

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK

LESSON ONE

This study of the book of Mark will take us through some of the same territory that we went through in the book of Matthew. You will quickly see that even though it covers some of the very same events as Matthew, that the details many times are enlarged upon by Mark. The author of Mark is, probably, the same Mark as John Mark that we read about in Acts chapter 12 verse 12, "And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together." This Mary, who was the mother of John Mark, lived in Jerusalem. In Colossians 4:10, we see that Barnabas was a close relative, as well as an uncle. Mark was, also, a close friend of Peter.

We see in Mark the working Jesus. In Revelation chapter 4 verse 7, we read about the four beasts. We have said in our teaching on Revelation that a better interpretation would have been "living beings" for beasts. Revelation 4:7 "And the first beast [was] like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast [was] like a flying eagle." In my comments on Revelation, I said that these four are symbolic of the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Mark then would be the calf and show Jesus as the Workman.

As I said before, even though Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John cover the same events in many cases, they are seen through four different people's eyes and are actually very different. The main topic of the book of Mark is: Jesus Christ, the servant of God and man. In this book, we are not dealing with Jesus from the tribe of Judah; but Jesus Christ, the healer and servant. We see Jesus as the servant of man.

We see nineteen specific miracles in the book of Mark. Eight of these miracles deal with His power and authority over disease, five of these miracles show Jesus as having power over all the world and everything in it, four over demons and Satan, and two show His power over death. As we go on through this book, take note that Jesus has power over all the earth, everything above the earth, everything under the earth, and everything in the sea. We will see Jesus as someone who gets the job done quickly. He sees a need and takes care of it right then.

Actually, St. John chapter 14 verse 11 tells what Mark is all about, John 14:11 "Believe me that I [am] in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake." If there is one theme, as I said, more than any other in Mark, it is Believe me for the very works' sake. We will get into all of this more as we go along. Now to begin the study of Mark chapter 1 verse 1.

Mark 1:1 "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;"

We see, here, in this first verse, that this is the beginning. There is no earlier writing by Mark. The gospel, as we said in Matthew, means good news. This is not just good news from anywhere, but is, in fact, the good news of Jesus Christ. We dealt with this name before, but I feel it is important to know what the name Jesus Christ implies, so bear with me, and

we will get into it again. Jesus means The Saviour, and Christ means the Anointed One. We discussed in a previous lesson that one of Jesus' names, before He came to earth, was God the Word. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." We also read in I John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." You see, in heaven, the one we call Jesus Christ is known as the Word. He took the name Jesus Christ for His earthly stay in a human body so that He, The Anointed One, might become the Saviour of the world. For His stay on earth, He was, also, known as the Son of God. Jesus had no earthly Father. His Father was God. We touched on this in Matthew. The Holy Spirit hovered over Mary, and she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was the Spirit of God in fleshly form; thus the Son of God.

Mark 1:2 "As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee."

We could go through and list the prophecies in the Old Testament. The prophecies of Jesus Christ began in Genesis chapter 3 verse 15 and went through most of the books in the Old Testament. The greatest number were in the books of the prophets such as: or Isaiah 9:7 or Micah 5:12 or Isaiah 7:14 or Daniel 9:25 or Jeremiah 31:15 or Deuteronomy 18:15 or Psalms 110:4 or Zechariah 9:9 or Zechariah 11:12. There are many more, too numerous to mention. In fact, that is a study just in itself. The specific prophet meant above, however, was Malachi. The Scripture which confirms this is Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

In Matthew chapter 17 verse 12, we see that Jesus said that John the Baptist was the messenger spoken of. This messenger's job was not to elevate himself, but to prepare the way for Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Mark 1:3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

John the Baptist was born and lived for one purpose, and that was to proclaim the coming of Christ. He had one message. It was Repent and be baptized for the Lord is coming. God, throughout the Bible, picked out a specific person and called them to do a specific job for Him. This was what God called John the Baptist to do. He was to use his voice to proclaim the coming of the Lord. We see many others in the Bible chosen by God for a specific job such as Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt to the promised land. He called Noah to build an ark. You see, God chooses whomever He will. This wilderness was not just physical, but spiritual, as well. Our cry, like John the Baptist's cry, should be "The Lord is coming".

Mark 1:4 "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

We have discussed in our lessons on Matthew, that it was the custom to baptize for the remission of sins long before Jesus' crucifixion on the cross. Even in the tabernacle in the wilderness, the washings were symbolic

of baptism to wash away sins. This actually was different to the baptism we Christians do. A Christian being baptized is actually performing Jesus' burial and resurrection. We are baptized into a water grave, and we are following Jesus in His resurrection. We rise again to newness of life in Jesus. The type of baptism of repentance of sins was usually an annual baptism for past sins.

Mark 1:5 "And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins."

There, strangely enough, was no rejection by the people of John the Baptist. We see, here, that many people went to great trouble to go into the wilderness and be baptized by John in the River Jordan. In Matthew chapter 21 verse 26, we see that the people believe John to be a true prophet, Matthew 21:26 "But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet." Isn't it strange they believed he was a prophet and did not believe the message he brought that Jesus Christ is Messiah? This river Jordan is still a favorite place for Christians worldwide to be baptized.

Mark 1:6 "And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;"

We can see from this that John the Baptist was a simple man with simple needs. The Bible says those that wear fine clothes live in palaces. John did not live in a palace, but rather in the wilderness. In 1979, my husband and I traveled to Israel and found that there is a nut grown there called a locust. The translation of the word, locust, here means a nut rather than an insect. It certainly would go well with wild honey. In a land where there are many camels, it would not have been expensive to get a camel's hide to make a garment from. A "girdle", we learned in Exodus, is something similar to a very wide belt. In all of this, I say again, we see a simple man, with simple needs, setting out to carry out the job that God had called him to fulfill.

Mark 1:7 "And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose."

We see, here, an humble man. John the Baptist knew that he was nothing compared to Jesus. Our ministers of today could take a lesson from John. We are nothing but a voice fulfilling the ministry that God has called us to. The person of the preacher is not the important thing. The message is the important thing, for by the foolishness of preaching people are saved. As John the Baptist elevated Jesus to His rightful position as God manifest in the flesh, so should every follower of Jesus and especially the ministers of His Word. Get our minds and messages off of mortal men and onto the mighty God, Jesus Christ our Lord. At the presence of the Lord, every knee will bow as John did. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" Philippians 2:11 "And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father." We must all remember with John that we are not worthy to unloose His shoes.

Mark 1:8 "I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost."

You can easily see from this that the baptism of repentance, which John the Baptist baptized with, was not the same baptism. John's baptism is of water, and Jesus' baptism is of fire of the Holy Ghost. Luke 3:16 "John answered, saying unto [them] all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:" We see the explanation of this baptism in Acts 19:2 "He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." Acts 19:3 "And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism." Acts 19:4 "Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." Acts 19:5 "When they heard [this], they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 19:6 "And when Paul had laid [his] hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." There really is no need for a discussion by me here; we will let the Scriptures speak for themselves. The only thing I will say is that this second baptism in Jesus' name is obviously not of water, but of laying on of the hands.

Notes

Mark 1 Questions

1. Why would we do this Bible study, if it covers many of the same events as Matthew?
2. Who is the author of Mark?
3. Who was his mother?
4. What was Mark's full name?
5. Give his uncle's name?
6. Who was a close friend to Mark?
7. What does Mark show us about Jesus?
8. Of the four beasts, which symbolizes Mark?
9. The main topic of the book of Mark is what?
10. In Mark, we are not dealing with Jesus from the tribe of Judah, but Jesus the what?
11. How many major miracles are listed in Mark?
12. How many deal with disease?
13. How many deal with Jesus' power and authority over the world?
14. How many show His power over demons and even Satan?
15. How many show His power over death?
16. How does Jesus get the job done (in one word)?
17. If there is a theme in Mark, it is found in St. John chapter 14 verse 11. What is it?
18. Gospel means what?
19. What does the word Jesus mean?
20. What does the word Christ mean?
21. What was Jesus' name in heaven that we read in St. John chapter 1 and First John 5:7?
22. How was it possible for His (Jesus) Father to be God? Explain.
23. In the Old Testament, where were the most prophecies of Jesus? Name a few.
24. Covering verse 2 in Mark, which one specifically was intended, perhaps?
25. In Matthew 17:12, what were we told about this messenger?
26. What was the purpose of John the Baptist's life?
27. What was his message?
28. Name two other men in the Bible who were called of God to do a specific job?
29. What was John's baptism of?
30. Was it practiced before Jesus was crucified?
31. How does this baptism in water differ from the baptism of us, Christians?
32. What is strange about the ministry of John the Baptist?
33. Where do we find the Scripture that the people believed John to be a true prophet?
34. How was John clothed?
35. What was he eating?
36. What is a girdle?
37. What was the locust, really?
38. In all of this, we see a _____ man, with _____ needs, setting out to do what?
39. How did John the Baptist compare himself to Jesus?
40. The person of the preacher is not the important thing. What is the important thing?
41. We should get our minds and our messages off of what and onto what?
42. Philippians 2:10 tells us what?
43. John baptized with water, but Jesus baptizes with what?
44. Where was the word fire added to this?
45. In chapter 19 of Acts, what do we see clearly about the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

46. What was the only comment the author made about this?

MARK LESSON 2

We will begin this lesson in Mark chapter 1 verse 9.

Mark 1:9 "And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan."

To some people this would seem so unusual that the Saviour of the world would come to be baptized. Of course, Jesus had no sins to repent of. He was without sin. In everything, Jesus is the ultimate example. I believe this act of humbly coming to be baptized was simply an example for us to follow.

There had been very little heard of Jesus, since His trip with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem when He was twelve years old. We know that He lived with His mother, Mary, and Joseph, the man that the world thought was His father. Joseph was a carpenter, and Jesus had worked with Joseph in the carpenter's shop. I believe a great deal went on that we are not told about in the Scriptures in this interval, since He had been in the temple at twelve. The statement: "wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" found in St. Luke 2:49, tells us that Jesus had begun His heavenly Father's business. The fact that Mary knew that Jesus could turn water into wine at the wedding indicates to me that this was the first RECORDED miracle, not the first one. Jesus from the time He was twelve until the wine incident was possibly ministering, but not formally for recorded history. The Hebrew young men called to the ministry began at age thirty.

John the Baptist was a close relative of Jesus' mother, Mary. It seems that John's message had traveled far, and Nazareth was not far from the Jordan River. Jesus, in prophecy, would be known as a Nazarene and a Galilaeen. It is so simply stated here that Jesus was baptized of John. The baptizer is not the important thing, the baptism is.

Mark 1:10 "And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:" Mark 1:11 "And there came a voice from heaven, [saying], Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The thing that stands out in these two verses more than anything else is the fullness of the God head here. We see Jesus (the second person) coming out of the water, we see the Father in the voice from heaven, and we see the Holy Spirit in the form of a Dove which descended from heaven. We, in fact, see Father, Son, and Holy Spirit here at the baptism. The heavens opened lets us know that these truly were from the throne of God in heaven. Remember, Jesus was from heaven Himself. His Spirit, which is His Life, is of God. His flesh was provided by Mary.

In verse V-10, it appears that all three personalities of God were cooperating in the ministry of Jesus here on the earth. Jesus' body, here, was touched by the Holy Spirit of God, as if anointing Jesus to carry out the work. Jesus' Spirit needed no renewal. His Spirit is the God Spirit, without flaw. The Spirit of God chose to come to earth and take on the form of man, so that He might save mortal man. The "heavens opened" shows, also, the involvement of all of heaven in this earthly ministry of Jesus which officially began with this baptism. The Elohim God was present here, the

very one present at creation. {To see more on this, read the Bible study on Genesis}.

These three, also, give us a three-fold view of approval of the baptism. First of all, the Lord Jesus was the one baptized. The voice from heaven caused us to hear God's approval; and thirdly, the descension of the Dove gave physical evidence of God's approval. Many people wear little dove pins proclaiming that they have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This voice leaves no doubt who Jesus is. He is the Son of God. Not only is He the Son of God, but God is very pleased with His Son. Just this voice alone should have left no doubt in anyone's mind just who Jesus really is.

Mark 1:12 "And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness."
Mark 1:13 "And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him."

In Mark, here, we see a very short statement. This, however, is covered in detail in Matthew chapter 4 verses 1 through 11, and again, in Luke chapter 4 verses 1 through 13. I would suggest that you read both of those accounts several times along with this to get the full message. I will touch on just one or two items here.

"The Spirit driveth him into the wilderness" is a shortened statement. The true meaning, I believe, is found in Luke 4:1 "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness," We see a similar statement in Matthew 4:1 "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." We see, here, a perfect example of cross references of Scriptures which interpret themselves. We see from this, that Jesus was so full of the Holy Ghost and It's power, that He was led by the Spirit. It is one thing, I have said before, to be saved; but it is an entirely different thing to have Jesus as your Lord. Jesus, in this case, had totally submitted His will to the Spirit. He gladly went to be tempted of the devil. God is not a tempter. The devil tempts through the lust of the flesh. When we are tempted, it is the lust of the flesh that causes the temptation. In Jesus' case, He had no lust. The devil tried to cause Jesus to lust for the things of this world and failed.

Another point we must make, here, is that the angels of God did not minister unto Jesus, until He had been tempted and overcame the temptation. Then they ministered to Jesus. Forty, throughout the Bible, is symbolic of trials and testings. This forty days was no exception, here. We will find in our Christian walk that we, too, have times of testing. We, too, must withstand the devil with the Word of God and in the name of Jesus. In James 4:7 we read "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are. He was first tempted in food, because He was hungry after forty days. He was tempted to tempt God and see if God would protect Him, and He was tempted to attain earthly fame. To read more in detail about this, you may read in the lessons on Matthew and Luke which deal with this same subject in chapter 4 of both books.

Mark 1:14 "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God," Mark 1:15 "And

saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

There was a gap of time here between the temptation and the time Jesus came into Galilee. This John, spoken of here, is John the Baptist. He was imprisoned because he spoke out against Herod marrying his sister-in-law, Herodias. This is found in Mark 6:18-19.

When Jesus came into any area, it was for a purpose. Here, we see Him coming into Galilee to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. The purpose of preaching is to change people, to cause them to begin again in Jesus. The "gospel", as we have said before, is good news. Believers are not like the world who have no hope. We have hope of an everlasting kingdom, if we believe in Jesus. The kingdom of God is actually everything that exists. The whole universe is His kingdom. A really good way to say this would be that Jesus was preaching the good news that God is King of everything, and we are part of that kingdom, if we repent of our sins and make Jesus Christ Saviour and Lord of our lives.

In V-15, "the time is fulfilled" just means that the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies that Messiah will come, had happened. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. Christians should not dread death of the body, we should look forward to the everlasting life of the Spirit. In Romans 10:9, it tells us what this good news really is, Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Mark 1:16 "Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers." Mark 1:17 "And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." Mark 1:18 "And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him."

This, again, is a very short and precise statement about the call of Simon (Peter) and Andrew to go with Jesus and be His apostles. We find this statement almost exactly like this in Matthew 4:18-22. The most vivid description of what happened, however, is found in Luke 5:1 "And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret," Luke 5:2 "And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing [their] nets." Luke 5:3 "And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship." Luke 5:4 "Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."

Luke 5:5 "And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." Luke 5:6 "And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake." Luke 5:7 "And they beckoned unto [their] partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink." Luke 5:8 "When Simon Peter saw [it], he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Luke 5:9 "For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:" Luke 5:10 "And so [was] also James, and John, the sons of

Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." Luke 5:11 "And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him."

Not that we need any reason for them "forsaking all, and following" Jesus, but they had just seen an overwhelming miracle, plus they had just heard Jesus preach. There would be no way that they would not follow Him. You see, the very best way to explain a Scripture is to find a more detailed Scripture on the very same incident and let it explain it for you. Notice, that the Sea of Galilee and Lake of Gennesaret are one and the same. Peter was called by Simon, also, and in one place called by both names at once, Simon Peter. There is no further explanation necessary why they left their nets and followed Jesus. It was just because He told them to. They believed nothing was impossible to Him after seeing this miracle.

This was covered in the explanation above from Luke.

Notes

Mark 2 Questions

1. Where did Jesus come from before He was baptized?
2. Who baptized Jesus?
3. Where was He baptized?
4. Why was Jesus baptized?
5. What occupation had Joseph practiced?
6. Who did the world believe was Jesus' father?
7. What age did Hebrew men begin to minister?
8. In prophecy, what two things were spoken of Jesus that indicated where He would be from?
9. When Jesus came out of the baptismal water, what descended upon Him?
10. What did it symbolize?
11. What did the voice from heaven say?
12. What does the author think stands out the most in Verses 10 and 11?
13. Tell how we saw Father, Son, and Holy Ghost at the baptism.
14. When did Jesus' ministry officially begin?
15. What one thing at Jesus' baptism should have left no doubt who He is?
16. What drove Jesus into the wilderness?
17. Why was He drawn to the wilderness?
18. How long was Jesus in the wilderness to be tempted?
19. What Scriptures in Matthew and Luke tell of this same incident?
20. What does the Scripture the spirit driveth him into the wilderness mean?
21. Who and what tempts a person to sin?
22. When we sin, what causes it?
23. The devil tried to tempt Jesus in His flesh, what happened?
24. When did the angels minister to Jesus?
25. How long did Jesus fast?
26. What number is symbolic of trials and tribulations?
27. What does James 4:7 teach us about the devil?
28. When did Jesus come into Galilee to preach?
29. What did He preach there?
30. Why had John been put in prison?
31. What is the gospel?
32. Christians should not dread death, but should _____.
33. Who was Simon's brother?
34. What was Simon's other name?
35. What was Simon's and his brother's occupation?
36. What did Jesus call them to do?
37. In what book do we find a more detailed account of this same thing?
38. What great miracle did Jesus perform for them before He called them to the ministry?
39. Who were Simon's partners, besides his brothers?
40. Why did Simon tell Jesus to depart from him?
41. How did they, Simon and his brother, answer Jesus' call?

MARK LESSON 3

We will begin this lesson in Mark 1:19 "And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the [son] of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets."

This is not a discrepancy from the account we studied in lesson number two. This is just the difference in several people telling the same story. We see, here, that all the important details are the same as in the other accounts. Now, in addition to Peter and Andrew, the Lord had discovered James and John. All were fishermen whom the Lord would make fishers of men. We see that James and John were the sons of Zebedee, the sons of thunder.

Mark 1:20 "And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him."

Fishing was an honorable way of making a living. These were men who knew how to work hard to get the job done. They, without hesitation, answered the call Jesus had placed on their lives. We see, here, that James and John had given up family, job, their home, and security to follow Jesus. In Mark chapter 10 verses 29 and 30, we see what happens to those who give up things of this world to follow Jesus, Mark 10:29 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's," Mark 10:30 "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

Mark 1:21 "And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught."

Peter's home was on the outskirts of Capernaum on the banks of the Sea of Galilee. This "they" included Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Jesus. The "he" was Jesus. Jesus taught in the synagogue. Remember that "sabbath" is Saturday.

Mark 1:22 "And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes."

The scribes had limited (head) knowledge of the Scriptures. Jesus is the Word. His message is a message of first-hand knowledge. Jesus did not need to bring a faltering message. The scribes were uncertain and their message was a message of interpretation, not of actual fact. This strong, straightforward, non-wavering message of Jesus astonished them, because Jesus is positive that His message is true. He is the Truth. St. John chapter 1 verse 1 tells us that Jesus is, in fact, the Word. His authority is unquestionable for He is God the Word. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Mark 1:23 "And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out," Mark 1:24 "Saying, Let [us] alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God."

We see that this man was possessed of demons. This is a very good Scripture, here, to prove just who demons really are. My own personal belief about demons is that they are the 1/3 of the angels who followed Lucifer when he was thrown out of heaven. Angels are ministering spirits. The angels who remained on God's team, minister good. The fallen angels who followed Lucifer are evil, and they minister evil. As Lucifer's name was changed to Satan, these angels became demons. In the Scripture above, these demons recognized Jesus. If my opinion of who they are is true, they would have known Jesus (the Word) in heaven. It would be natural for them to not only know who He was, but also for them to fear what He might do to them. The fallen angels know that their fate is eternity in hell. They know that Jesus is the Judge who will determine where they go. So you see, this is not ungrounded fear. In V-23 when the man cried out, it was actually these evil spirits that cried out. The demons knew Jesus as the Holy One of God. We have discussed before how Jesus' name, that He used at a specific time, was descriptive of the work that He was doing at the time. Such as Jesus-Saviour, Christ-Anointed One. This "Holy One of God" is His relationship to the Father in heaven.

Mark 1:25 "And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him."

We will see that Jesus was speaking to this evil spirit in the man and not to the man. Jesus is the Lord over all. Jesus is even the Lord over this evil spirit, and this evil spirit had to obey the voice of Jesus. When Jesus told this evil spirit, to hush it hushed. When Jesus told the evil spirit to come out of him, it had to obey Jesus as we see, in the next verse.

Mark 1:26 "And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him."

This unclean spirit did not want to give up this body. This unclean spirit tore him and cried with a loud voice, because the spirit was vacating a place he thought he had secured. The devil will not give up without a struggle, but is subject to Jesus. Our Bible says resist the devil, and he will flee from you. We are no match for the devil ourselves, but the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus are more powerful than the devil. Just as in the verse above when the unclean spirit obeyed the command of Jesus, we can, also, fight unclean spirits with the name of Jesus and the power of His blood.

Mark 1:27 "And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine [is] this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him."

You must remember that in the synagogue there was much formality and tradition. Really these scribes had been trained to go through a certain ritual, and they knew technically what was required of them; but they had no power within themselves. You might say that I am being judgemental, but we have just seen that these evil spirits had no fear of the scribes. They just came right into the synagogue with the man. The amazing thing to them was the power and authority of Jesus' message.

Mark 1:28 "And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee."

You can imagine how this would spread. These people coming to the synagogue had never seen anything like this before.

Mark 1:29 "And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John."

Remember, earlier in this lesson that we mentioned that Peter's home was on the edge of town there at Capernaum by the sea of Galilee. Perhaps, they came back to rest for the night; we are not told in the Scriptures.

Mark 1:30 "But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her."

We see in this Scripture above that Simon, better known as Peter, was married. We, also, can see from this that his wife's mother was in the house with them. Someone told Jesus of the woman's fever.

Mark 1:31 "And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them."

We see, here, that just one touch from Jesus' hand, and Peter's mother-in-law was made whole. This was not a partial healing, but a total recovery. In fact, she was so much better instantly that she forgot her illness and began to minister to them. This is very similar to the woman who just touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was healed. Just one touch of His hand can do mighty miracles. This type of healing instantly would be so dramatic that no one could deny it. The word would spread fast.

Mark 1:32 "And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils."

We see, here, that the fame of Jesus had spread rapidly. By that evening a large group of sick and those possessed with devils had gathered to be healed. These that were brought were almost assuredly the ones whom the physicians had given up on. When you are sick and there seems no cure, it is time to locate someone with great healing power, and that is just what these people did. Perhaps, one reason they came late in the evening was so that they might not be seen by their neighbors.

Mark 1:33 "And all the city was gathered together at the door." Mark 1:34 "And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him."

It seems that these miracles that Jesus had done had spread like wildfire. The whole town knew about it and now were gathered at the front door of Peter's house. Jesus came outside and healed all sorts of diseases and cast out many devils. As we said earlier, these demons were subject to Jesus' commands. We see, here, again, evidence that these demons were the fallen angels, because they were told by Jesus to keep quiet because they knew Him.

Mark 1:35 "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."

This should be a very good message to us. In the quiet of the very early morning, Jesus went to pray; not with others, but alone. We read, "Be still and know that I am God", Psalms 46:10. The most precious times with God is in the privacy of just you and God. Praying is fellowshiping with Him. Even Jesus prayed. We should see even more necessity to pray ourselves.

Mark 1:36 "And Simon and they that were with him followed after him."
Mark 1:37 "And when they had found him, they said unto him, All [men] seek for thee."

We see by this that Jesus already had an overwhelming following. This following was not because of His message, however, but so that they might receive something of Him.

Mark 1:38 "And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth."

