?***" which means, "***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***" 35 When some of the bystanders heard it they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah!" 36 Then someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Leave him alone! Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down!" 37 But Jesus cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last. 38 And the temple curtain was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 Now when the centurion, who stood in front of him, saw how he died, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" 40 There were also women, watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41 When he was in Galilee, they had followed him and given him support. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were there too.

33. Mark again gives some insight into the the events that took place next? What were they and how long did it last? v33

34. After that time what did Jesus do? v34

35. What did people around Jesus think He was doing? v35

36. How did someone respond to this outcry? v36

37. What did the crowd want to see happen instead? v36

38. What happened after this? v37

39. What coincided with Jesus breathing his last? v38

40. The significance of this happening is best answered in Heb 9:3-12. What does this passage tell us regarding Jesus' position in the life of the Christian?

41. What did the centurion say regarding the manner in which Jesus died? v39

42. Who were the women who were watching from a distance? v40

43. What does Mark tell us about these women and many others that came to Jerusalem at this time? v41

Jesus' Burial

42 Now when evening had already come, since it was the day of preparation (that is, the day before the Sabbath), 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a highly regarded member of the council, who was himself looking forward to the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Pilate was surprised that he was already dead. He called the centurion and asked him if he had been dead for some time. 45 When Pilate was informed by the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 After Joseph bought a linen cloth and took down the body, he wrapped it in the linen and placed it in a tomb cut out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone across the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and

Chapter 15

Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was placed.

44. What happens next and why does Mark say it should happen at this time? v42-43

45. What was Pilate's reaction to the request for Jesus' body? v44

46. What did Pilate do when the report was confirmed? v45

47. What steps does Joseph of Arimathea take to bury Jesus? v46

48. Who else does Mark say is aware of where Jesus is buried? v47

Chapter 16

The Resurrection

1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought aromatic spices so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled back. 5 Then as they went into the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has been raised! He is not here. Look, there is the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples, even Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." 8 Then they went out and ran from the tomb, for terror and bewilderment had seized them. And they said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

1. What happened after the Sabbath was over? v1

2. What is the day and time that this event took place? v2

3. What was the question that this group of women were asking themselves? v3

4. What did the groups see upon arriving at the tomb? v4

5. What did they do next, what did they see, and how did they react? v5

6. What did the person they saw in the tomb say? v6

7. What did he say that Jesus was going to do? v7

8. What reason does the person say that Jesus is going to do this? v7 (see 14:28)

10. Why do you think the person said to tell “even Peter” that the disciples were to meet Jesus in Galilee? v7

9. What do the women do after being told this news about Jesus and what was to happen next? v8

It is interesting that these women, even though they are given an assignment to do, they don't because of fear. Here are what a couple of commentators say regarding this reaction.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible:

Note, Our disquieting fears often hinder us from doing that service to Christ and to the souls of men, which if faith and the *joy of faith* were strong, we might do. ^{xxxiii}

Believer's Bible Commentary:

The women **fled from the tomb** with mingled shock and panic. They were too afraid to tell anyone what had happened. This is not surprising. The wonder is

that they had been so brave and loyal and devoted up to now.^{xxxiv}

The Longer Ending of Mark

9 [[Early on the first day of the week, after he arose, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had driven out seven demons. 10 She went out and told those who were with him, while they were mourning and weeping. 11 And when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

12 After this he appeared in a different form to two of them while they were on their way to the country. 13 They went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. 14 Then he appeared to the eleven themselves, while they were eating, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen him resurrected. 15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned. 17 These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands, and whatever poison they drink will not harm them; they will place their hands on the sick and they will be well." 19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 They went out and proclaimed everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through the accompanying signs.]]

This section has proven difficult for commentators over the years because it does not appear in all of the manuscripts. Here are what three study Bibles have to say regarding these verses.

The NET Bible:

The Gospel of Mark ends at this point in some witnesses (κ B 304 sy^s sa^{ms} arm^{mss} Eus Eus^{mss} Hier^{mss}), including two of the most respected mss (κ B). The following shorter ending is found in some mss: "They reported briefly to those around Peter all that they had been commanded. After these things Jesus himself sent out through them, from the east to the west, the holy and imperishable preaching of eternal salvation. Amen." This shorter ending is usually included with the longer ending (L Ψ 083 099 0112 579 *al*); k, however, ends at this point. Most mss include the longer ending (vv. 9-20) immediately after v. 8 (A C D W [which has a different shorter ending between vv. 14 and 15] Θ Ë¹³ 33 2427 ï lat sy^{c,p,h} bo); however, Jerome and Eusebius knew of almost no Greek mss that had this ending. Several mss have marginal comments noting that earlier Greek mss lacked the verses, while others mark the text with asterisks or obeli (symbols that scribes used to indicate that the portion of text being copied was spurious). Internal evidence strongly suggests the secondary nature of both the short and the long endings. Their vocabulary