We know that Jesus did heal and deliver people, but this was not His purpose in coming to the earth. Back in Capernaum there was a group wanting Him to minister to their bodily needs, but Jesus' purpose in coming was to save their souls. Many times there are physical blessings from Jesus, but His most important role is to renew our spirit in Him. To save our souls from death is Jesus' purpose.

Mark 1:39 "And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils."

You can see from V-39 that Jesus' first purpose was to preach salvation. Casting out devils and healing was actually like an afterthought. It may be part of the package, but was not the sole purpose of His ministry.

Mark 1:40 "And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."

"Leprosy" was a dreaded disease. These people were not even allowed to be near the rest of the community. This man was taking his life in his own hands to get to Jesus. The thing that would help him with Jesus was his great faith and humility. He did not doubt that Jesus could heal him. He said to Jesus, "If you will, you can heal me". Sometimes sin is spoken of as spiritual leprosy. Jesus is the healer of physical or spiritual leprosy.

Mark 1:41 "And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth [his] hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean."

The love that Jesus has for each of us is so far beyond what we can even comprehend that it is easy to understand the love He showed to this man of such great faith. Just one touch of the Master's hand, and he was clean of leprosy - the most dreaded, incurable disease of that day.

Mark 1:42 "And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed."

This was not a gradual healing, but a sudden complete healing.

Mark 1:43 "And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;"
Mark 1:44 "And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them."

Jesus sent the cleansed man away. Jesus told the man not to tell anyone of his healing, but the gratitude of the man (being brought back as it were from the dead) was too great. He told everyone he saw. Jesus had told him to show himself to the priest. The priest had to examine him and declare him clean before he could move freely among his people. The man was to give an offering suitable in the temple as the law of Moses had specified. This ceremony took place without the camp, and the offering was two living birds (clean), cedar wood, scarlet wool, hyssop, two he lambs, one ewe lamb, three tenth deals of flour mingled with oil, and one log of oil. To read more about this, look in the lessons in the book on Leviticus.

Mark 1:45 "But he went out, and began to publish [it] much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter."

We can easily see why Jesus did not want the man to spread the news of his cleansing of leprosy. Jesus, now, could have no privacy at all and especially in the city. Anyone who had an illness of any kind came to Him. He was overwhelmed by the masses of people surrounding Him, and He fled into the desert. Even in the desert they came to Him from every direction. We know that Jesus healed so many, that if all the healings were written down there would not have been enough books in all the world to contain them.

Mark 3 Questions

1. Who was the father of James?
2. Who was the brother of James?
3. What occupation did James have?
4. When the brothers left the ship and followed Jesus, who did they leave to help their father Zebedee?
5. What had Peter, Andrew, James, and John given up to follow Jesus?
6. What is promised to those who give up homes and families to follow Jesus?
7. What town did they go to, when they left the sea of Galilee?
8. What did Jesus do there?
9. What day of the week is sabbath?
10. What type of knowledge did the scribes have?
11. How did they feel about Jesus' doctrine?
12. What type of message did Jesus bring?
13. In St. John chapter 1 verse 1, we see Jesus is in fact the _____.
14. Why did the man in the synagogue cry out?
15. Who was actually crying out?
16. What did they say?
17. Who did the demons call Jesus?
18. How did they know Him?
19. What does the author think demons are?
20. What was Lucifer's name changed to?
21. What does Jesus mean?
22. What does Christ mean?
23. What did Jesus say to the demon in the man?
24. What did the unclean spirit do to the man?
25. How can Christians successfully fight unclean spirits?
26. What effect did Jesus delivering the man have on the people?
27. What had the scribes been trained to do?
28. What amazed them about Jesus' message?
29. Where did Jesus go when He left the synagogue?
30. Who was sick with a fever?
31. How did Jesus handle the fever?
32. What effect did Jesus' touch have on the woman?
33. Why did Jesus tell the devils not to speak?
34. Where did Jesus pray?
35. When Simon found Jesus, what did he tell Him?
36. Jesus told Peter He came for what?
37. What did the leper say to Jesus?
38. How did Jesus answer him?
39. What did Jesus tell the leper to do after He cleansed him?
40. What book of the Bible tells a great deal about the various sacrifices?
41. Where did Jesus go to try to get away from the masses of people?

MARK LESSON 4

We will begin this lesson in Mark 2:1

Mark 2:1 "And again he entered into Capernaum after [some] days; and it was noised that he was in the house."

As we said in the previous lesson, Peter's home was on the outskirts of Capernaum. Jesus had fled to the wilderness to avoid the huge mobs of people. We see, here, that Jesus had quietly come back into town, but someone saw Him return and now, it was all over town that He was back.

Mark 2:2 "And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive [them], no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them."

We can see that in just a very short time this house filled with people. In fact, so many people packed in this house to hear Jesus preach that not even one more person could squeeze in the front door. We know from the previous lesson, that Jesus' message was not what they were used to hearing. His message was of power and authority. We know, also, that Jesus' message was not of formality, because here we saw Him preaching in the home. The scribes went strictly by the formality of worship in the synagogue. They were hungry for this type of preaching, which was for all the people.

Mark 2:3 "And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four."

Palsy is a progressive disease. It seems this man's palsy had gotten to an extreme case. He was unable to walk. Palsy has terrible shaking associated with it and is actually like a short circuit in the brain. Most people with palsy are able to walk, so this had to be someone who had an advanced disease, because it took four men to bring him.

Mark 2:4 "And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken [it] up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay."

We see, here, that the crowd was so large, there was no way to get to Jesus through the crowd. I see great faith, not only of the man with the palsy, but with his friends who would not give up on getting to Jesus. First of all, they had great love for their friend to go to this much trouble to get him to Jesus. Most of all, they had to believe strongly that if they could get him in Jesus' presence, he would be healed. It seems they broke open the roof of the house and let him down right in front of Jesus.

Mark 2:5 "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Notice, Jesus recognized their faith first. Faith impresses Jesus. On many occasions, Jesus said your faith has made you whole. I do not believe that all disease is because of sin in a person's life, but I do believe some diseases are brought on ourselves because of sin in our lives. The

wrong type of sex brings all sorts of terrible diseases. I personally believe that Aids falls into that category. Not all people who acquire aids (but the majority) have committed sin causing their disease. Some disease is associated with sin. Sin is a sickness itself. At any rate, we see here that in this particular case, this disease was because of sin in the man's life. Jesus went to the root cause of the disease and said thy sins be forgiven thee. We cannot assume from this that all palsy is brought on by sin.

Mark 2:6 "But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts," Mark 2:7 "Why doth this [man] thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?"

These scribes were not there to be of help in this ministry of Jesus. They were here to spy and criticize. In verse 7 above, they showed just how little they really knew or believed about Jesus. Their first mistake was in believing that Jesus was just a man. Without realizing it, they made a true statement. God alone can forgive sins. Jesus is God the Word caught up in the body of a man. This was the truth they failed to see. Many in our churches today cannot see Jesus as anything but man. They are like these scribes, doubting, because they put limits on Jesus. Were Jesus just a man, the scribes would have been correct. Jesus, as we have said in all of these lessons, was God manifest in the flesh: Emmanuel, God with us. God forgives sins anytime, or anyplace, for anyone He wants to.

Mark 2:8 "And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?"

It seems that these scribes did not speak out openly against Jesus, but were just having evil thoughts. They were, probably, afraid of the people too much to speak out openly. Just the fact that Jesus knew what they were thinking in their hearts should have told them that He was no mere man. Jesus nearly always answered them with a question. He really was saying to them: if there were no good results, you would have room to complain. Judge whether it is right or wrong by the results.

Mark 2:9 "Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, [Thy] sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?"

This man sick of the palsy had been around for the scribes to minister to, and they had not been able to help him. Jesus, to me, was saying here, Why complain about the manner it is done in, if it works?

Mark 2:10 "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)" Mark 2:11 "I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house."

I believe, here, that Jesus was saying to these scribes, You do not understand who I am. He called Himself, "Son of Man" because that was who they believed He was. "Son" is capitalized. Jesus' power was not diminished just because He was housed in the body of a man. His power is not just in heaven, but here on the earth, as well.

Mark 2:12 "And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion."

Just as the wind obeyed Jesus in Matthew, we see, here, that this man obeyed the voice of Jesus and did just exactly what Jesus told him to do. He never doubted for a moment that he could do what Jesus told him to, and he did it. You can imagine how amazed the people were. They had not seen miracles like this done by the scribes. This was something brand new. They realized that this was from God and they glorified Him.

Mark 2:13 "And he went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them."

We see, here, that when Jesus left the house and went back to the seaside, all these people followed Him; and He taught them. These people were anxious to hear what Jesus had to say, because He had answers to their problems. They had just witnessed a man healed of a long time illness, and they realized Jesus had something these scribes did not have.

Mark 2:14 "And as he passed by, he saw Levi the [son] of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him."

In Matthew 9:9, Levi was called Matthew. Luke 5:27-28 tells about this, also. Matthew, or Levi, whichever you want to call him, was a tax collector. Publican actually indicated tax collector. Tax collectors were hated by the people. Most tax collectors raked off some of the revenue for themselves and were not really upright citizens. This man would not have been someone the scribes would have chosen for Christian endeavors. As far as making money, this was a good job. Matthew gave up a lot of worldly income to follow Jesus. Matthew came without hesitation when Jesus called.

Mark 2:15 "And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him."

The Hebrews were extremely careful who they associated with. They, would not fellowship with people of the world and especially with tax collectors. Jesus had broken the pattern again. He was doing something in meeting with these tax collectors and sinners that the scribes would never do. Jesus held promise even for these people that the synagogue had rejected.

Mark 2:16 "And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?"

Even at this early stage of Jesus' ministry, these scribes and Pharisees knew that they were no match for Jesus. They came to the disciples and talked to them. In a sense, they were saying, Don't you know that in our law it is forbidden to eat with people like this? They asked the disciples why was He doing this sinful thing?

Mark 2:17 "When Jesus heard [it], he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

We all know that everyone has need of Jesus as Saviour. I believe that Jesus in speaking to these self-righteous people was telling them that He didn't come to help those who did not want His help. Jesus came to help whosoever will. These scribes and Pharisees would not accept His help. He was telling them, if you are already perfect, you don't need My help. Jesus came to save the lost. A person must realize he needs help, before they will receive help. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" You can easily see from this Scripture above in Romans, that He was speaking to them this way because of their self-righteousness.

Notes

Mark 4 Questions

1. As soon as Jesus went back to Capernaum and entered the house, what happened?
2. Why had Jesus gone to the wilderness?
3. What was said that makes us know there was no more room in the house?
4. After all these people gathered, what did Jesus do?
5. Why had so many come to hear Him preach?
6. Who brought the man sick of palsy to Jesus?
7. What did they do when they could not get him in the door?
8. What kind of disease is palsy?
9. What do we see in these four men who would not give up, until they got the man sick of palsy to Jesus?
10. "When Jesus saw their _____, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."
11. Why did this man have palsy?
12. What did these scribes say Jesus spoke?
13. What truth did they speak unknowingly?
14. Why had the scribes come to the house?
15. What did the scribes call Jesus that is the same mistake many church goers make today?
16. How did Jesus know what they thought?
17. What could Jesus have said and gotten the same results?
18. Why did Jesus forgive his sins, instead of just saying be healed?
19. Why did Jesus call Himself, Son of man?
20. What did the man sick of the palsy do?
21. How did this affect the people?
22. Who did they praise for this?
23. When Jesus left the house and went to the seaside, what did the people do?
24. What did Jesus go to the seaside to do?
25. Who did Jesus see as He passed the place of tax collecting?
26. What is this man's other name?
27. Who was this man the son of?
28. What two other books tell of Matthew's call?
29. Who were with Jesus that the scribes and Pharisees did not approve of?
30. Who did the scribes and Pharisees complain to about Jesus' behavior?
31. When Jesus heard their complaints, what did He say to them?
32. In Romans 3:23, we see what?
33. What was Jesus telling these scribes and Pharisees that they were?

MARK LESSON 5

We will begin in this lesson in Mark 2:18.

Mark 2:18 "And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?"

In Luke 18:12, we see a self-righteous Pharisee bragging that he fasts twice a week. Possibly, to make others look on him as more righteous than he really was. Luke 18:12 "I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." Jesus warned about this type of fasting. Jesus told us when we fast to wash our faces and not let the world know when we fast, but to fast unto God. Possibly, the reason John's followers were fasting was because John was in jail. It really appears, to me, that these Pharisees were jealous that Jesus' disciples were not fasting.

Mark 2:19 "And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast."

People fast when they are in desperate need of having a prayer answered. While Jesus was with them, there was no desperate need of an answer to prayer. This verse is, also, prophetic. Jesus is the bridegroom of the bride of Christ (which we, Christians are). I say again, there is no need to fast when everything is going good. While Jesus was with them, He took care of all their needs, and there was no need to fast.

Mark 2:20 "But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days."

All who study the Bible know that when Jesus was taken by the authorities, the disciples ran. They suddenly forgot all the times Jesus had told them that this very thing would happen. He told them He would be crucified and then rise from the grave on the third day. Then they would need to fast and pray, because Jesus had been taken away. Instead of fasting and praying, they went back to their old jobs and old ways of life.

Mark 2:21 "No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse."

We know that this statement is very true. If we are patching an old garment, we should cut a patch of something equally worn so that the tear and the patch wear together. It would be a waste of new material, also, to put it in something worn out.

Mark 2:22 "And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles."

The literal message here needs very little explanation. The fermenting of the new wine could cause old containers to give way. Probably, these were not glass bottles, but bottles made of skins. I believe the real message

that the Lord would have us receive here though is: The people who were caught up in the law would not accept this new message of grace. We see this even in our day. Those who have always looked at the literal message will not even try to see the spiritual message. New converts can be taught easily to see the spiritual message.

Mark 2:23 "And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn."

We see here, that they were on the move. Perhaps, they had not been eating and they saw this fresh, ripe corn. They did not stop to cook this, so they just shucked it and cleaned the cornsilks off as they walked and ate these juicy kernels. There is a little more detailed account of this same thing in Luke 6:1, "And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands." The spiritual message that we must get from this is: The Word (food) is not always prepared for us. We have to do a little work digging (rubbing) the Word out before we can digest it.

Mark 2:24 "And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?"

This reminds me so much of our churches today. Each church has its own little laws that you have to stick to, or you are just not allowed to be in that body. Every church has its Pharisees: caught up so in the "don'ts" that it is very difficult to get anything going. These Pharisees pointed to the law and said you can't do this, you are breaking the Mosaic law. They didn't even realize that Jesus was the law maker.

Mark 2:25 "And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?"

Jesus, here, said don't you even know what is in your own book of law? You profess to know everything about the book of law, and yet, you do not know this simple thing. The story of David going to the temple when he was running from Saul and getting five loaves of shewbread for him and his men is found in First Samuel 21. These Pharisees did not realize that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.

Mark 2:26 "How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?"

Helping David caused problems for this priest with Saul, and he later fled and joined David in exile. This shewbread was the bread in the holy place on the table always before the Lord. This bread was sprinkled with incense when brought into the holy place and was eaten by the priests only. The new bread was brought each sabbath to replace the old which was eaten . This eating of the shewbread had sustained David in his time of need, and this is just what the disciples had done as well, eaten to sustain themselves.

Mark 2:27 "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:"

Man must cease labor one day a week to give his body a time to restore itself. If a man fails to rest one day in seven, he soon becomes sick and not able to go. When we stay too busy, we have a tendency to forget about God. On this day of rest from daily labor, we can tend to the needs of our souls. It gives us time to think about other things, besides just making a living. We remember that there were exceptions made for necessity in the law. God allowed a man to free his animal, if he got in trouble on the sabbath. This just shows that God is concerned about the needs of mankind more than He is interested in us dogmatically obeying the law.

Mark 2:28 "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."

The Son of man is Lord of everything and everyone. We have mentioned before that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" Philippians 2:11 "And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father." No further explanation is necessary. He is Lord of everything.

Notes

Mark 5 Questions

1. Whose disciples who fasted came and asked why Jesus' disciples didn't fast?
2. What describes the attitude of the Pharisees?
3. When we fast, who are we to tell?
4. What did Jesus call Himself in verse 19?
5. When do people fast?
6. When will Jesus' disciples fast?
7. What did Jesus' disciples do when the authorities took Jesus?
8. What had they forgotten?
9. Why would a man not put a new piece of cloth in an old garment?
10. Why would you not put new wine in old bottles?
11. What is the spiritual message in the statement above?
12. Those who have always looked at the literal message in the Word will seldom see the _____.
13. Who is easy to teach the spiritual message?
14. What did the disciples do, as they walked through the cornfield?
15. What day was it?
16. What does Luke 6:1 tell us about this story that was not in Mark?
17. What is the spiritual meaning of this?
18. Who complained about the disciples doing this on the sabbath?
19. What are the Pharisees in the church doing today?
20. What Old Testament personality did Jesus remind them of?
21. What had he done that could have been judged a sin?
22. What happened to the priest that helped David?
23. What was the shewbread sprinkled with?
24. Who was the sabbath made for?
25. Who is the Lord of sabbath?

Notes

MARK LESSON 6

We will begin this lesson in Mark 3:1.

Mark 3:1 "And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand."

In Luke 6: 6, we read that this withered hand, was the man's right hand and it probably kept him from making a living for himself and his family. It seems that Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath when He was near enough to attend.

Mark 3:2 "And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the Sabbath day; that they might accuse him."

We see, here, that the scribes and Pharisees were following Jesus around so that they might find Him doing something that they could complain about. The Sabbath day was their favorite time, because anything that could be thought of as labor on that day was against the Mosaic law. Perhaps, their jealousy of His ability to heal and deliver the oppressed drove them to this. At any rate, they watched His every move so that they could find fault.

Mark 3:3 "And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth."

Jesus would not let these scribes intimidate Him. When He saw the man in need, He boldly told him to come to Him. It made no difference that these scribes were looking on.

Mark 3:4 "And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace."

Jesus did not wait for them to say something. He asked them a question that they could not answer. There was no way to criticize what He was doing when He put it this way. If they answered at all, they would have to agree that it was good to do good and to save life. He only gave them two choices. So that they would not agree with what He was doing, they just didn't answer at all.

Mark 3:5 "And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched [it] out: and his hand was restored whole as the other."

We see, here, that Jesus had no patience with those who were constantly finding fault with those who were trying to do good. He could look right into their hearts, and He didn't like what He saw. Their hearts were so hardened that they did not have compassion on those who could not help themselves. Jesus was grieved so deeply that the people of the church (who should be seeking to do good) were just like the world and didn't care for the needy around them. He openly defied those cold hearted scribes and Pharisees and healed the man's hand right in front of them, sabbath or not. Notice that Jesus told the man to do something: to extend his hand. As an

act of faith, he had to extend his hand showing that he believed it would be restored. Faith is important in receiving healing.

Mark 3:6 "And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him."

It seems these Herodians and Pharisees (who had been enemies in the past) had now joined forces to oppose Jesus together. Jesus really did no physical labor when he healed this man with the withered hand. He spoke, and this man was restored anew. Now, these jealous church leaders of that day were looking for some way to stop Jesus, because He was showing the weakness in their ministry.

Mark 3:7 "But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea,"

We see, here, that Jesus had been away from Capernaum at an interior city. The Herodians were more prominent in the interior where Herod's headquarters were. The word had spread about Jesus' miracles, and this multitude had gathered from many miles around. Jesus had returned again to the sea of Galilee where, you remember, Peter had a home.

Mark 3:8 "And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and [from] beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him."

I really believe the reason these two paragraphs were separated was to show that a multitude came from Galilee and Judea, and another multitude came from Tyre, and Sidon and, Jerusalem and all those cities listed in verse eight.

Mark 3:9 "And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him."

We see, here, that there were so many people that Jesus had a small boat to stand by in readiness in the chance that these people would press on Him so greatly that it would overwhelm Him. He could minister from the boat, if necessary.

Mark 3:10 "For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues." Mark 3:11 "And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God."

We have discussed before how just touching Jesus' garment could heal as it did the woman with the issue of blood. Virtue went out from Jesus to the person healed each time. You can easily see how this could be so tiring, even for the Son of God. We, also, have mentioned before that the reason these unclean, demon spirits recognized Jesus was because they had been in heaven with Jesus before they made the terrible mistake of following Lucifer. They had been angels; but when they decided to follow Lucifer, they became demons (evil spirits). Notice that even evil spirits are subject to Jesus, and must bow.

Mark 3:12 "And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known."

We see, here, that Jesus did not want these people to follow Him because of the miracles or even because of these spirits telling them who He is, He wanted the message of grace to win them.

Mark 3:13 "And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth [unto him] whom he would: and they came unto him."

Jesus removed Himself from the masses of curiosity seekers and just called the ones to Him in the mountain whom He would. Unless the Holy Spirit draws the person, they will never come to God. It is God's will, however, that all of us come. In this case, He was calling the disciples.

Mark 3:14 "And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach," Mark 3:15 "And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:"

This "ordained" carries much more power than what we think of as ordaining today. This means empowers to preach, heal and cast out devils. These men had not been in school training. This is a little like Jeremiah's call to minister. Jeremiah, as these 12 apostles, was not trained by the world to take over his job. Jesus touched them and prayed over each of them, and His virtue flowed into these disciples. They were really just an extension of Him. They preached in His name, they healed in His name, they cast out demons in His name. The power was in His name. Just as God touched Jeremiah's lips and put the words in Jeremiah's mouth, Jesus touched the disciples and empowered them to minister.

Mark 3:16 "And Simon he surnamed Peter;" Mark 3:17 "And James the [son] of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:" Mark 3:18 "And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the [son] of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite," Mark 3:19 "And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house."

We see here the chosen twelve. "Peter" means a rock. The Lord giving James and John this name "Boanerges" indicated that Jesus knew they both had the zeal and power to fulfill the great work He had for them to do. John, my favorite penman, was very bold in announcing Jesus as the Word and God in John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This was, also, the same John who was banished to the Isle of Patmos for speaking out so boldly for Christ. So many people wonder why Jesus chose Judas Iscariot. Jesus knew someone had to betray Him. He was obedient to the will of the Father even in choosing Judas as a disciple.

Mark 6 Questions

1. Where did Jesus encounter the man with the withered hand?
2. Which hand was withered?
3. Why is this important?
4. Who watched Jesus constantly?
5. Why were they watching this closely?
6. What was, probably, their problem?
7. What were the first two words Jesus said to the man?
8. What question did Jesus ask the scribes that they could not answer without trapping themselves?
9. What feeling did Jesus have toward these scribes?
10. Why was Jesus' heart grieved?
11. What did the man with the withered hand have to do to be restored?
12. What one word shows what we must have to be healed?
13. These Pharisees joined in with their unusual enemies against Jesus. Who were they?
14. Where did Jesus withdraw to?
15. Where did the multitudes come from to throng Jesus?
16. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do to insure Him from being thronged?
17. Why did they want to touch Him?
18. What did the unclean spirits do when they saw Jesus?
19. How did they know Him?
20. What did Jesus tell these evil spirits to do?
21. When Jesus went to the mountain, who came to Him?
22. How many did Jesus ordain?
23. What does the word "ordain" really mean here?
24. What was Jesus ordaining them to do?
25. How were they able to do all these things God had called them to do?
26. What other name did He give Simon?
27. What does it mean?
28. The name Boanerges that He gave James and John showed what about their personalities?
29. Why did Jesus choose Judas Iscariot as one of the twelve?
30. Which is your favorite disciple? Explain.

Notes

MARK LESSON 7

We will begin this lesson in Mark 3:20.

Mark 3:20 "And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread."

We see, here, that the magnitude of the ministry was such and the needs of the people were so great that Jesus would not stop to eat or to rest His body.

Mark 3:21 "And when his friends heard [of it], they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself."

These were well-meaning family and friends. They believed because Jesus was working so very hard and not taking time for eating, that He had driven Himself too far and was not thinking right. They tried to force Him to rest. We, preachers, know this feeling, as well. Well-meaning family and friends will get concerned about you and try to stop you from doing something that you know you must do. God will fill you with all the strength you need to fulfill the job He has chosen for you to do. The enemies of the work are many times close friends and family. Just as Jesus went on without their approval, that is what we must do, too.

Mark 3:22 "And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils."

These scribes (ministers) of that day realized that Jesus was able to cast out demons, and they were not able to cast them out. They were grasping for some kind of answer why He was able to cast out demons. They did not understand it, so they criticized. They even accused Jesus of being of the devil.

Mark 3:23 "And he called them [unto him], and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?"

Notice above, even though they were criticizing Jesus, they still came when He told them to. This speaking in parables was so only His followers would understand what He was saying. Not only how can Satan cast out Satan, but why would Satan cast out Satan? This was, probably, the most ridiculous statement they had made up until now. Notice that Jesus did not deny that Satan existed. He just said that Satan and Jesus were on opposite sides.

Mark 3:24 "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." Mark 3:25 "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

This was all saying the very same thing. Divide and conquer is just a simple way of saying this. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan are opposites. If Satan started throwing his own evil spirits out of his victims, they would no longer be victims. We can easily see that even Satan would not be so dumb. This house divided is along the same line, but we see it so much in our society today. If mother and dad are not in agreement, they are headed for divorce and the tearing up of the home. Mother and dad

should stand as one united, and then they two could withstand the onslaught of the devil. One can put a thousand to flight and two together can put ten thousand to flight. Deuteronomy 32:30 "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?" You see, together we stand; divided, we fall.

Mark 3:26 "And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end." This is kind of like committing suicide. If he is against himself, who is for him?

This was kind of like committing suicide. If He was against Himself, who was for Him?

Mark 3:27 "No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."

In this parable, Jesus told us that if we are to successfully defeat Satan, we must bind him before we come against him. Tie him up with the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus and render the demon helpless before you throw him out. The two things that Satan is the most afraid of are the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus. This is what defeated him at the cross. It is with the Spirit of God, in the name of Jesus, and through the power of His shed blood that we cast out demons.

Mark 3:28 "Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:" Mark 3:29 "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:"

These are, probably, the most controversial two verses in the entire Bible. Many people believe that they have already sinned this unforgivable sin against the Holy Ghost. I know people who believe that because they have cursed and had the Lord's name attached to the curse words, that they have committed the unforgivable sin. Some believe because of the place this is located in the Scriptures that these scribes and Pharisees committed this sin when they said that the miracles Jesus was doing was from Satan. There are others who believe to deny that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for our day is a unforgivable sin. I personally believe none of the above. I believe verse 28 is true when it says ALL sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men. That is a separate statement from verse 29. My own personal belief is that the sin can only be committed at death. This Holy Ghost is the Spirit Jesus sends as a comforter to us to teach and help us. When we reject Jesus Christ as our Saviour and die in that state, we have totally rejected the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost). I believe this total rejection of Jesus and the Holy Ghost is what this blasphemy is. I believe as long as there is breath in your body, and you use that breath to ask Jesus to forgive you and send the Holy Ghost, He will. We are all in danger of eternal damnation until we repent and receive Jesus in our hearts.

Mark 3:30 "Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit."

These men had totally rejected Jesus and unless they repented, this will be their fate. Even Paul said these terrible things for a time, until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Mark 3:31 "There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him." Mark 3:32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee." Mark 3:33 "And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?" Mark 3:34 "And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!" Mark 3:35 "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."

We see this whole scene was set up so that Jesus might teach us about the family of God. All believers in Jesus Christ are sisters and brothers in the family of God. Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Father, but we also are children of the Father through adoption. We have been grafted in to the tree. Jesus is our elder brother. We are members of the family because of our faith in Jesus Christ. We have been purchased with a price and have been presented to the Father by Jesus Christ our Saviour. In Romans 8:14-17: Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Romans 8:16 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together." Our family, through blood line here on this earth, is what Mary and Jesus' half-brothers were to Him. Jesus was explaining that the eternal family (your sisters and brothers in Christ) is the true family. The family of God.

Notes

Mark 7 Questions

1. There was such a multitude they could not _____
2. _____
Why did Jesus' friends and family try to lay hold on Him?
3. What were they trying to force Him to do?
4. What lesson can we modern preachers learn from this?
5. Who did the scribes that came from Jerusalem say He had?
6. How did they say He cast out devils?
7. What question did Jesus ask them when He called them to Him?
8. Why did He speak in parables?
9. What was the most ridiculous statement these scribes had made?
10. What happens if a kingdom is divided against itself?
11. What can we relate this "house divided" to in our society today?
12. In Deuteronomy 32:30, we find that one can put _____
_____ to flight and two can put _____
_____ to flight.
13. What would happen to Satan if he were divided?
14. How is the only way a man can enter into a strong man's house?
15. What are the two things we, Christians, must use to come against Satan and his demons?
16. In verse 28, which sins will be forgiven?
17. In verse 29, what is the exception?
18. What is the most controversial issue in the Bible?
19. Name two beliefs (other than what the author believes) that are thought to be the sin against the Holy Ghost.
20. What did Jesus send the Holy Ghost to believers as?
21. What does the author believe is the sin against the Holy Ghost?
22. Who was a famous penman of the Bible who rejected Jesus and the Holy Ghost until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus?
23. Who came to see Jesus and called for Him to come outside to see them?
24. What question did Jesus ask the people concerning this?
25. Who is the family of God made up of?
26. What was the purpose in Jesus' mother and brethren coming to see Him?
27. In Romans 8:14, we read that who are the sons of God?
28. What do we call the Father when we have been adopted?
29. Verse 17 of Romans, chapter 8 tells us that we are joint _____ with Jesus.

MARK LESSON 8

We will begin this lesson in Mark 4:1.

Mark 4:1 "And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land."

Once before, Jesus had called for a ship to come so that He could get away from the multitude of people on shore. This multitude was so great that He was to get into a ship and cast out just a little way to minister. There are a number of reasons why this is good. One reason is that the voice carries better across water, and Jesus' voice would be magnified with the water, so this huge group could hear.

Mark 4:2 "And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,"

We see, here, that this doctrine was of Jesus. Jesus was teaching in parables so that people could not receive His message in their minds but through their spirits. The Holy Spirit teaches the Christians all truths.

Mark 4:3 "Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:"

"Hearken" means give me your full attention. "Behold", here, was telling those in attendance (and us, as well) to see with our inner man. He in essence was saying, "You must look beyond what I am saying literally and look into the spiritual to understand what I am about to tell you". Notice, also, the simplicity of this message. These people were all familiar with growing things and could easily relate to someone sowing seed.

Mark 4:4 "And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up."

Jesus is the great sower of the seed (Word of God). Not all who hear this Word will receive it. This is an explanation by Jesus about the different way the world and its people receive the Word of God. The sower is the same in all cases (Jesus). The seed (the Word of God) is the same in all cases. It is in the way it is received that is different. Jesus, Himself, would come back and explain in detail what this parable meant, and it will help us in other parables to look for the hidden meaning. Not all who hear the gospel receive it. Satan is depicted as the fowl of the air. Satan has come to steal and destroy the Word.

Mark 4:5 "And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:" Mark 4:6 "But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away."

All of us who have been in church for any length of time have seen the type of person who is indicated above. An evangelist comes through town, and he is so thrilled with the message he goes down front and makes big commitments to God. In a few days when his friends have laughed at him and

he runs into hardships, he falls by the wayside. On fire for God for a few days, but his fire went out.

Mark 4:7 "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit."

These are people who are trying to keep one foot in the world and one in church. They still lust for the things of the world while claiming to be Christians.

Mark 4:8 "And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred."

We see, here, Christians who receive the truth and live daily upright lives. These Christians are in for all of eternity. Troubles and lust of worldly goods will not turn their heads. They will follow Jesus, whatever the cost. These are fruit bearers, messengers who tell others of Jesus and add to God's kingdom to the best of their ability. Some of them just get a few saved, but some of them get hundreds saved. Perhaps, the different amounts have to do with where they are located and how many they have opportunity to witness to.

Mark 4:9 "And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Jesus was telling them, here, to open the ears of their understanding; the inner ears. He was saying, receive these words inside of you and think about it until you understand. These messages in parables are not for the world to understand, but are to be understood within us from the teachings of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 4:10 "And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable."

One thing we need to realize, here, is that the disciples, at this time, had not been filled with the Holy Spirit. You remember what happened to them on the day of Pentecost. Some of them had not been with Jesus very long, and perhaps, were not even really familiar with the books of the law. We know that there were more than just 12 disciples. There were 70, and by the time of Pentecost, there were 120. These 12 were the closest to Jesus and were actually the foundation of Jesus' outreach ministry.

Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all [these] things are done in parables:"

The secrets of God are just revealed to the believers. Those that seek, find. The Bible is written in such a manner that just casual reading does not reveal the great mysteries of God. You can read the same Scripture 20 times, and each time God will reveal just a little bit more to you. I have spent about 45 years studying the Bible and even in doing these lessons, I have seen things that I never saw before. I believe the Lord reveals as much as you can handle at the time. I have said this before, but it bears repeating. God does not want us to accept Him with our minds. He wants our

hearts. He wants us to have faith in things we cannot see with the physical eye.

Mark 4:12 "That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and [their] sins should be forgiven them."

You see, if everyone could fully understand the Scriptures, many would repent and come to God because it is the practical thing to do, and not because they love God. This is not what the Lord wants. He wants to be our Saviour, but He also wants to be Lord of our lives. He must be the center of everything, or He will not be anything. Religion of the mind is lukewarm religion. Jesus said He will spew us out of His mouth if we are lukewarm. We must be on fire for God to please Him.

Mark 4:13 "And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? And how then will ye know all parables?"

This is a very good question. The Bible, itself, has hidden meanings throughout. It is the diligent student who does not mind digging who finds the treasures in the Word.

Mark 4:14 "The sower soweth the word." Mark 4:15 "And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts." Mark 4:16 "And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;" Mark 4:17 "And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended." Mark 4:18 "And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word," Mark 4:19 "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."

We see above, again, that the Word of God never varies. It goes out for all to hear. The difference in the results comes about by those who hear the Word. We see, here, in the first instance where the fowls eat it up. This message is never received. The message goes out, but the person is too calloused by things of the world to even receive it. In the second instance above, the stony ground indicated a shallow person. He received the Word and may even come forward for salvation, but the very first sign of any problems, he drops out. In the third instance, the thorns indicate, to me, that this Word sown goes into an area where there are many worldly people. In fact, many of our churches fall into that category today. This person, instead of coming out of all this worldliness, gets caught up in it and importance in the community. These things become more important than studying the Word. This person is finally overcome with lust for these worldly things. None of these people above produce any extra members for God's kingdom. They bear no fruit at all.

Mark 4:20 "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive [it], and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred."

We can easily see that this fourth person is what we all need to be. We not only receive the Word for ourselves, but go out and share it with others and lead them into full knowledge of God and His salvation. Some of us may not come in contact with many people, and we may not produce but 30. Others who have an opportunity to witness to large groups may get a hundred saved. The important thing is to bring as many into the kingdom as you possibly can. Be a fruit bearer for God.

Notes

Mark 8 Questions

1. Why did Jesus enter into a ship to speak to the people?
2. What help is the water to the voice?
3. How did Jesus teach them?
4. Why did Jesus use this manner of teaching?
5. Who teaches the Christian all truth?
6. What does hearken mean?
7. What was Jesus saying with the word, "Behold", here?
8. Why did Jesus speak to them about sowing seed?
9. What happened to the seed in the first parable?
10. Who do the fowls symbolize?
11. What does the seed symbolize?
12. Who is the sower?
13. In the second example, where did the seed fall?
14. Why did it spring up immediately?
15. Why did it wither away?
16. Where did the third seed fall?
17. What happened to this seed?
18. In verse 8, the seed fell where?
19. What was the difference in the results?
20. What type of person does this represent?
21. What did Jesus tell them to do in verse 9?
22. Messages in parables are for who to understand?
23. When did the disciples ask Jesus what the parables meant?
24. Who is it given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God?
25. What has the author discovered about reading the Bible?
26. If God does not want our minds, what does He want?
27. Is it a different message that brings different results?
28. Which one of these four are you?

MARK LESSON 9

We will begin this lesson with Mark 4:21.

Mark 4:21 "And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?"

Jesus was just making an example of how foolish it is to hide the Light of the world. This lamp symbolizes the divine Truth that is caught up in the person of Jesus Christ. A candlestick is to give light. Covering the very thing that produces light would be very foolish. Christians are the bearers of the Light of Jesus to the lost world. We must shine forth, not cover the Light the Lord has given us.

Mark 4:22 "For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad."

Much was hidden before Jesus came. The way into the Holy of Holies was opened when Jesus died on the cross, and the curtain was torn from the top to the bottom. This tells us that Jesus has opened the way to God the Father for us. The Scriptures are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit of God. The hidden things of God are revealed through Jesus Christ.

Mark 4:23 "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."

Again, He was speaking of the understanding of man being opened. This was speaking of listening carefully and understanding.

Mark 4:24 "And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given."

More than ever before, it is very important what you listen to. The brain is like a computer, and everything that goes into the brain is recorded. We must filter out all the dirty movies, the rock music with its suggestive lyrics, and even much conversation of the general public; because it is spiced with cursing. The information that we receive into our brains can be built upon, so we must make sure that it is absolute truth. The more we receive the truth, the more we build upon it. The Bible says that we must seek to find. It is amazing how much extra knowledge we can acquire from just one extra hour in the Bible. If we desire to learn the truths in the Bible, the Holy Spirit of God will teach us. Whatever you do, study and memorize as many Scriptures as you can. We see, here, that if we preach (mete) what we do know, God will fill us with more and more that we can pass on. It never ends. He just fills us over and over again.

Mark 4:25 "For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath."

This is just saying that the knowledge God has given you must be used. If you never recollect a Scripture, pretty soon you couldn't remember it even if you tried. If you use it frequently, then you will add more and more to it all the time.

Mark 4:26 "And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;" Mark 4:27 "And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how."

Remember the seed was the Word of God. If we scatter that Word out, we may not see the results right now, but on harvest day there will be those who have received that Word and are counted in the kingdom, because of that Word that was spread. Many times, we do not know that we have said something about the Lord that has influenced their lives. We don't always know that the Lord is working in someone's life when He is. By the foolishness of preaching, men are saved. This means foolish to the world. Two or three different people may think they have ministered to a person to no avail; but when you least expect it, he comes into the kingdom. We know not how, but it is part of God's plan; just like the seed in the verse above.

Mark 4:28 "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." Mark 4:29 "But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

We see in verse 28 and 29 above, the life of an individual Christian, and also the growth of a church. A person, when he first receives the Word of God (seed), is not a full grown Christian. In the meantime, we must patiently await and grow until harvest.

Mark 4:30 "And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?"

The physical heaven has no comparison here on this earth. Heaven far surpasses anything on this earth. This, perhaps, could be speaking of the kingdom of God's people. Even while we are on the earth, we, Christians, make up the kingdom of God on the earth. We are His kingdom, here. It is very peculiar how the Christian population grows. One gets saved, and then that one draws several more; and then the first thing you know, there are millions of Christians.

Mark 4:31 "[It is] like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:" Mark 4:32 "But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it."

When you stop and think about it, it is amazing how one Jesus Christ about 2,000 years ago started what has grown into literally millions of Christians today. The seed that was planted was the Word of God, Jesus Christ. God's church started first with Jesus Christ, then the twelve, and look what it has grown into today. Every country has been touched by this Word. In South America, the mustard tree grows so big that a man on horseback can ride under the branches. This is really minor, however, to the true meaning of this Scripture about the humble beginning of the church of Jesus Christ, and how it has grown into millions of believers.

Mark 4:33 "And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear [it]." Mark 4:34 "But without a parable spake he not

unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."

These parables, as we said before, were spoken so that the unbelieving world would not understand what He was saying. The only ones who did understand were the ones to whom He chose to reveal it. He explained every one in detail to His disciples.

Mark 4:35 "And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side." Mark 4:36 "And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships." Mark 4:37 "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full."

"The same day", spoken of here, probably means the same day that He spoke these parables. They dismissed the multitude, and Jesus climbed into the little ship that He probably used to preach from before. It is not unusual for a strong wind to come up suddenly on the Sea of Galilee. Many fishermen through the years have lost their lives because of the sea. All of these little ships were having problems. Many had followed Jesus into the sea in small boats.

Mark 4:38 "And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?"

You must remember that Jesus' flesh was of Mary. In the flesh, He got tired, and that was why He sent the multitude away and cast out into the sea to rest His body; and also, that He might show that He is Lord of the sea, as well. Jesus knew no fear as these disciples did. Jesus was not concerned about the high waves for Himself.

Mark 4:39 "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Jesus is Peace. He is the King of Peace. Jesus is in total authority over everything in this world. Land, sea, air, and under the earth, as well. When He speaks, it must obey.

Mark 4:40 "And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"

Fear is not of God. Faith is the opposite of fear. Jesus scolded them for doubting. They should have known, if they had truly known Jesus, that no harm would come to them as long as Jesus was with them.

Mark 4:41 "And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

That is the secret. He is not a man at all. He is God the Word housed in the body of a man. I have used this Scripture so much, but it tells us that Jesus is Lord of all. Philippians 2:10 tells us that Jesus is Lord of everything. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;"

Mark 9 Questions

1. Where is the natural place to put a candle?
2. This Light symbolizes the divine truth that is caught up in _____.
3. What is going to happen to things that are hidden?
4. When was the way opened for Christians to God the Father?
5. What does Jesus tell us to do with our ears?
6. What does this really mean?
7. How will measure be made to us?
8. What is our responsibility toward what goes in our brain?
9. What can you compare the brain to?
10. What will happen to those who have?
11. What did Jesus liken the kingdom of God to?
12. Can you explain in detail what makes a seed grow?
13. What is the seed symbolic of?
14. What kind of foolishness are men saved by?
15. The earth bringeth forth fruit of _____.
16. When is the harvest?
17. Who makes up the kingdom of God on earth?
18. What kind of seed is supposed to be the smallest?
19. What does it grow into?
20. What does it symbolize?
21. When Jesus had finished the parables, what did He do?
22. Was Jesus' ship the only ship that went into the sea?
23. What happened that frightened the disciples?
24. What was Jesus doing on the ship?
25. Why did Jesus need to rest?
26. When they awakened Jesus, what did He do?
27. What question did Jesus ask the disciples?
28. What is fear?
29. What surprised even the disciples about Jesus?
30. What is the secret of Jesus?

MARK LESSON 10

We will begin this lesson in Mark 5:1.

Mark 5:1 "And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes."

This place of the "Gadarenes" is on the side of the Sea of Galilee across from Capernaum.

Mark 5:2 "And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit," Mark 5:3 "Who had [his] dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:"

This country of the Gadarenes had a place of caves where they put those who were mentally deranged. This insane man was living in the caves used as entombment for the dead. This man was obviously possessed of an evil spirit so ferocious that it was impossible to chain him. It appears that like most insane people, this man was not only harmful to others, but to himself as well. This man's malady, as many insane people of our day, was a spiritual problem. Some time during his life unclean spirits had entered into him, and now, they were in total control of him. This man really had no life. Being possessed of these evil spirits caused him to be totally alienated from society.

Mark 5:4 "Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any [man] tame him."

This so many times is true of the insane. Society tries to lock them up away from every one else to keep them from harming others and themselves. There are no answers by man for curing this.

Mark 5:5 "And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones."

There really is no hope available for these people, aside from Jesus Christ. Usually, they wind up as suicide victims, because they can't live with others or themselves. These evil spirits that are called insanity actually torment the victim. Not all, but most insanity is actually being possessed by demons or evil spirits.

Mark 5:6 "But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him," Mark 5:7 "And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, [thou] Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not."

Probably, this demoniac man had been watching the boat as it came across the water. The man ran to Jesus and fell down and worshipped Him. Even the demons bow at Jesus' feet. All are subject to Him. This voice that came from the man, was the voice of these unclean spirits. They were demons (fallen angels). They were fully aware that Jesus has power over them. You see, again, that they know who Jesus is. They do not want to be put in the lake of fire, which they know is their final home.

Mark 5:8 "For he said unto him, Come out of the man, [thou] unclean spirit." Mark 5:9 "And he asked him, What [is] thy name? And he answered, saying, My name [is] Legion: for we are many."

Jesus just spoke, not to the man, but to the unclean spirit in the man; and tells him to come out of the man. I personally believe that the reason Jesus asked him what his name was is for our benefit. When we command an unclean spirit to come out of a man in the name of Jesus, it will sometimes help if we know the name of the demon. We can call the demon by name when we tell him to release the victim and come out. Another reason that I believe He asked his name was so the magnitude of this miracle can be told. Many times a person that is demon possessed will have many demons.

Mark 5:10 "And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country."

This is a strange thing about demons. They do not like to leave the family or the area where they are cast out. I suppose they feel that other members of the family might have a similar weakness and will allow them into them. These unclean spirits do not have bodies, they try to find a body that will be willing for them to enter, so that they may use the body as a dwelling place.

Mark 5:11 "Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding." Mark 5:12 "And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them."

Notice, here, a few things about these devils or unclean spirits. 1. They were not in control, even though there were many of them. 2. They had to ask Jesus' permission to go into the swine. 3. They preferred people to indwell, but their second choice was animals.

Mark 5:13 "And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea."

We know right off that these unclean spirits contained the spirit of suicide, because that was exactly what these hogs did. You can easily see why the man was so violent with 2,000 of these terrible spirits in him.

Mark 5:14 "And they that fed the swine fled, and told [it] in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done."

You can imagine how the story would spread. These men had lost a great herd of swine.

Mark 5:15 "And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid."

This fear that came upon these men was because the power of God had come among them, and they did not know what to do. Here, they saw the man who just hours earlier was insane, and he was totally restored to his sanity

and was worshipping Jesus. They had never seen anything like this before. People fear what they do not understand.

Mark 5:16 "And they that saw [it] told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and [also] concerning the swine." Mark 5:17 "And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts."

We see, here, not men who were humbly seeking to repent before the Lord. These men wanted Jesus to leave their area fearing that Jesus would cause them more loss of their worldly goods. They had to be aware that this great power is of God, but perhaps, their fear, was worsened by their knowledge that they were not godly men.

Mark 5:18 "And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him." Mark 5:19 "Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." Mark 5:20 "And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all [men] did marvel."

The folks at home knew just how badly possessed of demons this man had been. They were his neighbors and friends. There ha been a miracle, and these people could not deny it. It was only up to the man to tell them who did it and how He did it. They knew it was done. Here, we see, in effect, a person giving his testimony to those who know just how bad it had been. Now, they would be more receptive of Jesus. There would be no question who He is, and that the power of Almighty God brought this miracle about.

Mark 10 Questions

1. What country did Jesus go to on the other side of the sea?
2. Who met Jesus immediately after He got out of the ship?
3. Where was the man's dwelling place?
4. This man's problem was so great they could not restrain him even with _____.
5. What really had happened to the man?
6. Who would a person like this harm?
7. How did the man try to destroy himself?
8. What is insanity, usually?
9. What did the man do when he saw Jesus?
10. The unclean spirit in the man called Jesus what?
11. What did he ask Jesus not to do?
12. What did Jesus say to the unclean spirits?
13. What was the name of the demons?
14. Why did these demons not want to leave the country?
15. The devils asked to be cast into what animals?
16. Jesus gave these evil spirits what permission?
17. How many animals were there?
18. What did the keepers of the swine do?
19. What condition was the freed man in when the men of the city saw him with Jesus?
20. What request did the man make to Jesus?
21. What did Jesus answer him?
22. What did the men of the city ask Jesus to do?
23. What witnessed to the home folks more than what the man said?
24. What two things could the man tell the people that they could not readily see?

MARK LESSON 11

We will begin this lesson in Mark 5:21.

Mark 5:21 "And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea."

We assume that this was Capernaum, because it was across the sea. This is on the edge of the Sea of Galilee, as we said before. Probably, the people were aware that Jesus would return here and were awaiting Him. At any rate, it didn't take long for a crowd to gather.

Mark 5:22 "And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet," Mark 5:23 "And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: [I pray thee], come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live."