and style are decidedly non-Markan (for further details, see *TCGNT* 102-6). All of this evidence strongly suggests that as time went on scribes added the longer ending, either for the richness of its material or because of the abruptness of the ending at v. 8. (Indeed, the strange variety of dissimilar endings attests to the probability that early copyists had a copy of Mark that ended at v. 8, and they filled out the text with what seemed to be an appropriate conclusion. All of the witnesses for alternative endings to vv. 9-20 thus indirectly confirm the Gospel as ending at v. 8.) Because of such problems regarding the authenticity of these alternative endings, 16:8 is usually regarded as the last verse of the Gospel of Mark. There are three possible explanations for Mark ending at 16:8: (1) The author intentionally ended the Gospel here in an open-ended fashion; (2) the Gospel was never finished; or (3) the last leaf of the ms was lost prior to copying. This first explanation is the most likely due to several factors, including (a) the probability that the Gospel was originally written on a scroll rather than a codex (only on a codex would the last leaf get lost prior to copying); (b) the unlikelihood of the ms not being completed; and (c) the literary power of ending the Gospel so abruptly that the readers are now drawn into the story itself. E. Best aptly states, “It is in keeping with other parts of his Gospel that Mark should not give an explicit account of a conclusion where this is already well known to his readers” (*Mark*, 73; note also his discussion of the ending of this Gospel on 132 and elsewhere). The readers must now ask themselves, “What will I do with Jesus? If I do not accept him in his suffering, I will not see him in his glory.”^{xxxv}

The Nelson Study Bible:

The authenticity of these last twelve verses has been disputed. Those who doubt Mark’s authorship of this passage point to two fourth-century manuscripts that omit these verses. Others believe that they should be included because even these two manuscripts leave space for all or some of these verses, indicating that their copyists knew of their existence. The difficulty is in knowing whether the space is for this longer version of Mark’s ending or for one of the alternate endings found in the manuscripts. Practically all other manuscripts contain vv. 9-20, and this passage is endorsed by such early church fathers as Justin Martyr (AD 155), Tatian (AD 170), and Irenaeus (AD 180). It does not seem likely that Mark would end his story on a note of fear (v. 8).^{xxxvi}

With that said, it is this author’s opinion that we can look at this section as being worthy of studying in light of the whole of the NT.

10. This section begins with Christ rising from the grave. Which day of the week did this take place and who was the first to meet Him? v9

11. What do we learn about her from this verse? v9

12. What did Mary Magdalene do after this meeting? v10

13. What was the group that Mary went to doing? v10

14. What was their initial reaction to what Mary told them? v11

15. Who does Mark say Jesus appeared to next? v12

16. Luke gives us some more insight into this event. What did Jesus explain to the two men as they traveled to Emmaus and when did they realize who it was that they were eating with? Luk 24:13-35

17. How did the two men describe the experience of when Jesus was describing the evidence of who he was from the Old Testament? Luk 24:32

18. What did the two men do after this? Luk 24:33-35

19. What was the response of the groups after telling them about what they

experienced? v13

20. Who does Jesus appear to next and what were they doing? v14

21. What message does Jesus have for the group? v14

22. What command does Jesus then give to the group? v15

23. What would conditions does Jesus give for salvation? v16

24. Jesus then gives certain signs that would accompany those who believe. v17-18

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

25. These signs are shown to have taken place by various disciples in the book of Acts.

Act 2:4

Act 8:7

Act 23:5

Act 28:1-8

There doesn't seem to be an example of a disciple drinking a poisonous drink in the New Testament. We do not see that all believers showed all of these signs. We shouldn't use these as tests of faith and test God either. When Jesus was tempted by Satan to throw himself down off the top of the temple, he responded with "You are not to put the Lord your God to the test" - Deu 6:16. We also see in Paul's writings in 1Co 12-14 that not all believers have all the same gifts, of which speaking in tongues and different forms of healing are listed here. Jesus also taught that people will know who are his disciples by their love for one another - Joh 13:35.

26. What happens to Jesus after he makes this command? v19

27. What does it say that the disciples did after this? v20

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- x http://agards-bible-timeline.com/q6_apostles_die.html (*Fox's Book of Martyrs* material added.)
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