We see, here, one of the elders of the church came to Jesus. "Jairus" means "he will illuminate". This was a very difficult thing for someone from the Jewish synagogue to do. He humbled himself to Jesus to save his daughter's life. The same account in Matthew says she was even now dead. The account in Luke said she lay a dying. At any rate, her condition was hopeless unless Jesus intervened. The love of this parent overcame all the fear of his friends' laughter. Jairus had seen the miracles in the synagogue, and he knew that just one touch from the hand of Jesus did miracles. He wanted his daughter to live, and he had come to Jesus as a last resort.

Mark 5:24 "And [Jesus] went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him." Mark 5:25 "And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years," Mark 5:26 "And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse," Mark 5:27 "When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment." Mark 5:28 "For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole."

We see, here, that the instant Jesus stepped out into the street, the people surrounded Him. The word had traveled far and wide that Jesus was healing and doing all of these miracles. This same account of this woman's illness in Luke said that she had spent all of her money trying to find a cure for this hemorrhaging. This had been going on twelve years, and she had given up on help from the physicians. Her only hope was Jesus. She felt unworthy for Him to touch her since she was a Gentile woman; but she felt if she might just touch His garment, she would be healed. Her faith was great. Her faith had brought her, in her weakened condition, to be in this crowd that she might touch His garment. Perhaps, the delay was so Jairus' daughter would be dead, and Jesus would show His power to resurrect the dead.

Mark 5:29 "And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in [her] body that she was healed of that plague." Mark 5:30 "And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?"

The instant she touched Him, she was healed. She was expecting healing, and she received it when it came. Jesus knew that healing virtue had gone out of Him. He asked who had received healing. You know there were masses around Him who wanted to be healed. We might ask ourselves why God chose her to heal. It was because of her great faith. Faith pleases God. Jesus felt the healing power of God surge out of Him.

Mark 5:31 "And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?" Mark 5:32 "And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing."

This is so interesting, because so many touched Jesus physically; they were pressed all around Him. Only one touched into His healing power. Her touch was a touch of faith, knowing within herself that one touch would make her whole. Healing is a spiritual gift, but many times it comes with a physical touch of the hand. This touch was the act of faith that it took to activate the miracle.

Mark 5:33 "But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth."

We see, here, that Jesus wanted her to publicly proclaim this miracle. She felt as if maybe Jesus would not have bothered with her if she had asked, and she had received this blessing kind of without permission. She was not aware that Jesus would heal or save whosoever will. This reminds me of the Scripture in Romans 10:9. We not only must receive Jesus in our hearts, but confession with the mouth is made unto salvation. She must proclaim this miracle to keep it. Confession is good for the soul, and she had done just that here.

Mark 5:34 "And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague."

We see here, again, that the woman's great faith was what attained her healing for her. The King of Peace spoke peace to her. It appears that this sickness she had, had been a judgement from God {plague}. At any rate, she was forgiven and freed from the plague.

Mark 5:35 "While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's [house certain] which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?"

In the midst of Jesus' ministering to the woman with the issue of blood, we see the men come to tell Jesus that Jarius' daughter was dead. There must be an impossibility before there can be a miracle. Here they tell Jarius, don't bother Jesus any further, your daughter is dead.

Mark 5:36 "As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe."

We see, here, again, that Jairus was a high official in the synagogue. Jesus reminded him not to doubt, but believe. This was asking a very difficult thing in the sense that in the flesh she was dead. The Spirit can quicken the dead, however.

Mark 5:37 "And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James."

Here, again, we see these three chosen out for special things. If Jesus had favorites, these three were them. These three were about to see in action that Jesus had power over death.

Mark 5:38 "And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly."

The mourning had already begun. Jesus saw all of this crying and commotion in the house.

Mark 5:39 "And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth."

We learned, in another account, that this girl was about 12 years old. Jesus was actually telling these people that breathing life into this child again was nothing for Him. He is life.

Mark 5:40 "And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying."

Jesus immediately removed these unbelievers from the house. Then He took Peter, James, John, and the parents to the bed where the young girl was lying.

Mark 5:41 "And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise."

We see, here, the power of life flowing through Jesus' hand to this child. Jesus' literal words were repeated here, "Talitha cumi"; which means little maid arise. The power of life and death is in Jesus' hands. Eternal life and death is in His hands, as well.

Mark 5:42 "And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was [of the age] of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment."

Telling her age, here, just tells us that this girl was not a baby, but fully old enough to walk. You can imagine how surprised they were when this supposedly dead girl arose and walked.

Mark 5:43 "And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat."

In another gospel, they were instructed to give her meat. They were not to spread the word. It, however, would be hard to conceal since so many were there mourning her death, and now she was alive. Just as on resurrection day when all who are in their graves shall hear His voice and come forth, these rejoicing parents had seen their daughter hear His voice and come forth. It will be next to impossible not to tell this wonderful story.

Mark 11 Questions

1. Where did Jesus go when He left the demoniac man?
2. Who was the ruler of the synagogue who came to Jesus?
3. What show of emotion did he show to Jesus?
4. What was his need?
5. What does Jairus mean?
6. How bad was the little girl?
7. Why did he come to Jesus for help?
8. What happened when Jesus entered the street to go to Jairus' house?
9. How long had the woman had the issue of blood?
10. What had she previously done to get help?
11. What had she said within herself would heal her?
12. When she touched Him, what did Jesus feel?
13. What happened to the woman?
14. What question did Jesus ask that the disciples thought was strange?
15. When was she healed?
16. The woman, fearing and trembling, did what?
17. What made the woman whole?
18. What is a plague?
19. Why did they tell Jairus not to trouble the Master?
20. What two things did Jesus tell Jairus to do?
21. Which three disciples did Jesus allow to go with Him to Jairus' house?
22. What did Jesus do with the onlookers, besides the three disciples and the parents?
23. What did Jesus tell them about the damsel?
24. What did Jesus do to the damsel to revive her?
25. What specific words did He say?
26. What happened?
27. How old was the little girl?
28. The power of life and death is in whose hands?
29. What further words did Jesus tell the parents about the girl, 2 things?

MARK LESSON 12

We will begin this lesson in Mark 6:1.

Mark 6:1 "And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him."

We see, here, that even though He had not been readily accepted by His family and friends at Nazareth, Jesus came back here from time to time to try to minister. His family, in the flesh, still live in Nazareth. Now all of the disciples had joined Jesus, Peter, James, and John who were present at Jairus' house.

Mark 6:2 "And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing [him] were astonished, saying, From whence hath this [man] these things? and what wisdom [is] this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?"

We have mentioned before that whenever Jesus was near a synagogue on sabbath, He always preached and taught. Here at Nazareth, all of the people think of Him as just a man like them, because they saw Him grow up in the house of Mary and Joseph. They could not visualize Him as God manifest in the flesh, because they knew Him too well. I can see a little jealousy in the statement "from whence hath this man these things". You see, a prophet is without honour in his own home town. They surely could not believe these miracles they had been hearing about were done by this fellow they knew so well.

Mark 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him."

Here they were saying, "Who does He think He is? This is the carpenter who worked right here with us." Again, they were saying, how could Jesus be anyone special? They knew His family.

Mark 6:4 "But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house."

Not only Jesus had trouble with this, but every minister who ever lived. The problem is that the family and friends see you grow up around them.

Mark 6:5 "And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed [them]." Mark 6:6 "And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching."

God will not force Himself upon anyone. Our free will gets involved in anything we receive from God. Nearly every time someone was healed, Jesus would say, "Your faith has made you whole." Without faith, very little healing went on. He taught in their villages, and they could take it or leave it.

Mark 6:7 "And he called [unto him] the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;" Mark 6:8 "And commanded them that they should take nothing for [their] journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in [their] purse:" Mark 6:9 "But [be] shod with sandals; and not put on two coats."

This was the sending forth of the disciples to minister. Notice Jesus sent them by two's. There is ten times the power with two as with one. The important strength they needed was power to overcome Satan and his demons, and we see that Jesus endowed them with power over all evil spirits. They were not to carry things with them to live on. They were to be dressed simply and go by two's. We read in Matthew 18:19 "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

Mark 6:10 "And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place." Mark 6:11 "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city."

We see that when the disciples entered into a city, they were to pick out a family and move into their home and stay there as long as they were ministering in that city. If the city did not receive the good news of the gospel, they were to shake the filth of the city (dust) off of their feet. Sodom and Gomorrhah were two evil cities destroyed by the Lord in Genesis because of their homosexual activities. We are familiar with the fire and brimstone that fell and destroyed them. Any city which rejected Jesus was in for a similar fate, as we saw in the above verse.

Mark 6:12 "And they went out, and preached that men should repent." Mark 6:13 "And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed [them]."

The most important message of any preacher or church is repent. It is wonderful to be healed and wonderful to be freed of demons; but if you don't repent and be saved, it is all for naught. The salvation for mankind is first and foremost, and then his physical well being.

Mark 6:14 "And king Herod heard [of him]; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him."

The "Him" here was Jesus, and because Herod had John beheaded, he believed Jesus was John resurrected. Herod was afraid of John the Baptist while he was alive, but he was more afraid now that he felt he was risen again. Herodias and Herod were living in adultery in John's views, and this statement was why they had him beheaded.

Mark 6:15 "Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets."

This was the answer Peter gave Jesus, when Jesus asked him who people said that He was. This Jesus Christ was a man of such unusual

characteristics that everyone was giving their opinion of who He was. The Jews were looking for Elias, so they thought this might be him. Some of these very names are the names put on Him today. Some believe He was a man, a prophet, a teacher; but Peter had the answer when he said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God". Emmanuel - means God with us. God caught up in the body of man.

Mark 6:16 "But when Herod heard [thereof], he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead."

You see, Herod's conscience had gotten the best of him, and he just knew this was John who had risen from the grave and was here to take revenge on him for the terrible death he inflicted on John by cutting off his head.

Mark 6:17 "For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her." Mark 6:18 "For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." Mark 6:19 "Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:" Mark 6:20 "For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly."

We can see from this, that Herod had great admiration for John. He actually feared John. Possibly, Herod would have repented and been converted, had it not been for Herodias.

Mark 6:21 "And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief [estates] of Galilee;" Mark 6:22 "And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give [it] thee." Mark 6:23 "And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give [it] thee, unto the half of my kingdom." Mark 6:24 "And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist." Mark 6:25 "And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist." Mark 6:26 "And the king was exceeding sorry; [yet] for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her." Mark 6:27 "And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison," Mark 6:28 "And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother."

It is really not hard to understand why Herod would feel guilty. Not only did he have John the Baptist killed, but for no reason at all; just to save face with his friends. This Herodias was even more evil than Herod. Loose promises can get a person in a terrible situation, and that was exactly what happened to Herod. There was no way to take it back, it was done, and Herod would have to live with his conscience. We dealt with this more fully in the 14th chapter of Matthew. You may desire to read more about it there.

Mark 6:29 "And when his disciples heard [of it], they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb." Mark 6:30 "And the apostles gathered

themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught."

These disciples in verse 29 were John the Baptist's disciples that buried him in a tomb. Jesus' disciples that He had sent out came back and reported all the healings, deliverances, and preaching they had done. Whether John's death prompted an early return or not, the Scriptures do not say. This had to have stirred them up somewhat, however.

Mark 12 Questions

1. What was meant by Jesus' own country?
2. Why did Jesus come back several times to His own land to minister?
3. When did Jesus begin to teach in the synagogue?
4. What effect did this have on the local people?
5. Why did the people of Nazareth treat Him as if He is just a man?
6. The statement "from whence hath this man these things" showed they were what?
7. In verse 3, who do they call Jesus?
8. Where is a prophet without honor?
9. What did their unbelief keep Him from doing?
10. What was the only two things He did?
11. What is involved in everything we receive from God?
12. Who did Jesus send out two by two?
13. What power did Jesus give them?
14. What were they to take with them to live on?
15. Where were they to live?
16. What if the city didn't accept them?
17. What did these disciples preach?
18. What is the most important message for preachers even today?
19. Why had King Herod heard of Him?
20. Who did Herod think Jesus was?
21. Who did most believe Jesus was?
22. Who did Peter say He was?
23. Herod believed John the Baptist had _____
_____.
24. What terrible thing had Herod done to John?
25. If Herod was afraid of John, why did he carry out this hideous crime against him?
26. Who came for John the Baptist's body?
27. When Jesus' apostles gathered to Him, what did they report?

MARK LESSON 13

We will begin this lesson in Mark 6:31.

Mark 6:31 "And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat."

We see from this, that even ministers of God should find a time and go aside and rest. These disciples had been out ministering from village to village and this terrible thing with John the Baptist had just happened, as well. This was supposed to be a time of rest and relaxation.

Mark 6:32 "And they departed into a desert place by ship privately."
Mark 6:33 "And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him."

We see, here, that the fame of Jesus had spread so widely that even in this hiding place the multitude had found Him and gathered to Him.

Mark 6:34 "And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things."

Even though Jesus was headed to the desert to rest and recuperate with the disciples, His heart was still moved by these people with such great needs. The scribes really could not have been called shepherds, because the good and welfare of the sheep was not their purpose. Jesus was never too busy to help them, and He is never too busy to help us in our needs. Jesus is the great Shepherd. His concern is for His sheep. This next part of Mark, right here, is so important that this same miracle is told in all four of the gospels. This really made an indelible picture in the minds of those who saw it. Now we will get into the story of the five loaves of bread and the two fishes.

Mark 6:35 "And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time [is] far passed:"
Mark 6:36 "Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat."

Jesus had probably set the scene for this whole thing so that He could show this great miracle to the people and to the disciples. He knew it was a desert place. He had ministered late; so there would be no chance to go for food, and the people would be very hungry, as well. The disciples had not yet learned that no situation was impossible to Jesus. The disciples could only think of the physical, so they suggested that Jesus send them away into the country round about to buy food.

Mark 6:37 "He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?"

Jesus, just matter of factly said, feed them. This "two hundred penny" was actually the wages of a man for 200 days, so it truly was a large amount of money. This crowd was so large, even this large amount might not even be enough.

Mark 6:38 "He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes."

Jesus already knew how much there was, but asked them to make a point. Their answer was five loaves. The number five, as we have said before, means "grace". This people would be fed by the grace of God.

Mark 6:39 "And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass."

In St. Luke, we read that these companies were made up of fifty people each. Possibly the green grass was mentioned to tell us that this happened in the spring of the year. Could this mean that this is a good size for a church?

Mark 6:40 "And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties."

In the Matthew account, it seems that just the men were numbered. A rank here is, possibly, "one hundred".

Mark 6:41 "And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave [them] to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all." Mark 6:42 "And they did all eat, and were filled."

Jesus prayed over this food as He brake it and distributed it. This reminds me so much of the widow who fed Elijah during the famine. I Kings 17:9-16 tells the story. Verse 14 pretty well tells how the barrel of meal and the cruse of oil kept replenishing itself, even though there was just enough meal, and oil for one meal when they started going to the cupboard the first time. Each time they went back, God had placed enough for another meal; and this went on until the famine was over. I Kings 17:14 "For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day [that] the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth." You see, in both instances, God multiplied the food until all the need was met.

Mark 6:43 "And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes." Mark 6:44 "And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men."

This means that there were actually over 10,000 people who ate counting the women and children. Whether the twelve baskets had something to do with the twelve disciples, I know not. We see from the amount of leftovers that all of these people were full with extra left over. We might, also, realize from this that Jesus is the Bread of Life, and whosoever will can partake. There is always enough for more.

Mark 6:45 "And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people."

We see from this, that the Lord had sent them out on the sea so that He could show them another type of miracle. They could learn more of His nature, and they could learn to have stronger faith in Him.

Mark 6:46 "And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray."

We see from this, the necessity to get alone and talk to God. God wants us to have time alone with Him when there is no one there, but Him and you. In the hurry up life we live in, most people will just not take time to pray alone. This prayer is the most effective, because God knows you are praying just for His benefit (no one else hears). If the Lord Jesus needed to pray, think how badly we need to pray.

Mark 6:47 "And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land."

The scene was set for the great miracle. Jesus would show them and us (who are on the great sea of life struggling to make it), that our strength is not in ourselves, but in Him. They were paddling their hearts out trying to make it to the other side. We are struggling with the trials (sea) of this life trying to somehow make it to the other side (heaven).

Mark 6:48 "And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them." Mark 6:49 "But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:" Mark 6:50 "For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid."

We see a very stressful situation; they were rowing as hard as they could, but the west wind was blowing so hard that they were making no headway at all. This fourth watch is the darkest of the night, just before the dawn. This, too, has great significance; because in our darkest hour, the Lord will come to our rescue. They cried out for His help. This is exactly when the Lord will help us, as well. He will help us when we realize that we need Him and cannot do it by ourselves. We know that they had never seen a person walking on the water before. It frightened them. He immediately told them not to fear. We studied in Matthew how at this same occasion, Peter walked on the water. He tells us, "Fear not, I am with thee even unto the end of the earth".

Mark 6:51 "And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered." Mark 6:52 "For they considered not [the miracle] of the loaves: for their heart was hardened."

Just as in this ship tossed by the sea, we will find when we are tossed by the sea of life and we ask Jesus to come aboard, it brings peace. A

troubled life needs Jesus to step in and bring the peace which passes understanding.

It is amazing, to me, that these disciples so quickly had forgotten about the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. We, today in our church forget so fast the miracles; and we tend to say, "Jesus, what have you done for me in the last five minutes?"

Mark 6:53 "And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore." Mark 6:54 "And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him,"

Gennesaret means a "fertile garden". This was on the shore of the sea of Galilee. When Jesus got off the boat, the people already knew Him.

Mark 6:55 "And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was." Mark 6:56 "And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole."

It seems that His fame had already spread throughout this region; and now that He was here, people ran quickly and brought everyone who was sick or crippled to Him. They believed that even if they could touch His garment, they would be healed; and that was just what happened. Their faith was activated as they touched His garment, and He healed everyone who believed strong enough to reach out to Him. Their faith touched Him, and He healed them. All we must do is reach out to Jesus and believe, and He will help us, too.

Mark 13 Questions

1. In verse 31, what can we learn about ministers of God?
2. When Jesus went to this desert place, what did the people do?
3. When Jesus saw the multitude, how did He feel toward them?
4. What did He see them as?
5. Why were the scribes not called shepherds?
6. Who is the great Shepherd?
7. What two things did the disciples tell Jesus was the condition of the people before the miracle of the bread and fishes?
8. How much money did the disciples have altogether?
9. How many days work was this amount?
10. How much food did they find among the people?
11. The number five is symbolic of what?
12. Why was the green grass mentioned?
13. How were the people grouped?
14. What did Jesus do before He distributed the food?
15. Who, in I Kings, saw the food miraculously multiplied?
16. How many men were fed?
17. How much food was left over?
18. Where did Jesus send the disciples after the miracle feed?
19. Why had Jesus sent them away?
20. Where did Jesus go and why?
21. Why is a prayer, when you are alone with God, so effective?
22. What does this ship in the midst of the sea symbolize in our lives?
23. When is the fourth watch of the night?
24. When they saw Jesus walking on the water, what did they think?
25. When they were frightened, what two things did Jesus tell them?
26. When Jesus got into the ship, what happened?
27. What had the disciples forgotten?
28. What does Gennessaret mean?
29. What happened when Jesus and the disciples got to the shore?
30. Who did Jesus heal?

MARK LESSON 14

We will begin this lesson in Mark 7:1.

Mark 7:1 "Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem."

These scribes and Pharisees were actually spies sent from Jerusalem to find fault with whatever Jesus was doing. They were jealous of Jesus, because He had power in His ministry; and they were afraid that the people would follow Him, instead of coming to the temple. Verse 2, here, shows that they were just trying to pick up any little thing they could, and make a big issue of it.

Mark 7:2 "And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault."

This had to do with all the ceremonial washings of the Hebrews. This really had nothing to do with physical cleanliness.

Mark 7:3 "For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash [their] hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders."

It seems that these teachings of washing or rubbing hands together was a tradition and not a law, even though it was included in the Talmud. The "Talmud" is a body of Hebrew civil and canon laws based on the Torah of Moses. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament.

Mark 7:4 "And [when they come] from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, [as] the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables."

These Jews were so class conscious, that they felt they needed to wash off the uncleanness of the lower class people they had touched. They were over-concerned about washing the physical and not aware at all of the need to clean up inside.

Mark 7:5 "Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?"

Notice, here, that they said tradition. It reminds me so much of doctrine. Really, what I call knit-picking. They were majoring on things that were not even God's teachings: not sin in their lives, but formality.

Mark 7:6 "He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with [their] lips, but their heart is far from me." Mark 7:7 "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."

In Isaiah 29:13, you can read what Jesus was quoting here. Hypocrites is a strong word. It means they were pretending to be following the Lord, when they were really doing what pleased their flesh. This is a real good description of what many Christians are doing today. On the one hand they

claim to be Christians, but they are living to please the flesh. This sort of Christianity is surface. It is not from the heart. He told them that their doctrines were what served their own desires and really had nothing to do with the wishes of God. Even church doctrines should not be based on one or two Scriptures, but should be taken from Jesus' own Words (written in red in the Bible) and from a balanced look at the entire Bible.

Mark 7:8 "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, [as] the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do."

Here, we see a direct reprimand from Jesus toward these believers in name only. Tradition has nothing to do with real worship.

Mark 7:9 "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

The tradition of men and the commandments of God are two different things.

Mark 7:10 "For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:" Mark 7:11 "But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, [It is] Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; [he shall be free]." Mark 7:12 "And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;" Mark 7:13 "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

Jesus gave one specific Commandment that Moses gave the people from God that they had twisted around for their own convenience. This was not the only thing they had changed, but it was just an example of the many things they had changed to suit themselves. We see in our day people getting away from the teachings in the Bible by saying, "That was for a long time ago, not our day." Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The truth never changes. One of the worst things happening today is the tearing down of the home and marriage. With God, there are no alternate lifestyles. He ordained one woman for one man, marrying and building a family. Anything else is not God's will. I, too, just gave one example of a society on a down hill run to hell. There are many compromises God will not tolerate. Just because everyone else (tradition) is doing something, doesn't make it right.

Mark 7:14 "And when he had called all the people [unto him], he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one [of you], and understand:"

It is God's will that we all hear and understand. Some people reject the message that Jesus has for us. That is why it says, "Hearing, they will not hear". They must receive the message inside of them for them to truly understand and receive Jesus and His teachings.

Mark 7:15 "There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man."

Jesus was speaking, here, of eating and drinking really not defiling you. This whole statement was to tell them that the things that were in a

man's heart which bring words out of his mouth is really what tells what he really is. Nasty words stemming from an evil heart defile a man. The mouth is an instrument of life or death. In Romans 10:9-10, you can easily see that what you say is terribly important to salvation.

Mark 7:16 "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."

This is that ear of understanding. Everyone has ears that hang on the side of their head, but the ears Jesus was speaking of are ears to the heart.

Mark 7:17 "And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable."

You see, Jesus spoke in parables, so that the lost world who had no love for God could not understand. The Holy Spirit has to open our understanding for us to truly understand. Jesus would teach the disciples while He was with them.

Mark 7:18 "And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, [it] cannot defile him;" Mark 7:19 "Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?"

Jesus almost scoldingly says, "Don't you understand this very simple thing". Jesus had already taught them that no food was unclean, if prayer was said before they ate it. Food just passes through the body and goes out in the draught, so that could not possibly hurt anyone. The bitter thoughts that originate in the heart and are spoken out the mouth destroy people.

Mark 7:20 "And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man." Mark 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders," Mark 7:22 "Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:" Mark 7:23 "All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

The heart of man is what he really is. We will find as these Bible studies go on, that the heart is either desperately wicked or pure. There are no other ways. In a heart that is wicked, all of these sins that Jesus mentioned stem from this wicked heart. We have said throughout all of these Bible studies that man is a spirit. He lives in a body, and he has a soul. The spirit of man wants him to live for God, and his flesh lusts after the evils of the world. Man, or mankind, is a free moral agent and can choose to be evil, or choose to follow God. The will of man will follow either the spirit or the flesh. It will not, and cannot do both. The sins mentioned in verse 21 and 22, above, are the call of the flesh. A person who has turned himself over to the lusts of the flesh will do these sins. The heart of the evil man obeys the flesh. This was what Jesus was saying here.

Mark 14 Questions

1. Where had the scribes and Pharisees of verse 1 come from?
2. Who were they really?
3. What picky little thing did they say the disciples did that was wrong?
4. Washing the hands over and over done by the Jews was not a law, but _____ of the _____
5. Where is this included?
6. What besides hands did they wash as part of the ceremony?
7. What question did these scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus about the disciples?
8. They were majoring on things that were not even God's teachings. They were _____.
9. What had Esaias said about these hypocrites?
10. Where in Isaiah is this found?
11. Jesus was really telling them that their doctrines were to serve what?
12. What should church doctrines be based upon?
13. Jesus said laying aside the commandments of God that hold the _____ of _____.
14. What had Moses taught them to do?
15. How had they twisted this to satisfy their own needs?
16. What is Corban?
17. How do people of our day get away from the teaching of the Bible?
18. What is God's plan for man and woman?
19. In verse 14, what plea was Jesus making to the people?
20. What defiles a man?
21. What did He mean by "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear...".
22. What did the disciples ask Jesus?
23. In verse 18, Jesus scolded them for what?
24. What destroys people?
25. Name five or more sins which proceed from the heart?
26. What two opposite ways can the heart be?
27. What part of man wants to live for God?
28. What part of man wants to live in sin?
29. What controls which way the man goes?
30. The heart of an evil man obeys what?

MARK LESSON 15

We will begin this lesson in Mark 7:24.

Mark 7:24 "And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know [it]: but he could not be hid."

This was immediately after He had explained to the disciples about the wicked heart. The "He" here is Jesus. He left Galilee for a short time. Tyre was the capital of Phoenecia near Judaea. This appears to be when Jesus had left the Jews and had gone to the Gentiles. He possibly went to a friend's home to rest for just a little bit, and perhaps, He thought the scribes and Pharisees would not follow Him there. His fame had already spread here as well, and there would be no way for Him to get away where no one knew Him.

Mark 7:25 "For a [certain] woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:"

This woman was not a Jew. She loved her daughter more than she feared being run off. Most mothers would have been terribly concerned about a daughter with an unclean spirit. This woman humbled herself by falling at the feet of Jesus.

Mark 7:26 "The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter."

We see from this, that this was a Gentile; a Syrophenician. She knew what she wanted: Jesus to cast out this devil from her daughter.

Mark 7:27 "But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast [it] unto the dogs."

Jesus was speaking to her about coming to the Jews first. He didn't come out and say no, but He told her that He was to take care of the Jews first. Every non-Jew was thought of by the Jews as a dog at the time of this writing. He was just saying, "I can't neglect the chosen children to help those away from God".

Mark 7:28 "And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs."

This was a very wise woman. She did not argue with Him, she in fact agreed. Then she admitted to being unworthy. She was humble. She was willing to take the crumbs that fell from the table, knowing that even this would be the most powerful food she had ever eaten. She was saying: "Lord, in the face of all the wonderful miracles, this is just a crumb compared to that". Her humbleness and faith won Him over. In another Scripture He said, "Woman your great faith". Here, we see Jesus moved by this .

Mark 7:29 "And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter."

This Scripture tells us so much. First, that one person can stand in for another to be prayed for. The one being prayed for does not have to be there. We see here, also, that devils dwell within people and sometimes must be cast out. The Scripture no where says that the daughter prayed. You can pray for another's deliverance. There need not be any great lapse of time, this was done immediately.

Mark 7:30 "And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed."

The devil had no choice, he had to leave. The daughter was free but exhausted and resting on the bed. The mother expected a miracle and got one. It was almost as if Jesus came there to do just this one miracle.

Mark 7:31 "And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis."

Peter's home was next to the Sea of Galilee. He went near there often. Whether to rest or because it was familiar territory, I cannot say. It seems He didn't go straight back but took a little side trip.

Mark 7:32 "And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him."

This person was not totally dumb but, because of the impediment in his speech, we know that he had been deaf for a long time and had what we call tonguetied. Just one touch of Jesus' hand would make him whole. These people were aware of Jesus' ability to heal. His fame had spread throughout the land; and they knew for sure that if the Lord would touch him, he would be made whole and able to hear and speak clearly.

Mark 7:33 "And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;"

This was a very dramatic healing. Jesus, in each instance, touched the problem area. This healing was not for the others, this was for this one individual. Jesus heals one at a time. He deals with us on an individual basis. In this, Jesus recognized where the problems were and dealt with the problems one at a time. This prepared the man to receive in both these areas.

Mark 7:34 "And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened."

This "looking up to heaven" lets this man know where his help came from. Perhaps, the "sigh" was to let the man (and all who read of this in years to come) know that Jesus truly had compassion for those who were suffering for any reason. He suffers with us. We know that Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings and that everything in earth must bow to Him. He commanded these ears and tongue to be opened and not stammer.

Mark 7:35 "And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain."

We see, here, that whatever kept this person deaf and dumb had to obey the voice of Jesus, and this person was made whole.

Mark 7:36 "And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published [it];"

There was no possible way this man could keep it a secret that he was made totally whole. Suddenly he could hear the birds chirp and the rustling of the leaves when the wind blew. He could hear a baby cry or hear a mother sing a lullaby. His tongue was loosed, as well, and you know he talked without stopping. His praises of the God who did these wonderful things for him had to keep him talking constantly. Those who knew him before constantly asked how this all happened; and, of course, he was so proud that he spread the word.

Mark 7:37 "And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak."

Here, we see the reaction of those who saw and heard of the wonderful miracle performed in someone they knew. Possibly, many of these people had been going to worship regularly, but had never seen anything like this before. This one miracle here could cause thousands to flock to Jesus to bring their sick and deformed to be healed. There would certainly be no place for Him to go now where they had not already heard of Jesus' miracles.

Mark 15 Questions

1. In verse 24, where did Jesus go?
2. Why did He go to this house?
3. What country was this near?
4. What faith background did these people have?
5. What was wrong with the woman's daughter that came to Jesus?
6. When the woman fell at Jesus' feet, what did it show her as?
7. What was the woman's nationality?
8. What did the woman want Jesus to do?
9. What did Jesus answer her at first?
10. What were non-Jews thought of at this time?
11. What humble remark did the woman make to Jesus calling herself a dog?
12. What caused Jesus to answer her prayers?
13. What did Jesus tell her that He had done for her daughter?
14. Does the person being delivered have to be there?
15. What condition did the mother find her daughter in?
16. Where did Jesus go by when he went back to the Sea of Galilee?
17. Who lived near the Sea?
18. What was wrong with the man brought to Jesus?
19. What did they want Jesus to do?
20. What two visible things did Jesus do before He prayed for him?
21. What expression did Jesus make when He looked toward heaven?
22. What does Ephphatha mean?
23. How soon was the man healed?
24. What did Jesus tell them not to do?
25. What did they do?
26. Name some things that he could hear that he had not heard before?
27. How was the astonishment of the people described?
28. What effect would all this fame have?

MARK LESSON 16

We will begin this lesson in Mark 8:1.

Mark 8:1 "In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples [unto him], and saith unto them,"

This seems like a repetition of the story in chapter 6; but if you notice the details carefully, you will see this was two different occasions. We know this multitude was following the Lord, because of the man who was healed of deafness and had his tongue loosed so he could speak.

Mark 8:2 "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:" Mark 8:3 "And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far."

We could take a lesson from these followers of Jesus. They had been with Him three days listening and learning and many receiving healing. They seemed to have no regard for food or welfare, as long as they could be with the Master. It appears they could have been fasting for three days and nights. They were, possibly, afraid to leave, because they might miss a blessing. The Lord Jesus, we see, was impressed with such faithfulness and cared that they might faint along the way. It appears that the fame of Jesus was so widespread that many of these people had come from far away places.

Mark 8:4 "And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these [men] with bread here in the wilderness?"

The disciples forgot so quickly. This was another incident. This was not the first incident with the five loaves. Possibly, the point to be made here was that God always supplies our needs (not our wants) if we are His followers. Perhaps this questioning from the disciples was to drive home a point about just how great this miracle was. The Lord is always caring for His followers, but each of us can look back and pinpoint a time when His care was more obvious than at other times. In the prayer the Lord Jesus taught the disciples it says, "Give us this day our daily bread". You see, the miracle provision is not for just one particular time, but is always available when we are totally concentrated upon the Lord. Perhaps, the mention of this type of miracle (so close to the same miracle a few lessons back) was to show God's continued concern for our necessities.

Mark 8:5 "And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven."

It really doesn't matter how many they started with. The Lord could multiply even one into any amount He desired.

Mark 8:6 "And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before [them]; and they did set [them] before the people." Mark 8:7 "And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before [them]." Mark 8:8 "So they did eat, and were filled: and they

took up of the broken [meat] that was left seven baskets." Mark 8:9 "And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away."

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell of the 5,000 fed with the five loaves and two fishes. Matthew and Mark tell of the 4,000 fed. These are definitely two separate times. Several things were different in detail. In the first where the 5000 men were fed, started with five loaves of bread and two fishes and wound up with leftovers of twelve baskets full. When the 4000 were fed, there were seven loaves and a few fishes and seven baskets full were left. We see that the Lord is not confined to one miracle of a kind. The amazing thing, to me, is how quickly the disciples forgot.

Mark 8:10 "And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha."

Dalmanutha and the coasts of Magdala seem to be the same place. Out of all of these disciples with Him, perhaps one had a boat standing by for just this use: when He finished ministering to the people. Many times He would go aside with the disciples. These were the times He taught the disciples about the things they did not understand.

Mark 8:11 "And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him." Mark 8:12 "And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation."

We see by this that the miracles Jesus had done throughout the land were still not proof enough for these Pharisees to make them believe He was the Son of God. Whatever He had done would not have been enough, no matter how great the miracle. In Matthew 16:4, they were not only called wicked, but adulterous, as well. It grieved Jesus deeply that they did not believe Him. There had already been sign enough. Jesus told them again that no other sign would be given.

Mark 8:13 "And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side."

There was no need to stay there and argue with these people who would never believe, so He left.

Mark 8:14 "Now [the disciples] had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf." Mark 8:15 "And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and [of] the leaven of Herod."

Leaven, here, meant "evil doctrine". Crossing by ship would take a good little while, and the disciples would, perhaps, become hungry in the crossing. There was no major food problem, however, because they would be able to get food on the other side. The Lord was not warning about food, but not to get involved in the false doctrine of the Pharisees.

Mark 8:16 "And they reasoned among themselves, saying, [It is] because we have no bread."

Can you believe that they could ever be concerned about lack of bread again when they had seen the miracle of the multiplied bread twice already?

Mark 8:17 "And when Jesus knew [it], he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened?" Mark 8:18 "Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?" Mark 8:19 "When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve." Mark 8:20 "And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven." Mark 8:21 "And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?"

This was actually a scold from Jesus. He knew what they were thinking. They were worried about feeding their own bodies. He said, will you ever realize that I will provide your needs? If there ever was a doubt that Jesus miraculously fed two different groups, there should be no doubt after verses 19 and 20. This was a very good question He asked them in verse 21. It is almost unbelievable that they were there for both miracles and still did not believe that He would take care of their needs. They had their eyes so fixed on their physical needs that they mistook the leaven of the Pharisees for bread that had yeast. The physical meaning of leaven is yeast, but the spiritual meaning is evil doctrine. The Pharisees had not been worried about the needs of the disciples up to this point. My question is, why did the disciples think these Pharisees would give them bread now? We, like the disciples, must look for and understand the spiritual, and not be so concerned about the physical.

Mark 16 Questions

1. In verse 1, Jesus saw that the multitude was great and that they had no _____.
2. Why was this multitude following Jesus?
3. How many days had they been there?
4. Why did Jesus not send them to their own homes?
5. What lesson can Christians today learn from this?
6. What impressed Jesus about these people?
7. What ridiculous question did the disciples ask Jesus?
8. If we are followers of the Lord Jesus, He will supply our _____ not our _____.
9. How many loaves did they have?
10. What two things did Jesus do before passing the food to the disciples?
11. How many baskets of leftovers did they pick up?
12. How many were fed?
13. Which Gospels tell of feeding the 5000?
14. Which Gospels tell of feeding the 4000?
15. What was the same area as Dalmanutha?
16. How did Jesus get there?
17. Who came forth and began to question Jesus?
18. What did they want?
19. How did Jesus feel about this?
20. Did He grant their wish?
21. What were these Pharisees called besides wicked?
22. What had the disciples forgotten to take with them?
23. What did Jesus tell the disciples to beware of?
24. What is leaven in this Scripture?
25. What did the disciples reason among themselves?
26. What did Jesus say had happened to their hearts?
27. What question did Jesus ask that we might ask, also?
28. Why did they not understand?
29. What is the author's question about the bread?
30. What must we learn to concentrate more on?

MARK LESSON 17

We will begin this lesson in Mark 8:22 "And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him."

Bethsaida means place of fish. This miracle was told about only in the book of Mark. It seems that many believed that Jesus must touch the person who had come for prayer for them to get a miracle. The blind man, here, was brought by others to get help. If we were to look at the spiritual side of blindness, surely a friend who wants us to come out of our spiritual darkness and see the Light (Jesus) would have to lead us to the Lord.

Mark 8:23 "And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought."

Jesus took the blind man by the hand. We see, here, again, as we did with the deaf man, that Jesus was interested in him as an individual. He separated himself away from the crowds to give total attention to the needs of this one man. Again, here we see Jesus made direct contact with the part of the man which needed healing. Probably this was so that this would build the man's faith up. Here, we see Jesus asked the man if he could see.

Mark 8:24 "And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking."

This touch of the Lord's hand had brought healing. Now, this man saw some light. Again, if we were looking at this from the spiritual, we would understand that our being born again and living brand new lives with Jesus requires another touch of the Lord's hand that we might see clearly. This, also, brings to me an answer to the question, "Should I pray more than once for the same thing?" The answer is "Yes". James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Continue to pray and you will see wonderful results, as we do here in the next verses. The first time the man was looking as if through a glass darkly. His look was distorted, but let's see what a second touch brought.

Mark 8:25 "After that he put [his] hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly."

I really believe this second touch of Jesus was so that we would understand to keep praying and not give up if we don't get an immediate answer. He made him look up (give God the glory). We are told in the Scriptures that there are different operations. Jesus was saying, "There are different ways of doing things with the same results". The Lord does it His way. We see when this man was obedient to the Lord, he was totally restored.

Mark 8:26 "And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell [it] to any in the town."

Jesus told the man this so that great multitudes of people would not follow Him just for His healing power. There was really no way to keep this type of miracle a secret though.

Mark 8:27 "And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?"

I really believe this question is of great importance today. Who do you say Jesus is? The answer you give can send you to heaven or hell, Romans 10:9-10. Jesus already knew what was being said, but again, He was making an important point.

Mark 8:28 "And they answered, John the Baptist: but some [say], Elias; and others, One of the prophets."

This is the very type of answer that many people are giving today. They call Jesus everything but God manifest in the flesh. People are still trying to figure out with their mind who Jesus really is. Just the fact that He took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us makes people want to think of Him as mere man.

Mark 8:29 "And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ."

In Matthew 16:16 we see the best answer of all given by Peter, "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter said a lot in this statement. He said You were born of a virgin because You are the Son of God. He was not a Christ, but THE Christ: the Anointed One of God. The entire subject of the Bible, Old and New Testament, is Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God. All salvation is based on what you believe about Jesus. If you believe like Peter, you are saved; if you believe like the rest of the world, you are lost. Jesus is the Lamb of God, The Savior of the world.

Mark 8:30 "And he charged them that they should tell no man of him."

There was nothing to be gained by this being told at this time. The Jews were looking for a king to rule them and get rid of the Romans. If they believed it, they would try to make Him rule like David. The people who believed that He was God manifest in the flesh would doubt like Peter did when He was crucified. It was much easier to believe in His godhead after He rose from the dead.

Mark 8:31 "And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and [of] the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."

Notice, when Jesus spoke of His death, He called Himself Son of man. He was fully God and at the same time was housed in the body of a man. His deity was from the Father and His humanity from Mary. Many believe, and I am one of them, that the third day He arose; not after three days. His body was subject to death as yours and mine, but His Spirit is eternal. It did not die. He dismissed His Spirit from His body. His body was buried in the cave. On the third day His Spirit re-entered His body and appeared to the women.

Mark 8:32 "And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him." Mark 8:33 "But when he had turned about and looked on

his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men."

Peter was thinking of Jesus taking over physically while He was here. Peter was thinking that Jesus would set up an earthly kingdom. Peter, who saw Him as the Lord, now was letting Satan use him to tempt the Lord with worldly fame. The rebuke Jesus spoke (even though directed to Peter) was actually to Satan himself. Peter, in thinking of an earthly kingdom, let Satan use him.

Mark 8:34 "And when he had called the people [unto him] with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

We see, here, that to be Christians (followers of Christ), we must put off the desires of our flesh and take on the will of God in our lives. Contrary to many teachings today, we see here that there is a cross to bear. If we are to follow Jesus, we too must crucify our flesh and live new lives of the spirit.

Mark 8:35 "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

The flesh must die that the spirit may live. We must be willing for the flesh to die so that we may live with Christ.

Mark 8:36 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:37 "Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

All the riches in the world are nothing if you have to give up eternal life with Jesus to have it. Life on this earth is very short, and all the wealth of the world for this short life can not even begin to compare with all of eternity in heaven with Jesus. Men or women should be willing to give up anything they need to, that will purchase life eternal for them.

Mark 8:38 "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This just means if you deny Jesus now, He will deny you on judgement day. We must believe that Jesus is our Saviour and tell the world. To be a Christian is to be a believer in and a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Share Him with everyone.

Mark 17 Questions

1. When Jesus was at Bethsaida, who did they bring to Him to heal?
2. What did they want Jesus to do to heal him?
3. What does Bethsaida mean?
4. Which of the gospels was this told in?
5. Where did Jesus take the blind man?
6. What physical thing did Jesus do to the blind man?
7. What did Jesus ask him?
8. What did the man see at first?
9. Should you pray more than once about something?
10. What do we learn about prayer in James 5:16?
11. Why did Jesus have the man to look up?
12. When was the blind man totally restored?
13. What did Jesus tell the man to do after He healed him?
14. At Caesarea Philippi, what did Jesus ask the disciples?
15. What three answers did they give?
16. In Romans 10:9-10, what do we learn about salvation?
17. Why do people want to believe Jesus was a mere man?
18. In V-29, Jesus asked them what?
19. What did Peter answer?
20. What did Peter's statement tell us of Jesus' birth?
21. What is the subject of the entire Bible?
22. Salvation is based upon what?
23. What did Jesus begin to teach here to the disciples?
24. When Jesus spoke of His death, He called Himself what?
25. Jesus' deity was from the _____.
26. What was Peter's reaction to Jesus telling of his death?
27. When Jesus rebuked Peter, He was really rebuking _____.
28. If we follow Jesus, we must take up our _____
and follow Him.
29. The _____ must die for the _____
to live.
30. If we are ashamed of Jesus here, what will He do in heaven?
31. To be a Christian is what?

We will begin this lesson in Mark 9:1.

Mark 9:1 "And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power."

Many believe that this statement just prior to the transfiguration was speaking of those (Peter, James, and John) who went with Jesus up the mountain and saw Jesus in all His glory. To many this is a mystery.

Mark 9:2 "And after six days Jesus taketh [with him] Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them."

Six is significant, here, showing Jesus' dealings with man had been completed and now He was ready to glorify God. Peter, James, and John were leaders among the disciples. These were loyal. He would allow these three to see His glory and to hear the Father say, "This is my beloved Son: hear him." The word transfigured means "to transform or to change". This happened high in the mountain away from the others. This was not for everyone to see.

Mark 9:3 "And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them."

This was a white so bright that it was difficult to see. No cleanser on earth could get it this white, because this white far surpassed any other white on earth. This was Jesus seen in His glory.

Mark 9:4 "And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus."

We see, here, Elias (Elijah) as a representative of the prophets and Moses representing the law. This meeting with them on the mountain top seen by Peter, James, and John allowed these three to realize that Jesus truly was Messiah. Moses died on the way to the promised land, and Elijah was carried away into heaven without benefit of the grave; so we see here, also, that these two show that Jesus is King over the quick and the dead. Elijah represented those who are alive in Christ, and Moses represented those who are dead in Christ. Jesus was about to face the cruel death of the cross. This appearance showed that what the prophets could not bring in the way of salvation, and the law could not bring, the death on the cross would bring: salvation to whosoever will.

Mark 9:5 "And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias."

Peter still did not realize fully who Jesus was. They were fully awake, this was not a dream. Three different people would not dream the same dream, anyhow. This statement "that it is good for them to be there"

seems as though Peter might be pretty satisfied with his position with Jesus.

Mark 9:6 "For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid."

Supernatural things have a way of frightening people who are just used to seeing natural things. Probably, because it was night made it more frightening.

Mark 9:7 "And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him."

When the children of Israel were going to the promised land, a fire led them by night and a cloud by day. The presence of God was in the cloud. This cloud, also, had the presence of the Father God. The voice coming out of the cloud made this even more frightening. All three of the disciples heard the voice of God say that Jesus was His Son.

Mark 9:8 "And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves."

In the account in Matthew, we read where the disciples were so afraid that they fell on their faces, and Jesus came and reassured them that all was well; and when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone. This is not exact Scripture, but this is what it was saying. This would be very frightening. One thing that puzzles me a little, is how they knew the other two were Moses and Elijah. Perhaps, their understanding was opened by the Lord.

Mark 9:9 "And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead."

Don't you know these three disciples wanted to tell the other disciples this happening? This had to burn within them. These three had to be very close to have shared so many things.

Mark 9:10 "And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

Even though they had been told that Jesus would die on the cross and the third day rise again from the dead, somehow it had not soaked in; and they hadn't realized that it was really true.

Mark 9:11 "And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?"

In Matthew 17:13, the disciples realized that Jesus was speaking of John the Baptist when He spoke of Elias, Matthew 17:13 "Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist." In fact, it follows the same statement Jesus made here in verses 12 & 13.

Mark 9:12 "And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought." Mark 9:13 "But I say unto

you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him."

Jesus was just saying that the spirit of Elias was present in John the Baptist, and John had already been beheaded when Jesus spoke here. Many believe that one of the two witnesses in Revelation is Elijah, or Elias as he was called here. Elijah is a mystery, because he did not go the way of the grave. He was accompanied to heaven by a chariot of fire.

Mark 9:14 "And when he came to [his] disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them." Mark 9:15 "And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to [him] saluted him."

It seems that they ran to Jesus to greet Him, when they saw Him coming and left the scribes that had been questioning them. The people had grown to a multitude. The multitude partially followed Him because they had heard of the miracles He had done. Possibly, many of them had needs in their own lives. His teachings were not like the teaching of the law. They gave hope to the common people.

Mark 9:16 "And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?"

We see, here, that Jesus did not avoid the scribes, but asked them, why are you asking them questions? Why don't you just ask me?

Mark 9:17 "And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;" Mark 9:18 "And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not."

This man, who brought his son to Jesus, didn't even wait till the scribes answered Jesus. He grabbed Jesus quickly and told Him of his problem. This problem that this young man had seemed to have more than one side to it. He was dumb and could not speak, but he also had something similar to epilepsy. It seems the disciples had tried to deliver the man, and they were unable to do it.

Mark 9:19 "He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me."

Jesus had just about been filled completely up with the lack of faith of the Pharisees and scribes, but worse than that was the lack of faith of His own disciples.

Mark 9:20 "And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming." Mark 9:21 "And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child." Mark 9:22 "And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us."

A person with this severe a problem could not be handled by just one person. The they that brought him were possibly friends helping the father.

This evil spirit did not like being in the presence of Jesus the Christ. He acted up immediately and tried to harm the boy who had been brought to Jesus. Jesus knows all, so He didn't ask the man how long this had been for His benefit. It was, probably, given to show the utterly hopeless condition of the boy and the desperation of the father in pleading for Jesus to have compassion and help them.

Mark 9:23 "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth."

Faith is the most powerful force a man can have. This statement of Jesus' was for the man and for all generations to come. Pray and believe.

Mark 9:24 "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."

The father here was so desperate, this was a last resort with him. His heart was broken that his son had this problem. He had waited so long and tried so hard to believe, He was believing with everything he had left. He knew his own faith had not been enough in the past and asked the Lord to help him have enough faith. He called Jesus, Lord. In doing so, he said: whatever happens, it is up to you Lord.

Mark 9:25 "When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, [Thou] dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him."

This crowd (including the scribes) really ran over there to criticize the Lord and His disciples. They had already been disputing (the scribes and the crowd) about this boy's condition. Take note of how Jesus delivered him. First, Jesus spoke to the evil spirit and told it to come out of the boy. Jesus called it by name: "deaf and dumb spirit".

Mark 9:26 "And [the spirit] cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead."

Satan had power over this boy, but this spirit had to obey the voice of Jesus. When Jesus said, "...come out...", the spirit threw the boy down one more time and came out. This poor boy was so exhausted that he lay there as dead. The people thought he was dead.

Mark 9:27 "But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose."

Jesus lifted this boy up and that is what He really does for us.

Mark 9:28 "And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?"

These disciples had been praying for the sick and casting out demons as they ministered. This particular evil spirit was much harder to cast. This spirit had been in this boy for a long time and was deep seated. This, also, was more than just one spirit, as well.

Mark 9:29 "And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."

Jesus was teaching a principle here. Some illnesses and demons are so severe that just prayer will not make them well. Fasting for three days will bring great results. Jesus was teaching the principle of fasting here.

Notes

Mark 18 Questions

1. In V-1, there are some here that shall not die till after when?
2. Who did Jesus take with Him to the mountain?
3. What does transfigured mean?
4. What happened to Jesus' garment?
5. Who appeared with Jesus?
6. Who represented the prophets?
7. Moses represented what?
8. How do Moses and Elijah represent the alive and dead?
9. Why do you suppose these two appeared with Jesus?
10. What did Peter want to do to show great respect for the three?
11. What made them so afraid?
12. Where did God's voice come from?
13. What did God the Father say?
14. When the three got up off their face, who was left?
15. They were not to tell about the transfiguration until when?
16. What did they ask Jesus about Elias?
17. Who did Jesus say represented Elias?
18. Why is Elijah such a mystery?
19. How were Jesus' teachings different?
20. What kind of spirit did the man's son have?
21. What did the foaming, gnashing and falling down indicate was this disease?
22. Who had tried to deliver the boy and couldn't?
23. What did the father ask Jesus to have for him?
24. Why did Jesus ask him how long he had the evil spirit?
25. What did Jesus tell the man he must do?
26. What did the father answer Jesus?
27. What is possible to those who believe?
28. What did Jesus say to the evil spirit?
29. What did the people think had happened to the boy when the evil spirit left?
30. Why could the disciples not cast out the demons?

MARK LESSON 19

We will begin this lesson in Mark 9:30.

Mark 9:30 "And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know [it]."

Mark 9:31 "For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day."

We see, here, that Jesus left the area of Caesarea Phillipi. He went through Galilee and went aside with just the disciples, so that He could teach them alone. Jesus was telling them in detail about His death on the cross and was reminding them that He would rise from the grave. He told them over and over that this would happen. He wanted them to still believe that He was Messiah. The disciples forgot everything He had told them when He died, and Peter denied he even knew Him.

Mark 9:32 "But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him."

They, for some reason, didn't understand that He was warning them that He would be crucified.

Mark 9:33 "And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?"

This house was, probably, Peter's house, because Peter had a house near the Sea of Galilee in Capernaum. Jesus knew what they were talking about (they could keep no secrets from him).

Mark 9:34 "But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who [should be] the greatest."

They really were afraid to tell Him, because they had been arguing about who would be the greatest in the Lord's kingdom.

Mark 9:35 "And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, [the same] shall be last of all, and servant of all."

You see from this that it was not necessary for them to tell Jesus, He already knew what they had been arguing about. In an indirect way, Jesus shamed them for wanting to be first. The Lord honors the humble, not the proud.

Mark 9:36 "And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them," Mark 9:37 "Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me."

We see, here, Jesus held and hugged a child, perhaps Peter's child. He really was saying that you must become innocent as this little child to be

great in God's kingdom. Jesus was, also, saying to receive children into the kingdom of God. The innocence of the child was what appealed to Jesus. We must be humble and not proud. Jesus said an interesting thing about receiving Him. You receive the Father who sent Jesus. This could apply to ministers, too. If they receive his message, they receive the One who sent him. If they reject him, they have rejected the Lord who sent him.

Mark 9:38 "And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us." Mark 9:39 "But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me."

Casting out devils was one of the things that Jesus had told the disciples to do as they went through the country ministering. John was upset because this man was not one of the twelve and was using the name of the Lord to cast the evil spirits out. The disciples told him not to do this; but Jesus said that as long as he cast them out in the name of Jesus, the man was on Jesus' side. Possibly, he was a convert of one of their meetings who had enough faith for it to work. Jesus said it all in the next verse.

Mark 9:40 "For he that is not against us is on our part." Mark 9:41 "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."

This tells me that one group should not be arguing with the other group, because they are not of the same denomination. If they are doing good in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, leave them alone. God does not overlook the slightest thing. Every good deed is noted, even if it is no more than giving a drink of water to the thirsty.

Mark 9:42 "And whosoever shall offend one of [these] little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea."

These little children cannot fight their battles for themselves, and Jesus protects them. It seems as though many little ones do believe in Jesus. To have a millstone hung around your neck and to be thrown into the sea, you would have no chance of survival. You can see how evil a sin it is in the Lord's sight for you to offend a little one who believes in Him.

Mark 9:43 "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:"

This was just speaking of things that cause you to sin should be removed from your life. It would seem drastic to cut your hand off, but anything you could do to keep from going to hell would be worth the loss. This was, possibly, speaking of the lake of fire.

Mark 9:44 "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

This place is so terrible that it is actually beyond our wildest dreams.

Mark 9:45 "And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:" Mark 9:46 "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

Here, again, we see that if our feet are taking us to the wrong places, we would be better off if we couldn't walk. Whatever it takes to keep us from sinning and going to hell is what we must do.

Mark 9:47 "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:" Mark 9:48 "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

Jesus said if you looked upon a woman to lust, you had committed adultery already in your heart. The eye can get you into trouble. Lust is carried out by first looking with the eye. The eye can be evil, if it is not controlled. This is why the warning here. Nothing is worse than going to hell. Compared to hell, the loss of an eye would be minor.

Mark 9:49 "For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt."

Salting with fire in a spiritual sense could be purifying and preserving the Christian. We know in the spiritual sense God purifies with His fire. Perhaps, this means we shall be preserved (salted) with the fire of the Holy Ghost. Each Christian is tried, as if with fire.

Mark 9:50 Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."

Salt, as I said before, is a preservative. You must constantly walk in your saved condition. How can you bring others to a saving knowledge of God, if you have lost your own salvation? To know within yourself that you are saved, walking daily in that salvation brings peace.

Mark 19 Questions

1. Why did Jesus not want anyone to know that He was going through Galilee?
2. What did Jesus tell the disciples?
3. Did they believe and understand what Jesus said?
4. Why did they not ask Him, if they didn't understand?
5. Where did Jesus go after Galilee?
6. Who had a home there?
7. What were they talking about along the way?
8. How did you know that Jesus knew without them telling Him what they had been talking about?
9. If you desire to be first, you shall be _____.
10. Who did Jesus take unto Him to teach a lesson with?
11. If you receive a little child in Jesus' name, you receive whom?
12. Who was the child, probably?
13. What was the Lord really saying about the child?
14. What had the disciples forbidden the man to do?
15. Why did Jesus say, "forbid him not"?
16. Who was the man, probably?
17. In V-41, what small offering will Jesus not forget?
19. To offend a little child who follows Jesus is bad, and the punishment is compared to what in V-42?
20. Who fights children's battles for them?
21. If your hand causes you to sin, what should you do?
22. Hell is so bad that the fire is never _____.
23. If your feet are taking you places to sin, it would be better if you were _____.
24. Jesus said, if you lust after a woman with your eyes, you have done what?
25. What does salting with fire mean in a spiritual sense?
26. What does salting do?
27. What is salt?
28. Walking daily in your salvation brings what?

MARK LESSON 20

We will begin this lesson in Mark 10:1

Mark 10:1 "And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again."

Many of the things Jesus taught, like in the last lesson, was taught to the disciples. We see, here, that Jesus had come back out among the people near Judaea. It was on the other side of Jordan from where He had been at Peter's home in Capernaum. The people saw Him and came to Him to be taught.

Mark 10:2 "And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away [his] wife? tempting him."

The Pharisees were always there to agitate. Their desire was to trap Him. This is a question that many are asking even today. There were provisions made in the law for divorces under certain circumstances. Many take advantage of the provision made for special cases and decide that you can divorce for any reason at all. Either way Jesus would answered, someone would be unhappy.

Mark 10:3 "And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?"

When they tried to trap Jesus, He answered their questions with a question, and that was just what He did here. They were so caught up in the law that Jesus asked them what Moses had commanded.

Mark 10:4 "And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put [her] away."

In the account of this same thing in Matthew, Jesus said that marriage was God's plan for one man and one woman to marry and be one flesh. Divorce was not part of God's plan. Multiple marriages were not His way either. Moses gave them the bill of divorcement, because of their short comings. It is better not to marry in haste, and regret at leisure.

Mark 10:5 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept."

"Precept" means rule, injunction, or doctrine. Possibly, this whole questioning came about to make Jesus look bad in Herod's sight. Herod had married Herodius, his brother's wife. If Jesus came against divorce, it would make Him look bad to Herod. Jesus put the blame quickly on them for desiring a divorce, because of their hard hearts.

Mark 10:6 "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female." Mark 10:7 "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;" Mark 10:8 "And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh." Mark 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

We see, here, that Jesus reverted back to the original plan of God when He made mankind: male and female. The plan of God, as we said before, was for these two (a man and his wife) to become one flesh. They were now a family. Children who came from this marriage were from them both. Marriages should be made in heaven. We should pray and ask God for our mate. If God is not the center of the marriage, it will not work. Each should seek the happiness of his partner before his own. There is nothing more wonderful than a marriage where two people love each other and love God, but there is nothing worse than a bad marriage.

Mark 10:10 "And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same [matter]."

The disciples, like the Pharisees, had not received a clear message on this matter, so they asked the Lord again.

Mark 10:11 "And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her." Mark 10:12 "And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

These Scriptures, here, show that wives and husbands have equal rights in divorce. She is the sinner if she puts away her husband, and he is guilty if he puts away his wife.

Mark 10:13 "And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and [his] disciples rebuked those that brought [them]."

Whether this touch of Jesus was so that He might pray for them, or whether it was like a Patriarchal touch is not clear. At any rate, it would be a blessing to be touched by the Lord Jesus. The disciples rebuked them, because they felt Jesus was wasting His time on these youngsters. They, probably, thought Jesus should be taking care of more weighty matters.

Mark 10:14 "But when Jesus saw [it], he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:15 "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

Jesus was disturbed by what the disciples said and quickly said in answer, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not". Small children, I believe, should be encouraged, not discouraged, to come to God. If a child makes a commitment to God early, it can save him from much sin in his life. Sometimes, if a child is turned away early, it causes him to stray, and sometimes he never comes back. The Lord loves the innocence of children. A child receives the Lord humbly. That is what we must do, also. We must humble ourselves and realize that we must depend entirely upon the Lord if we make it to heaven. The simplicity of children's faith is what we must have. We must not complicate our lives with things of the world, but must receive Jesus as our Lord, as well as our Saviour.

Mark 10:16 "And he took them up in his arms, put [his] hands upon them, and blessed them."

This is what the Lord wants to do for all of us and especially the children. He wants to touch us and bless us.

Mark 10:17 "And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

In Matthew, this man was called a "young man"; and in Luke, he was called a "ruler". This man was, probably, waiting to catch Jesus as He left the house. He immediately humbled himself (kneeled). His question was sincere. He called Jesus "good master" out of respect. His question is one men have asked for thousands of years, "What should I do that I may inherit eternal life?" We are all aware of the temporary condition of this life.

Mark 10:18 "And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God."

We know that Jesus was good and is good, but we also know that He is God the Son. Perhaps, Jesus was saying here, do you believe that I am God in the flesh? Jesus was trying to get him to focus on God and his need for God.

Mark 10:19 "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother."

Jesus did not stop by telling him that only God was good, but went immediately into the commandments. Jesus was aware this young man knew of these laws of God.

Mark 10:20 "And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth."

We see from this, that this young man was of good morals. Just good clean living will not get us into heaven though. There is more than just good clean living that gets us to heaven.

Mark 10:21 "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me."

We see from this, that this young man had a god that he must lay on the altar to receive Jesus as his Saviour. This statement, here, is not for everyone to do but just for those who are in love with their money. Whatever your god is, is what you are required to lay down. Jesus invited him to follow Him. If we follow Jesus, there is a cross to bear.

Mark 10:22 "And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions."

You see, this man's possessions were his god. He gave up eternal life for his worldly possessions. God would not have required his money, if he had not been in love with his money.

Mark 10:23 "And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!" Mark 10:24 "And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!"

Pride goes many times with riches, and love of money causes men to sin. The lust for money is of the flesh. To love the things of this world drives heaven farther away. Notice in verse 24 exactly where the sin is. The trust in riches instead of God is the sin. Putting anything ahead of God could cause a person to miss heaven.

Mark 10:25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

This could be associated with the needle's eye where a camel has to kneel to go through. God will not cause you to miss heaven because you are rich, but He will cause you to miss heaven, if you put your money ahead of God.

Mark 10:26 "And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?"

It was thought by the Hebrews that a wealthy man was wealthy because God blessed him as He did Abraham, David, and Solomon. You can see how they would be so amazed.

Mark 10:27 "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

You see, Jesus did not say a rich man could not be saved, He said it would be hard. God looks into the heart. Rich and poor who have pure hearts and who depend on Jesus Christ as their Saviour will be saved.

Mark 20 Questions

1. As soon as Jesus came to Judaea, what did the people do?
2. Why did they come to Him?
3. What question did the Pharisees ask Him?
4. Why did they ask Jesus this?
5. What question did Jesus ask them in answer?
6. What way out had Moses given to them?
7. Man and woman married are to be one _____.
8. Why did Jesus say Moses had allowed divorce?
9. A man shall leave his mother and father and _____.
10. Why did the disciples ask Jesus the same question?
11. In verses 11 & 12, we find that man and woman are equal in what?
12. Why did they bring the young children to Jesus?
13. What did the disciples do about the children?
14. How did Jesus feel about the disciples attitude?
15. Jesus said, if you are to enter the kingdom, it must be as a _____.
16. Why is it important to come to Jesus at an early age?
17. In verse 16, Jesus did what to the children?
18. The man, who ran and kneeled at Jesus' feet, asked what of Jesus?
19. What shows that he humbled himself?
20. Who is the only one good?
21. What did Jesus tell the young man at first?
22. What did the young man answer?
23. What did Jesus tell him he lacked?
24. Why was this required of him?
25. What did the young man do?
26. What did Jesus say that astonished the disciples?
27. In verse 24, what one word was added to clarify what Jesus meant?
28. What is it easier for a camel to do than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven?
29. What question did the disciples ask Jesus?
30. With God _____ things are possible.

MARK LESSON 21

We will begin this lesson in Mark 10:28.

Mark 10:28 "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee."

This statement of Peter's was right after the rich young man had turned his back and walked away, because the Lord told him to sell what he had and give to the poor. We discussed that the wealth was not the sin. The sin was that the young man loved it more than he loved God. We, also, heard Jesus say that it was difficult for someone of great wealth to be saved and then immediately say, though it might be impossible for man, all things are possible with God. Peter, in the statement above desired to know where his own position with God was. Peter was a fisherman, and he left his boat, nets, and family and followed Jesus.

Mark 10:29 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's," Mark 10:30 "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

This leaves no doubt, if you give up worldly things on this earth, you will inherit eternal life. These great promises of abundance here are in the spiritual realm. If you give up family for God, God will be your family. Friends who are Christians like you are can sometimes be even closer than blood relatives. Christians know how to love. We know if we choose the Lord over the world, we will inherit with Him. We shall be joint-heirs with Jesus and live and reign with Him. We will live for all of eternity with God.

Mark 10:31 "But many [that are] first shall be last; and the last first."

We will see in this that many who were not in very high office here on the earth will be ruling over those who were kings and princes here. The Christians will rule with Jesus, and the worldly people will be ruled over. I, also, believe that this Scripture means that some of the end time followers of Jesus will be held in esteem of God with the prophets and disciples of old.

Mark 10:32 "And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,"

The disciples were amazed that Jesus would go to Jerusalem. He had already told them that He would be crucified there. The disciples (not understanding) greatly feared death. Their amazement was of such a man, who knowing He would die, would go headlong to the place of death. All the time Jesus was still giving them the details of the crucifixion, so that when it happened, they would not forget that He is Messiah.

Mark 10:33 "[Saying], Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:" Mark 10:34 "And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again."

This was the detailed information that Jesus gave to the disciples. He wanted them to realize that all of this was the part of the plan. That God was even in control of this, and that victory lies at the end. Jesus would rise on the third day. Their eyes were so in the physical that they just saw the pain and suffering and could not see the victory. The victory of salvation for everyone is completed on the cross. The evidence of it was on resurrection day.

Mark 10:35 "And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire." Mark 10:36 "And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?" Mark 10:37 "They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory."

James and John had been two of the three which the Lord had set aside so many times to be with Him, as at the Mount of Transfiguration. They had heard Jesus say that they all would reign with Him and rule over the twelve tribes of Israel. They, perhaps, thought that they and Peter were already favorites of the Lord. This request was understandable, if for no other reason than they wanted to be as near the Lord as possible. Jesus already knew what was in their hearts, but this question was asked for our learning. They wanted the most prominent seats next to Him. In Matthew, we read that their mother wanted this position for them. We must remember in the case of Peter, James, and John that at that time, none of them had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, and they were still operating in the flesh to some extent. Their power to live victorious, unselfish lives had not come yet.

Mark 10:38 "But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Truly James and John did not at this point realize the terrible death that Jesus would go through. The prize they were asking for was, also, a mystery. They could not know whether this would be a blessing or a curse. Jesus would be baptized with the baptism of suffering. It is an easy thing to say that we can go through the suffering, until the time comes. All of the disciples really felt that Jesus would set up a physical kingdom here on this earth, and He would run the Romans off. Their idea and Jesus' idea of victory were two different things entirely. To want to be Jesus' right and left hand assistants was being proud. Jesus would be made our Saviour by His suffering on the cross. Were they prepared to suffer on the cross with Him? They really had no idea what they were asking. This would indeed be a bitter cup that Jesus would fulfill.

Mark 10:39 "And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:" Mark 10:40 "But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but [it shall be given to them] for whom it is prepared."

James was martyred in the Christian movement. In the twelveth chapter of Acts, we read about James being killed by Herod. Acts 12:1 "Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth [his] hands to vex certain of the church." Acts 12:2 "And he killed James the brother of John with the sword." We know of John's exile on the Isle of Patmos where he wrote the Book of Revelation. We know, here, in weare decided from the foundation of the earth. The right hand blessing has always been the best. I am not so sure what this left hand would be.

Mark 10:41 "And when the ten heard [it], they began to be much displeased with James and John."

We see from this that even the disciples who walked with Jesus were not perfect. We see, here, that they became jealous of James and John.

Mark 10:42 "But Jesus called them [to him], and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them."

Jesus was saying the way of the world is different from God's way. In the world the great ones rule over their people, but in God's method, the great ones serve their fellow men.

Mark 10:43 "But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:" Mark 10:44 "And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all."

Jesus reminded the disciples that they were not of the world and must not live like the world. Don't live like the world, this is not your home. Do it God's way, the better way. The greatest among you shall be servant to all.

Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

In this we really see the understatement. Jesus (God manifest in the flesh, God the Son) humbled Himself and came to earth and ministered unto our needs. He was crucified for each individual all over the world for all times. Jesus was crucified and rose again so that whosoever will might be saved. The word "many" would probably cover it, because not every one accepts the salvation that Jesus paid for, for all of us with His precious blood. He ministered to so many on the earth while He was here that the Bible said there would not be enough books to write them all down in if every one was recorded.

Mark 10:46 "And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging."

There was no welfare in those days, and a blind person made a living from begging. This is the same Jericho where the walls fell down for the Israelites on their way to the holy land. Giving the name of the beggar designates a particular healing.

Mark 10:47 "And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, [thou] son of David, have mercy on me."

A blind man hears so much more, because of their contact with so many people. This Bartimaeus knew the name "Jesus of Nazareth". He had heard of the miracles Jesus had done and this was why he cried out to Jesus for help.

Mark 10:48 "And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, [Thou] son of David, have mercy on me."

When you are blind and someone is near that can make you see again, there would be no way to hush you up. We can see, here, from the Son of David that he called Jesus, that the blind man had heard that He descended from David. The blind man would not be quieted, he wanted to see again.

Mark 10:49 "And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee."

This was the best news this blind man had ever heard. Jesus was calling him. His friends said to him, "Rise up, Jesus is calling you". Truly you can think of this as literal and as spiritual, as well. Jesus does call all who are spiritually blinded by this world to come to Him so that He might open their eyes that they might see, just as Bartimaeus was called here.

Mark 10:50 "And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus."

This beggar's outer robe was shed so that he might come to Jesus.

Mark 10:51 "And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight."

The Lord knew the blind man's need, but this question was asked to make a point. This man realized he had a need, asked for help, and then had enough faith to receive it. Bartimaeus recognized Jesus as his Lord, and spoke faith.

Mark 10:52 "And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way."

In verse 52 we learn a very important lesson. Faith is what activated the miracle. He received his sight because he believed. Bartimaeus was so thankful that he followed Jesus.

Mark 21 Questions

1. Why did Peter remind Jesus that they had left all to follow Him?
2. What had Peter's occupation been prior to going with Jesus?
3. What did Jesus promise to those who have left home and family to follow Him?
4. The first shall be _____.
5. Why were the disciples afraid in verse 32?
6. What was their amazement of Jesus?
7. What details of the crucifixion did Jesus give them?
8. What did He promise would happen on the third day after the crucifixion?
9. Why did Jesus tell this to the disciples?
10. What request did James and John make of Jesus?
11. What did the other disciples think of this?
12. What question did Jesus ask James and John?
13. What was their reply?
14. Who will sit on the right and left hand of Jesus?
15. What, in Acts chapter 12, do we find happened to James eventually?
16. In Jesus' teaching the greatest shall _____.
17. In verse 45, Jesus called Himself what?
18. In this, He said that He came for what purpose?
19. Where did Jesus go where the blind man was begging?
20. What was the blind man's name?
21. When he heard it was Jesus, what did the blind man do?
22. What did the blind man call Jesus?
23. When Jesus heard his cries, what did He do?
24. Why did Jesus ask him what he wanted if He already knew his needs?
25. In verse 52, Jesus told him his _____ had made him whole.
26. What did the blind man do after he was healed?

MARK LESSON 22

We will begin this lesson in Mark 11:1.

Mark 11:1 "And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples,"
Mark 11:2 "And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring [him]."

A group from our church, along with my husband and I, went to Israel in 1979, and we made this same trip from Jericho to Jerusalem. It is approximately a 17 mile trip. The amazement to us was how close all these places are. The mount of Olives over looks Jerusalem. "Bethpage" means the house of green figs. "Bethany" means the house of dates. The time of Jesus' arrival here was on Palm Sunday. The two disciples sent were not mentioned by name. In Matthew, we are told "a colt and an ass ", here, we see just the "colt". This varies a little in detail because two different people were telling the story. We discussed this in great detail in our Matthew study. We will mention that an animal who had never been used by the owner or had never produced offspring was the only animal fit for God's use. That was why the colt no one had sat on was there. Jesus (God the Son) would be using this animal. By divine plan this animal would be there at this time for Jesus' use.

Mark 11:3 "And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither."

There was really no evidence that anyone tried to stop them. Here again, Jesus said this to them to let them know that what they were doing was right. This colt would not be a stolen animal. He had been placed there for just that purpose. In Zechariah 9:9 it had been prophesied that Jesus would enter Jerusalem on the colt of an ass, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." You see, Jesus fulfills every prophesy of Him.

Mark 11:4 "And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him." Mark 11:5 "And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt?"

We see in this the plans of God carried out in every detail. We see these disciples obeyed Jesus. They took no thought for the harm that might come to them, if they were thought to be stealing the animals. It surely had to make their faith even stronger when the animals were where Jesus had told them they would be. There was really no opposition to them taking them. It seems as if the people who asked what they were going to do with them were curious more than anything, because they did not try to stop the disciples. These animals are just like everything and everyone on the earth. We are all subject to the wishes of our Lord. Just as the money was in the fish's mouth when Jesus needed it to pay taxes. This shows divine provision.

Mark 11:6 "And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded: and they let them go."

It was exactly as Jesus said it would be.

Mark 11:7 "And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him."

These clothes were thrown across the animal like a saddle blanket, and Jesus sat upon him. Jesus showed complete humility in riding this colt, but all the time was being elevated by those who were with Him.

Mark 11:8 "And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed [them] in the way." Mark 11:9 "And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord:"

"Hosanna" means Oh, save. This was Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This was Palm Sunday. You can see total adoration of Jesus by His followers here. Not even their own garments meant anything to them compared to Jesus, and they spread their garments on the ground for the ass to walk on. At this point, all these people were speaking of the blessedness of Jesus.

Mark 11:10 "Blessed [be] the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest."

At this time, the Lord Jesus could have easily taken Jerusalem away from the Romans. His followers believed He was going into Jerusalem to reign as King then. They had no understanding of His mission at all.

Mark 11:11 "And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve."

Notice here, too, that Jesus went to the temple. This had to be an unusual sight, Jesus going along on the little colt with a large group shouting, "Hosanna" and covering the way for the colt to walk with their clothes and branches. All twelve disciples were with Jesus at this time.

Mark 11:12 "And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:" Mark 11:13 "And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not [yet]."

This was undoubtedly the Monday after Palm Sunday. Jesus was about to teach us a very important lesson, here, and set the circumstance up for us. We know that Jesus ate while He was here on the earth and it would not be unusual for Him to be hungry. This fig tree with leaves would make you think that it, also, had figs. Here we see a disappointment, a tree with no fruit. There are several symbols we must see here. This "fig tree" symbolizes the physical house of Israel. It was religious (the green leaves), but was not a fruit bearer (had not accepted Jesus). This tree was to wither up until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled. The physical house of Israel would appear to be dead. We, also, can see in this fig tree our

own lives. Are we Christians in lip service, or in reality? Do we appear to be a fruitful tree, and have no fruit to show? Can we bear closer examination? When Jesus comes and inspects our tree, will there be any fruit? In Matthew, we are told that the tree withered immediately.

Mark 11:14 "And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard [it]."

This showed the disciples the supreme power that Jesus has over even plants. Jesus did not have to die on the cross. He chose to die on the cross. Jesus is supreme Ruler over everything.

Mark 11:15 "And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;" Mark 11:16 "And would not suffer that any man should carry [any] vessel through the temple."

This temple was for one purpose only. This temple was a place for man to meet with God. The temple was never intended to be a house of merchandise. The temple was to be holy, set aside for this purpose. Jesus cast these people out with great authority. This selling of sacrificial animals (many times not even healthy animals) to be offered in the temple was against all of God's teachings. Church should not be a money making venture. Church is for God and man to communicate with each other. Man must reverence God and His temple. The really sad thing about most of this trade that went on in the temple, was that the priests and their families were taking advantage of the needs of the people for doves etc., and were fleecing the people. Not only were they charging too much, but were, also, furnishing impure animals; and they were not even supposed to sell at all in the temple. The temple is holy. Other activities, other than worship, should not be conducted inside the sanctuary. Most churches today have a book room out of the sanctuary. All transactions should be made outside the sanctuary. The Lord even now will overthrow the money changers and the men and women merchandising in the sanctuary.

Mark 11:17 "And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves."

God is the God of the whole world. He is the God of every nation. The court of the Gentiles is still part of the meeting place of God and man. Here, again, Jesus condemns the selling of merchandise in the sanctuary. I believe personally that this goes even into the holiness we should have toward our God in our sanctuary today. Eating and drinking, for instance, should be done in another room of the church, and all other gatherings that are not classified as worship (such as fund raisers). God loves us and wants to save us, but He also wants us to love and worship Him. We take God and His sanctuary far too lightly.

Mark 22 Questions

1. What two towns were near Jerusalem?
2. Where did Jesus tell two of His disciples to go?
3. What would they find there?
4. Approximately how far is it from Jericho to Jerusalem?
5. What city does the mount of Olives overlook?
6. Why did Jesus need the colt of an ass?
7. What answer were the disciples to give to anyone who asked them what they were doing?
8. What Prophetic book in the Old Testament tells of the colt?
9. Where did they find the colt?
10. What did they use like a saddle blanket for the colt?
11. What did they spread down before the colt to walk on?
12. What does "Hosanna" mean?
13. What day did Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem happen on?
14. Where did Jesus go in Jerusalem?
15. When Jesus came from Bethany on Monday, He was _____.
16. Why did He think the fig tree had fruit?
17. What had Jesus done, here, to teach us a very important lesson?
18. What is the fig tree symbolic of?
19. What can we see in our lives, if we are Christians, in this fig tree?
20. When Jesus went to the temple, what did He find that displeased Him?
21. What is the only purpose of the temple then and now?
22. How did Jesus cast them out?
23. What was the saddest thing about this trafficking that was going on?
24. What shall the house of God be called?
25. Who does this extend to?

We will begin this lesson in Mark 11:18.

Mark 11:18 "And the scribes and chief priests heard [it], and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine."

The worst fear these scribes and priests had was that the people would follow Jesus and not listen to them any more. This "destroy", probably, even went further than killing Jesus. They wanted to stop this message He was bringing, too. They knew if they couldn't stop the message, His disciples would continue on with the message. This doctrine of Jesus brought them hope. The message the scribes and priests were promoting brought only death. The chief priests were afraid the people would all leave and follow Jesus.

Mark 11:19 "And when even was come, he went out of the city." Mark 11:20 "And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. "

Jesus left the city at evening and stayed in the country round about. In the daytime, Jesus was in Jerusalem and, probably, spent the night in Bethany with friends. When they walked back by the fig tree that Jesus had cursed, they saw that it was dead from the roots. We remember in the last lesson, that the symbol of the fig tree is the physical house of Israel.

Mark 11:21 "And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away."

This was just another instance where Peter was shown beyond a shadow of doubt that Jesus was truly Son of God.

Mark 11:22 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."

Jesus was telling Peter and all the others to not doubt the next few days as all the events of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus took place, but to look beyond the circumstances they saw with their eyes and to have faith in God.

Mark 11:23 "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

The secret is not to doubt. What we must continually remember is that things that seem impossible to man are not impossible to God. God made the world and everything in it, and everything is subject to God's wishes. The created has to obey the Creator. You might say, "What does that have to do with it obeying me?". In John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:13 "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may

be glorified in the Son." John 14:14 "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it]."

You see, the secret is to ask in Jesus' name. We have power through faith and in the name of Jesus to do all things. When Jesus healed, He said your faith has made you whole.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive [them], and ye shall have [them]."

Just as we have said above, the secret is to ask in the name of Jesus, and then not doubt, but have faith.

Mark 11:25 "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:26 "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

This is a very important condition. Forgiveness of others will cause God to forgive us, but unforgiveness brings bitterness and an evil heart.

Mark 11:27 "And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders," Mark 11:28 "And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?"

Jesus was not avoiding the scribes, elders, and priests now. In the verse above, they were questioning Jesus' authority. When they asked Him who gave Him authority to drive the money changers out, they were saying, "We are the only ones who could give you this authority, and we didn't give you any authority". If it were in our day they would, probably, have said, "Who do you think you are anyway?" My opinion of why they were so opposed to Jesus was because down deep they knew what He had was so much more powerful than what they had ever encountered before. They really were afraid and jealous of Jesus.

Mark 11:29 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things." Mark 11:30 "The baptism of John, was [it] from heaven, or of men? answer me."

John the Baptist was thought very highly of. Jesus was saying here, "John testified of me, do you believe him?". John baptized Jesus and a voice from heaven had come and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased", Matthew 3:17. John the Baptist had proclaimed Jesus from one end of the country to the other, and all had great respect for John and what He taught (even Herod who had him beheaded). Jesus always answered their questions with a question that there was no way to answer.

Mark 11:31 "And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him?" Mark 11:32 "But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all [men] counted John, that he was a prophet indeed."

You see, John had preached, "Repent and make the way ready for the Messiah". John had taught that Jesus was the awaited Messiah. Jesus had really put them on the spot. Whatever they said, they were trapped. If they said that John the Baptist was a true man of God, then they had to accept Jesus as the long awaited Messiah. If they said that John was a false prophet and that the things he said were not true, then the people would attack them, because the people thought very highly of John. They truly were trapped with no answer to give.

Mark 11:33 "And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things."

We see, here, that they could tell, but they wouldn't because they were trapped. They lied because they knew they were in trouble either way. Jesus told the truth. He said, "Neither do I tell you". He made no excuses. Jesus could tell them, but they wouldn't believe even if He did.

Mark 23 Questions

1. Why did the scribes and priests want to destroy Him?
2. What was everyone astonished at about Jesus?
3. What did the priest want to do more than kill Jesus?
4. What was the difference in Jesus' message?
5. What did the priests fear?
6. What had happened to the fig tree?
7. In the daytime, Jesus was in _____,
and in the evening He stayed in _____.
8. Who is the fig tree symbolic of?
9. Who remembered and reminded Jesus about the fig tree?
10. Jesus answered him and told him to have _____.
11. Why did Jesus tell Peter this?
12. What did Jesus say about moving a mountain?
13. What is the secret to getting our prayers answered?
14. Everything in the world is subject to whom?
15. Why and how can we do the same miracles Jesus did?
16. Quote St. John 14:14.
17. What did Jesus say when He healed?
18. In verse 25, we are told to do what before we pray?
19. When Jesus was walking in the temple, who came and questioned Jesus?
20. What did they ask Him?
21. What is the author's opinion of why they opposed Jesus?
22. What did Jesus ask them about John the Baptist?
23. What had John taught about Jesus?
24. Why did they not say John was from heaven?
25. Why did they not say John was from men?
26. When they would not answer Jesus, what did He tell them?

MARK LESSON 24

We will begin this lesson in Mark 12:1.

Mark 12:1 "And he began to speak unto them by parables. A [certain] man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about [it], and digged [a place for] the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country."

This parable about the vineyard is really the history of the Church. Jesus spoke this in front of the so-called religious people of the day. It is important for us to see ourselves in this, as well. These scribes, Pharisees, and priests, probably, would not even understand that He was telling them of their failures, because their hearts were hardened. They could not receive the truth. The man who planted the garden was God. Just as God put Adam and Eve into the garden of Eden to dress and keep it, God entrusted this symbolic vineyard, here, to the physical house of Israel. God, Himself, protected them from their enemies. God through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, left this group of Israel His law to go by. He promised if they would keep His Commandments, He would bless them. God left it in the hands of His people and went to heaven (far country). These husbandmen were His people.

Mark 12:2 "And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard."

This servant, here, would be some of the Old Testament prophets. God sent these prophets to warn His people of what would happen, if they did not keep His Commandments. The husbandmen were to produce fruit. Christians must produce other Christians. A person is judged by God by the fruit he produces.

Mark 12:3 "And they caught [him], and beat him, and sent [him] away empty."

The Jews would not accept these prophets, and they beat them and killed many of them. These prophets' messages were rejected. The Jews did not grow in the Lord from these prophets at all.

Mark 12:4 "And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded [him] in the head, and sent [him] away shamefully handled."

We know that was still continuous rejection of the judges and prophets that God sent to warn the Jews. With every blessing for obeying God's commands there was a curse, if they were not obeyed.

Mark 12:5 "And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some."

God's patience with His rebellious people was one of the great mysteries. God forgave them and started them out again, over and over; but they continued to go away from God instead of toward Him.

Mark 12:6 "Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son."

God's love was so great for a world caught up in sin that he sent His only begotten Son. He said to Himself, "They will not reject my Son". He had tried everything else He knew to do to save these ungrateful people. Now, He would send His Son. This was the very God, God the Son, who took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us. Surely God's beloved chosen family would believe Him.

Mark 12:7 "But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be our's."

Instead of those chosen of God accepting the Son of God and reverencing Him, they rejected Him and plotted to kill Him. There was overwhelming evidence who He was, but they did not accept it. The voice from heaven calling Jesus God's Son should be enough. The feeding of the 5000 should have told them who He was. The opening of blind eyes, the draught of fishes, any of these things should have told them who He was. There were thousands of miracles. Probably, they knew who He was, and just did not want to turn over their power to Him.

Mark 12:8 "And they took him, and killed [him], and cast [him] out of the vineyard." Mark 12:9 "What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others."

We see from this that God the Father had had enough at this point. He had done all He could to save His chosen people, but now they had killed His beloved Son. The fig tree had truly died. The Jews would be passed over now and the message would go to the Gentiles. In Romans 11:25 we read, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." God had made a way for the Gentile believers to be saved. God took the vineyard from the Jew and turned it over to the Gentile believers who accepted His Son as Saviour.

Mark 12:10 "And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:"

The scribes, priests, and Pharisees had rejected Jesus, and God started a new Church with Jesus as the Cornerstone. I Peter 2:4, "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious," This describes Jesus the choice Cornerstone on whom the church would be built upon. I Peter 2:5, tells about how we, Christians, fit into this building, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." We, Christians, are the temple of the Holy Spirit of God. We dwell in God, and He dwells in us.

Mark 12:11 "This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

The building of this house with Jesus as the Cornerstone was God's work. The ways of God are really so wonderful they are beyond our understanding.

Mark 12:12 "And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way."

This is so strange that they were more afraid of the people than they were of God. They even realized this parable was about them, and they did not repent. They went away waiting until they had a better chance to move against Him.

Mark 12:13 "And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in [his] words."

Herodians were Jews who were loyal to Herod. We see, here, that they were plotting together to see if they could trap Jesus. Jesus was too smart for them, and the tables had been turned on them every time they tried to trap Jesus by asking questions that were unanswerable. Jesus always replied with questions they couldn't answer themselves. These Herodians loved causing others to pay Caesar taxes.

Mark 12:14 "And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?"

First of all their calling Jesus Master was a lie, because they did not consider Jesus as their master at all. They were trying to defame Jesus, not to build Him up. They were really trying to trap Jesus. If Jesus said to pay Caesar, the Jews would be offended; and if He said not to pay, then Caesar and these Herodians would be mad. Actually, these Herodians and the Pharisees were on opposite sides, but they had joined together to do Jesus in. They were saying Jesus was truth. If they really believed that, they would not be trying to trap Him. If they didn't believe it, they were lying. Jesus had taught to not be a respecter of person.

Mark 12:15 "Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see [it]."

Jesus had them completely figured out. He knew they were hypocrites, saying one thing and meaning something entirely different. He knew that all of this was a plot to get Him in trouble. His request for a penny was so that He could trap them.

Mark 12:16 "And they brought [it]. And he saith unto them, Whose [is] this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's." Mark 12:17 "And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him."

Many people believe that this says to pay taxes, but it really doesn't. What He really showed them was a penny. The penny had Caesar's picture on it, so give him his penny. Jesus really didn't answer this at all. His

answer marvelled them, because He didn't answer them at all. We know that everything belongs to God. There was a question of what belonged to Caesar.

Notes

Mark 24 Questions

1. In verse 1, Jesus began to speak to them by _____.
2. Who was the man who planted the vineyard symbolic of?
3. Who was the vineyard symbolic of?
4. What did he "built a hedge about it" mean?
5. This parable about the vineyard was what?
6. Who was the husbandmen?
7. This servant that God sent was symbolic of whom?
8. When God sent people to help His chosen people, what did they do to them?
9. Who was the last one God sent to them?
10. What did they do to Him?
11. Who did God send His beloved Son for?
12. Name three or four things that Jesus did that left no doubt at all who He was.
13. What did God do to those who rejected His Son?
14. Who was the fig tree symbolic of?
15. Why did blindness come to Israel?
16. What happened to the stone that the builders rejected?
17. In I Peter 2:5, what were the Christians called?
18. Why did they not lay hold on Jesus then?
19. What natural enemies came together against Jesus?
20. What name did they call Jesus that they really didn't mean?
21. Who were the Jews loyal to Herod?
22. What did they ask Jesus about Caesar?
23. If Jesus said to pay taxes to Caesar, who would He have offended?
24. What did Jesus tell them to show Him?
25. What is a hypocrite?
26. Jesus said render unto _____ the things that are _____ and unto _____ the things that are _____.

MARK LESSON 25

We will begin this lesson in Mark 12:18.

Mark 12:18 "Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,"

Mark 12:19 "Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave [his] wife [behind him], and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother."

The Sadducees were Jews who did not believe in the Spirit. They did not believe in life after death. They were strict Jews who believed in the Pentateuch (the first five books of Moses) and nothing else. They did not believe in angels or demons. They really had no future at all to look forward to. They had a sort of fleshly religion with no spirit at all connected to it. They thought they would give Jesus a problem that He would not be able to reconcile in these seven brothers who marry the same woman. Everything they believed was based on Moses' teachings. Here, again, they called Him Master, but they did not accept Him as Master. They tried to use one little thing that Moses said to trap Jesus.

Mark 12:20 "Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed." Mark 12:21 "And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise." Mark 12:22 "And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also." Mark 12:23 "In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife."

They thought surely this would prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that there was no resurrection. They never dreamed Jesus could get around this. How could she be married to all seven? Here, again, Jesus showed them up to be very foolish, because they did not understand the Scriptures about heaven.

Mark 12:24 "And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?"

Their ignorance was twofold. They should have further studied the Scriptures, which plainly teach life after death. The power of God was evident in all of Moses' teachings, so they were without excuse for not knowing God's power.

Mark 12:25 "For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven."

"Angels" are ministering spirits. Hebrews 1:13 "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?" Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" You see, the flesh will not be important in heaven. We will be changed into a spiritual body. In I Corinthians 15:44 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

Mark 12:26 "And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I [am] the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?" Mark 12:27 "He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err."

Jesus told them of a Scripture in Moses' writings, because that was the only part of the Bible they read. Jesus was telling them that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still alive and would join their bodies on resurrection day.

Mark 12:28 "And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?"

We see this scribe (educated) came to see, since the Sadducees couldn't trip up Jesus, if he could. He knew God had given Ten Commandments, and he was seeing if he could get Jesus to say that they were unimportant. More than all of that, he wanted to understand the importance of the burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Mark 12:29 "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:"

Surrounded by Egypt and others countries, that believed in many gods as well; the one thing that separated God's people was that they believed in one God.

Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment."

You see, Jesus left no doubt at all about what position the Lord thy God must have in our lives. First of all, He must be Lord. He must be the most important thing in our lives. The heart is mentioned first, because it is the center of our being, and we are what our heart is. Our will is involved with the soul. The mind controls our thoughts. We must be stayed upon Him.

Mark 12:31 "And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

All of the Ten Commandments are actually caught up in these two, because if you love your neighbor as yourself, you won't murder, or lie, or cheat, etc. You would not do those things to yourself, so you won't do them to him either, if you love him as yourself.

Mark 12:32 "And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:" Mark 12:33 "And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love [his] neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

This scribe had received the Lord's truth unto himself. He had understood the meaning of the law, and not just the ritual of the law. This scribe in truth called Jesus Master, because he understood. This scribe confessed with his mouth that this was truth. He recognized that Jesus was true.

Mark 12:34 "And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him [any question]."

They saw how futile it was to try to trap Him. Jesus saw that this scribe truly was seeking truth and He encouraged him. This showed that people from all walks of life can receive God's truth, because this was a man of the law and he understood.

Mark 12:35 "And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the son of David?" Mark 12:36 "For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The Lord said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool." Mark 12:37 "David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he [then] his son? And the common people heard him gladly."

We see, here, that Jesus took this opportunity of being in the temple to further instruct these scribes and Pharisees on who He truly is. He just said, "How can Christ be a descendent of David, if David called Him Lord?" It is not an easy question to answer, if you think of everything from the physical standpoint. We do know that, in the flesh, Jesus was descended from David. Jesus Christ (the Spirit of God) is eternal. The Spirit of Jesus, which is eternal, was David's God. God is a Spirit. Jesus is God the Son who was housed in a body for His stay on this earth. Jesus, even now, is seated victorious at God's right hand. You see, Jesus (the Word) took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus was saying to these people, here, you are looking at the flesh, you are not understanding the Spirit. They could not understand why God would take on the form of flesh and dwell among them. They were like many people in our day. They wanted to think of Jesus as a man and not God. All they could see was His flesh.

Mark 12:38 "And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and [love] salutations in the marketplaces,"

Mark 12:39 "And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:" Mark 12:40 "Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation."

These scribes, or in fact our modern preachers today, who are more interested in the money and prestige associated with the ministry than they are in ministering to the needs of their sheep are in a whole lot of trouble. You may read more about this in the 34th chapter of Ezekiel. These scribes, above, were not servants of their fellow men. They wanted to be looked up to as being special. Their prayers were not sincere, they were only for those around them to hear and brag about how great they were. God does not care about fancy big worded prayers. He just wants us to pray from our hearts.

Mark 12:41 "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much." Mark 12:42 "And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing." Mark 12:43 "And he called [unto him] his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:" Mark 12:44 "For all [they] did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, [even] all her living."

Jesus was explaining, here, that sacrificial giving is truly a gift to God. If you give of your abundance and have plenty left after you give, that is no sacrifice. When you give in your need, not knowing where your next meal is coming from, then that is truly sacrificial giving regardless how small the offering. The amount of the offering you give is not as important to God as your attitude about the gift. Give from a free heart, because you love God, and not to be seen of man and God will greatly love your offering.

Notes

Mark 25 Questions

1. What did the Sadducees believe about life after death?
2. What were the Sadducees trying to prove with the story about the seven brothers who had one wife?
3. Who were the Sadducees?
4. What part of the Bible did they accept as truth?
5. What could you call their religion?
6. How many brethren was this story about?
7. In the resurrection, whose _____ shall she be, was the question they asked Jesus.
8. What two things did Jesus tell them they did not know?
9. What are the resurrected dead as in heaven?
10. What are angels?
11. In I Corinthians, what do we learn about the body?
12. What did Jesus mean by God of the living?
13. What had the scribe perceived about Jesus' answer?
14. What did the scribe ask Jesus?
15. What was Jesus' reply to him?
16. What was the one thing that separated God's people from the Egyptians and such around them?
17. What two things cover all Ten of God's Commandments?
18. What remark did this scribe say about Jesus' answer?
19. When Jesus saw the scribe answered discreetly, what did He say to him?
20. David, speaking by the Holy Ghost, had called Jesus what?
21. Why was it so hard for them to believe that Jesus was God?
22. Name three things these scribes liked that caused Jesus to say beware of them?
23. Why did these scribes pray long prayers?
24. What kind of prayer pleases God?
25. What did Jesus notice while He was sitting over by the treasury?
26. Describe a sacrificial gift.

MARK LESSON 26

We will begin this lesson in Mark 13:1.

Mark 13:1 "And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings [are here]!"

This temple in Jerusalem was something magnificent to behold. This temple that Solomon had built with directions from God to be a permanent house for the things of the tabernacle in the wilderness was beautiful indeed. God had given the plans to Solomon. It is no wonder that the disciples remarked about it, as they left with Jesus.

Mark 13:2 "And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

This was the prediction of the destruction of the temple. This same destruction was spoken of in chapter 21 of Luke. We know that Jesus' prediction did come true just a few years later, in fact, less than forty years later.

Mark 13:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately," Mark 13:4 "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?"

The mount of Olives is overlooking the old city of Jerusalem. We see, here, Peter, James, and John, the three He usually took aside with Him, and in this case one more, Andrew. Andrew was believed to be the first of the disciples which was called. So many times it seemed Jesus talked to this group separately from the people and separately from the other disciples. It seems as though Jesus had every confidence in these and felt as if He could share things with these that, perhaps, might not be well accepted by the others. When Jesus foretold of the destruction of the temple, it was to this select few. In verse 4, the question was different from the first question. They were saying when would the temple be destroyed? In the second question, they were looking for physical evidence to set the time by. We can, probably, see by these questions that they associated the destruction of the temple with the end of the world, at least the end of their world.

Mark 13:5 "And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any [man] deceive you:"

This was a warning specifically to Peter, who would be afraid and deceived in just a few days to the extent that he would even deny Jesus. It, also, was a warning for all of us, as well, not to be deceived. Never in the history of mankind has there been an age when it was easier to be deceived than right now. The only way not to be deceived, is to know the whole truth. The Bible contains the only real truth. We must check everything out to see what Jesus had to say about it. He is the Truth. We are, also, told to try the spirits and see whether they be of God before we believe. I John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the

world." I John 4:2 "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:" I John 4:3 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." You see, we must never doubt that the very Son of God (The Saviour, The Anointed One) took on the flesh of man and dwelt among us. Jesus is God the Son. That is what we must believe. Do not let people convince you that Jesus was a man. Jesus was in the body of a man, but He, in fact, was God The Son inside that house (the body) that He dwelt in here on the earth.

Mark 13:6 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am [Christ]; and shall deceive many."

When I was a child living in northern Arkansas, there was a man going through the country claiming to be Jesus. Many people in our community went to see him. Even now, there are a number of people throughout the world proclaiming to be Jesus. Don't be deceived by these people. When Jesus returns, you will see Him in the eastern sky. In the 24th chapter of Matthew, we read a similar statement.

Mark 13:7 "And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for [such things] must needs be; but the end [shall] not [be] yet."

In this statement, there is a looking down through all ages of time until the return of the Lord. There really will never be peace on the earth until the King of Peace, Jesus Christ, comes back to earth and sets up His Kingdom. There is a war raging somewhere on the globe now and has been ever since Jesus made this statement. You may get it calmed down one place, but it breaks out another. The Lord expects us to have peace in the midst of the storm. He warns us not to be overwhelmed with fear, even of war, but to go on spreading the gospel even in the midst of all the turmoil. There is such a threat of a nuclear war now, that I believe it is the cause of many young people taking drugs and alcohol. The use of drugs and alcohol is a running from the reality of the world around us. Most young people do not believe that they will have a future. The uncertainty of the conditions on the earth would be too much to bear, if we didn't know Jesus. The difference in those lost and the Christians, basically, is Christians know there is a future. We have something to look forward to. There is a knowing that all is well with a Christian. We do not count this earth as our home. Our home is in heaven. We are longing for the day when we go home to be with our Lord, and we have no fear of what man can do to us. At the worst, he can just hurry our going home.

Mark 13:8 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these [are] the beginnings of sorrows."

This last terrible earthquake in Russia is similar to what this is speaking of. India, and parts of Africa, have such devastating famine now that it is beyond our comprehension. All of verse 8 indicates, to me, that we are already in this time of sorrow. People's hearts are failing for the things that are coming upon the earth. Luke 21:26 "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:

for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." These warnings from the Lord are to prepare us. He lets us know that times will be rough just before the Lord returns to earth. Men will cry peace, but there will be no peace. Calamities, wars, and natural disasters come to cause people to repent. Christians should use the opportunity to try to win people to the Lord. We cannot stop the disaster, but we can help those devastated by the disaster find a better way.

Mark 13:9 "But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them."

This particular statement here was directed to the disciples. Certainly, we know that all of these things did happen to them. This was to prepare them when these things happened. My own personal belief is that the true believers of Jesus Christ will suffer persecution in our time, as well. Even now, if you try to live a holy, blameless life before the Lord, the religious people will ridicule you and cause you trouble in the flesh. In our society today, few want to face persecution for the Lord and His Word. Compromise is everywhere. The flesh of man is at enmity with God. It is easier to just give in than to stand firm in God.

Mark 13:10 "And the gospel must first be published among all nations."

By television and satellite this has been fulfilled. The good news of the Lord Jesus Christ has now been proclaimed throughout the world, so one more thing has happened that must happen before the return of the Lord.

Mark 13:11 "But when they shall lead [you], and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost."

We see, here, a continuation of verse 9. This was a prophetic word for the disciples and for us, also. I, also, believe that this, perhaps, is an expansion on preaching the gospel to all nations, as well. You see, the Lord has a message for this hour, as well as then. I believe the Lord would have His ministers bringing His Words that He puts into their hearts and mouths. All of the planning in the world to prepare a message for a given group is not half as effective as allowing the Lord to speak through you. The Lord wants obedient ministers who are willing to be open vessels to be used by Him. One of the hardest things for people of our day to do (whether they are ministers or just Christians) is to allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives, as well as our Saviour. We see in the last sentence of verse 11, it is not us speaking, it is the Holy Ghost within us speaking, if we make Jesus our Lord. Make Jesus Lord of your life today.

Notes

Mark 26 Questions

1. What did the disciple bring to the Lord's attention as He left the temple?
2. What was the temple the permanent home of?
3. Who had built the temple?
4. What did Jesus say about the stones of the temple?
5. About how many years later was the temple destroyed?
6. Who went to the mount of Olives this time with Jesus?
7. What did they ask Jesus when they got Him alone?
8. What does the mount of Olives overlook?
9. Why, possibly, did Jesus speak more openly to these four disciples than the others?
10. What were these disciples looking for to set the time by?
11. What was the first warning Jesus gave them?
12. How is the only way you and I can keep from being deceived?
13. In I John 4:1, we are told to do what to see if someone is of God?
14. What should we be very careful not to be convinced of?
15. Those who come in His name proclaim to be whom?
16. Where will we see Jesus when He returns to earth?
17. We are warned not to be troubled about _____ and rumors of _____.
18. When will there be peace upon the earth?
19. Where are we expected to have personal peace?
20. What does the author believe the abuse of drugs and alcohol is?
21. At the very worst, what can the enemy of a Christian do to them?
22. Describe what is taking place on the earth at the beginning of sorrows.
23. What does Luke 21:26 tell us about fear?
24. Name three things that come to cause people to repent.
25. Who was Jesus speaking specifically to in verse 9, when He said you will be brought before kings?
26. If you try to live holy before your Lord, who will ridicule you?
27. Where shall the gospel be preached before the end?
28. What two messages do we see in verse 11 about letting the Holy Ghost speak through you?
29. What is the most effective sermon?
30. What should we allow Jesus to be to us, besides our Saviour?

MARK LESSON 27

We will begin this lesson in Mark 13:12.

Mark 13:12 "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against [their] parents, and shall cause them to be put to death."

This Scripture has come true in our life-time. In World War II, many youngsters betrayed their own parents and caused them to be killed. They felt that they were being patriotic. Jesus knew all of this would happen, because of His foreknowledge. Perhaps, not a physical killing but a killing of the spirit so many times happens, if you start to work for God. Close friends and family members forget that you even exist. More than that, they are openly hostile. They are opposed to your ministry more than the world is.

Mark 13:13 "And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

In a world that has gone crazy over the flesh and the lust thereof, the Christian is hated. I truly believe the reason they hate the Christian (someone who is Christ-like) is because of the guilt they feel when they are around you. They especially feel this guilt, if they have known the truth and walked away from it. Notice the last part of the verse above. There will be hardship, because we see there is something to endure. When you become a Christian, your worldly problems are not over, you just are better able to cope with them, because you may call on the Lord for His help. You are not alone. God will give you strength. Don't fall for the (heaven now here on earth) teaching, which would have you believe there are no hardships to face. We are overcomers. To be overcomers, there has to be something to overcome. Pray for strength, wisdom, and understanding to see you through. The fight is worth it, because eternal life with Jesus awaits those who overcome.

Mark 13:14 "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:"

Daniel chapter 9 verse 27 will give you some information about this abomination. My favorite Scripture on this is found in Daniel 12:11 "And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days." Daniel 12:12 "Blessed [is] he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days." Daniel 12:13 "But go thou thy way till the end [be]: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

Many believe that all of this happened long ago when the temple fell into foreign hands, and terrible things were brought even into the holy place. I believe we have to look back to Daniel to truly understand what this is speaking of and when it is to occur. The beginning of chapter 12 of Daniel is speaking of, the time when the graves open, and mankind goes to be judged of God. You really should carefully read chapter 12 of Daniel over

and over. This 14th verse from Mark, it tells you to go back and study Daniel so that you will understand. In Daniel chapter 12, verse 4 sets the time. Daniel was told to shut up the words till the time of the end. I believe this was speaking of the 70th week of Daniel. The 9th chapter of Daniel told us when the 70th week would be. I personally believe the 70th week is the seven years of the great tribulation upon the earth. This seven is a week of years. There will be a seven year peace treaty signed with Israel and the antichrist system. I believe this begins the seven years. In the middle of the seven years (3 1/2 years after it was signed) the antichrist will set himself up in Jerusalem and pretend to be God. I believe the antichrist represents the abomination. There is an abominable temple sitting on the very spot of the old temple today, but it will come down. In Luke, we see the abomination spoken of as when enemy troops surround Jerusalem. Perhaps all of these things will happen. In chapter 12 verse 11 of Daniel that we just read earlier, we find that whatever this is, occurs at the middle of a seven year period (1290 days into the seven year period). The blessed will wait until the 1335th day. Anyone caught in Judaea at the time would be forced to flee to keep from bowing their knees to this false god.

Mark 13:15 "And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter [therein], to take any thing out of his house:" Mark 13:16 "And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment."

This shows what great haste a person must take to get away from this evil. No worldly goods will be important at that time. The idea will be to get out of there as fast as you can.

Mark 13:17 "But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!" Mark 13:18 "And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter." Mark 13:19 "For [in] those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."

This is speaking of the great tribulation. Revelation chapter 7 verse 14, speaks of those who were brought out of great tribulation. I do not believe these problems, above, are speaking of just normal times of trouble, but are speaking of a time of tremendous problems. In Revelation chapter 12 verse 14 we see "Time, times, and half a time" which I believe separate the seven years into the tribulation, and the wrath which is the last 3 1/2 years and are speaking of unspeakable agony. II Timothy chapter 3 speaks of the end times being perilous. The times he describes, I believe, immediately precede the great tribulation. He describes our times exactly. One thing that makes me sure that this time is near, is because it looks like we might be at peace with Russia. I Thessalonians 5:3, "For when they shall say, Peace, and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child: and they shall not escape." You can easily see from the Scripture above that any thing that might slow you down in escaping could cause you extra pain. A mother, or a mother-to-be would surely be slower in escaping. The winter would make it extra difficult, as well. Sleeping in the open would be very cold. There is much more in the Old Testament about this very thing, than in the New Testament. Ezekiel had much to say about this, but that is another study. We will move on now just by saying, I believe that this is speaking of the very near future.

Prepare and be ready to meet your Lord. Any other solution to this problem is impossible.

Mark 13:20 "And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

Whom hath He chosen? We must remember that Jesus is speaking here in Mark. In I Peter 2:9 we see, "But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" I Peter 2:10 "Which in time past [were] not a people, but [are] now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

Let's take a look now at the word "elect". We know that II John is written to the elect lady (read all of II John). In Isaiah chapter 45 verse 4, Israel was called "mine elect". Isaiah chapter 65 verse 9 indicates that the true elect are those who belong to Jesus (the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ). Colossians chapter 3 verses 11-12 indicates that all who put on Jesus Christ are the elect (Jew and Gentile). Titus chapter 1 verse 1, leaves no doubt who the elect are. They are those of faith in Jesus Christ. So we see quickly who the days are shortened for. This strengthens my belief that the Christians will be taken out in the middle of the tribulation period. The last 3 1/2 years (the wrath) is for those who do not accept the Lord as Saviour. Make Jesus Christ your Lord and Saviour, and you will be part of the elect.

Mark 13:21 "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here [is] Christ; or, lo, [he is] there; believe [him] not:" Mark 13:22 "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if [it were] possible, even the elect."

In verse 5 of chapter 13 of Mark, the very first thing Jesus said was, "Take heed lest any man deceive you". He was still saying that here. In our society today, so many false doctrines have been brought in, that many of them are filtering into our churches. Oriental mind control is one thing that I have noticed. There is just a hair difference in having extreme faith and practicing mind over matter. The main thing to remember when we are practicing faith, is that we must have faith in the power of Jesus, not in our own power. Great faith should be practiced by everyone, but remember it is in the Name of Jesus and through the power of His shed blood. We are people, we will never be God. The power is His, we have been authorized to use His power by speaking His name. It is His power, not ours. Any philosophy or religion that brings Jesus down to the level of man is false. Any that brings man up to Godhood is false. He is God, and we are His servants and adopted children. He treats us as a child, but we are to serve Him. He is Creator; we are His creation. Do not be taken by signs and wonders. Even Pharaoh's magicians could do some of the wonders Moses did. God calls the generation that bases their belief on signs evil. The Lord does wonderful miracles through His people, and it is real and from God, but do not base your faith on the signs. Those who follow Jesus will perform miracles in His name, but don't get your eyes on the gift and off of the Giver. As we said earlier in this lesson, try the spirits and see whether they be of God or not. Jesus is not hidden to the believer. You do not

have to go off to some exotic place to find Him. When you are to see Him with your physical eye, He will appear in the eastern sky. In the meantime, He dwells in your heart and in heaven now. False doctrines elevate man. The Truth elevates God. To know the Truth, we must study His Word (The Bible).

Notes

Mark 27 Questions

1. In verse 12, who shall put you to death?
2. In verse 13, who shall be saved?
3. Why will the world hate the Christian?
4. What is the meaning of endure?
5. Why should we not believe that heaven is here and now?
6. What awaits those who overcome?
7. When should those in Judaea flee to the mountains?
8. What book of the Old Testament did Mark say to study to know more about this?
9. In verses 12 and 13, how do we see the seven year tribulation divided?
10. Chapter 12 of Daniel takes place when, told in the beginning of the chapter?
11. What do we read about in the 9th chapter of Daniel which pertains to this in Mark?
12. What does the author believe represents the abomination?
13. What did Luke say about this abomination?
14. Verse 15, tells the person on the roof when this time comes to do what?
15. What is this showing?
16. In verse 17, there are three things that would make this time worse for you, what are they?
17. In Revelation 4:14, we read about those brought out of _____.
18. In II Timothy chapter 3, we read about what kind of "times"?
19. In I Thessalonians 5:3, we read that when they say peace and safety we can expect what?
20. If the Lord had not shortened these days _____.
21. Who did He shorten it for?
22. In I Peter 2:9, we find that the Christens are who?
23. Who is II John written to?
24. Who are the elect?
25. What are we to do when someone tells us to come go somewhere to see Jesus?
26. In verse 22, we are warned of two false things, what were they?
27. What was Jesus really saying to us throughout chapter 13 of Mark?
28. What false teaching is just a hair difference away from extreme faith?
29. What is the most important thing to remember when practicing faith?
30. The power is _____.
31. We have been authorized to use _____ power.
32. Any philosophy or religion that tries to bring Jesus down to the level of man is _____.
33. God is _____, and we are His _____.
34. When the Lord wants us to see Him with our physical eyes, where will He be?

Notes

We will begin this lesson in Mark 13:23.

Mark 13:23 "But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things."

Here, again, the Lord Jesus was warning Peter and the other disciples to remember what He told them about what was going to happen before it happened, so that they would not run away. They would still believe that He was Messiah in the face of all these problems. He was not only telling the disciples, but all believers for all ages even unto our time.

Mark 13:24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,"

Jesus was telling when this shall happen (in the last days after the tribulation). This, I believe, happens during the wrath of God. There are a number of ways to look at this. In our Revelation teaching, we were pretty broad in our coverage. There could, and probably, will be a time of physical darkness upon the earth. Whether caused by smoke being between the sun and moon and the earth, I cannot say. We do know there will be darkness. There will, also, be a lack of light coming from the Church after the Christians leave the earth: so the darkness will be physical and spiritual.

Mark 13:25 "And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken."

The Creator of the world is angry. His wrath has come up in His face. There will be shaking in heaven and on earth. This "stars" falling can be literal stars, and it can, also, be big time men and women of God. People are many times spoken of as stars. We know we have been seeing some of these stars of heaven falling. We, also, know there will be a shaking and all who can be shaken will fall. In Hebrews 12:25 we read, "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more [shall not] we [escape], if we turn away from him that [speaketh] from heaven:" Hebrews 12:26 "Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven." Hebrews 12:27 "And this [word], Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."

Mark 13:26 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory."

The "Son of man coming", here, will be King of kings and Lord of lords. He is coming for His elect. This will be the Lord in all His magnificence. As He went away in a cloud, He will return in a cloud. He will be clothed as it were in a cloud. There will be such brightness that it will light all of heaven, because He is the Light. Many believe we will see the Cross, others believe we will see a golden sword, but I believe we will see the glorified Lord. The Lord's great power is unsurpassed, because He will rule over everything in the earth, under the earth, and above the earth. There is no greater power.

Mark 13:27 "And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."

This is speaking of the angels who take orders from the Lord. The elect that will be gathered are the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. There will be people of all nationalities. This is talking about those who are alive in Christ when the Lord returns, and those who are dead in Christ, also.

Mark 13:28 "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:"

We know that the fig tree symbolizes "Israel". Israel sprouted again and became alive in 1948 (it became a nation).

Mark 13:29 "So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, [even] at the doors."

When Israel became a nation, we were to realize that the return of the Lord was very close. It is nigh even at the doors.

Mark 13:30 "Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done."

Now here is where the controversy comes in. How long is a generation? Is this speaking of forty years, or fifty, or seventy, or one hundred and twenty years? All of these numbers have been spoken of as a generation somewhere in the Bible. Many believed, and I am one of them, that 1988 was a very important year in the Lord's time table. It could have been 1998, or it could be 2018 or even 2068. Perhaps, the tribulation began, or some other mark of time with God. God's time and man's time are not the same, so we really cannot figure God out.

Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

This doesn't mean that at the end of this generation heaven and earth will pass. This verse 31 is not connected to verse 30. This is just showing how unending the Word of God is. Verse 32 is joined actually to verse 30.

Mark 13:32 "But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father."

We have connected this knowledge of the Father and not the Son about the time with the Jewish wedding. In the Jewish wedding, the Son (Jesus) goes away to build a home for His bride (the Christians). When the Father approves of the house, the Son goes for the bride. The groom stands on a hill outside of town at midnight and blows a trumpet, and the bride comes out to meet Him. Doesn't this sound like the rapture of the Church?

Mark 13:33 "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

The Lord will return again, no one knows for sure when, but we must be staying ready. Surely we will give an account to the Lord when He returns. I love the song "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes". That is exactly what we must do.

Mark 13:34 "[For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch."

The servants are the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ from all ages. The porter is like the ministers. The ministers must keep reminding the believers to watch and be ready, because we do not know when He is coming, only that He is coming when we least expect Him. The Son of man, of course, is Jesus; and this is speaking of when He went to heaven in the cloud and sat at the right hand of the Father. He left the disciples and all believers in Christ to do the work till He returns. All the world belongs to Jesus, the Father gave it to Him.

Mark 13:35 "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:"

These are the four watches of the night. It is so easy to get complacent and say, "He isn't coming". But that is a lie of the devil. The Church must not get careless. It must go on teaching the absolute truth. Jesus is coming back for a Church without spot or wrinkle. To follow the instructions He left, we must know His instructions well. His instructions are in the Bible. Watch and be ready.

Mark 13:36 "Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping."

In Proverbs, we are warned about spiritual sleeping. This is getting satisfied with things the way they are and not looking for His return. Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

We must stay alert living as pure a life as we can, staying ready.

Mark 13:37 "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Jesus, in this sentence here, is explaining that it is not for just the disciples of that day, but for all believers of all time.

Mark 28 Questions

1. What was Jesus telling them to take heed of in verse 23?
2. Why was He warning Peter and the others?
3. In verse 24, what two things shall happen after the tribulation of those days?
4. What does the author believe the time is called when the sun and moon are darkened?
5. What two types of darkness could this be talking about?
6. What will happen to the stars of heaven?
7. The powers in heaven shall be _____.
8. What does Hebrews 12:25-26, tell us about this time?
9. Who is the shaker?
10. How will the Son of man come?
11. Who is this Son of man?
12. What are some signs people believe we will see in the sky?
13. What does the author believe we will see?
14. Where is the Lord's rule?
15. Who does the Lord send to gather His people?
16. Where will His angels gather them from?
17. Who are the elect of the Lord?
18. What are we to learn a parable of?
19. Who is this really speaking of?
20. When did they become a nation?
21. There are several different times that have been classified as a generation, forty years being the most prominent, name two others.
22. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but _____ shall not pass away."
23. Who, besides man, does not know the day or hour of the return of the Lord?
24. What Jewish tradition reminds us of the rapture?
25. What are we warned to do, because we do not know the time?
26. In verse 34, who do the servants symbolize?
27. Who does the porter symbolize?
28. What four times are mentioned that He might come back?
29. Where can we find instructions on what we should do as we wait for His return?
30. In verse 36, what type of sleeping is this talking about?
31. In Titus 2:12, how should we live?
32. In verse 37, who is the warning to?

MARK LESSON 29

We will begin this lesson in Mark 14:1 "After two days was [the feast of] the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put [him] to death."

"Passover" was celebrated on the 14th of Nisan in the evening. The "Feast of Unleavened Bread" lasted from the 15th of Nisan to the 21st of Nisan. In fact, even the evening of the Passover was included in Feast of Unleavened Bread. Officially, Unleavened Bread began on the 15th of Nisan, but Unleavened Bread was, also, part of the Passover meal. Passover was celebrated for the sparing of the firstborn of the Israelites when the firstborn of Egypt were killed by the tenth plague. The Hebrews sacrificed a lamb and put the blood over the door. Anyone in the house where the blood was over the door was spared. Where the blood of the lamb was not over the door, the firstborn died. The Hebrews were told to remember and celebrate Passover every year. Jesus fulfilled Passover by being Himself the Passover Lamb.

Jesus was not only the Passover Lamb, but was the Unleavened Bread, as well. He was without sin (unleavened), and He called Himself the "Bread of life". Even the fact that He was born in Bethlehem verifies this. "Bethlehem" means house of bread. These chief priests and scribes were the religious people of that day. I personally believe their jealousy caused them to want to destroy Jesus. They knew the people would follow Him, unless they destroyed Him.

Mark 14:2 "But they said, Not on the feast [day], lest there be an uproar of the people."

Jesus was very popular with the people. Many of them had been there when He performed a miracle. They were afraid these people would rise up and fight them to protect Jesus.

Mark 14:3 "And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured [it] on his head."

We read in St. John that this woman was Mary, the sister of Martha. Simon, probably, was one of the lepers Jesus had healed. Jesus was eating a meal with Simon. This Mary was the sister of Lazarus who was raised from the dead. Nothing was too expensive for Mary to give to her Master. The anointing of Jesus' head was in addition to washing His feet with her tears and wiping them with the hairs of her head. Martha and Mary loved Jesus very much. This was very expensive perfume, possibly, the most expensive in the land. Nothing they would do would ever repay Him for raising their brother, Lazarus, from the grave.

Mark 14:4 "And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?"

John 12:4 "Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's [son], which should betray him," John 12:5 "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?" Three hundred pence was nearly a year's wages for a man. We know that Judas really wanted that money put in the purse which he carried. He really wasn't interested in the poor. His greed for money later caused him to betray Jesus. It seems that more than one of the disciples thought this perfume being poured on Jesus' head was a waste. The main complaint came from Judas though.

Mark 14:5 "For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her."

This really was no one's business but hers, what she did with what belonged to her. Her unselfishness possibly, showed their greed even more than usual.

Mark 14:6 "And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? She hath wrought a good work on me." Mark 14:7 "For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always."

The world, then and now, is always full of the poor. Opportunity to help the poor is always there. Jesus' first remark was to protect her when he said, "Let her alone". She had humbled herself more than all of these disciples. He told them again that He would not be with them long. She, possibly, understood more of what Jesus had been telling them.

Mark 14:8 "She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying."

Please be assured that this was -not- embalming fluid as some of the Bible dictionaries indicate. Jesus was not embalmed. Embalming is Egyptian. Hebrews were not embalmed. This was perfume -. This was anointing perfume.

Mark 14:9 "Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, [this] also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her."

This was a prophetic statement by Jesus. Mary would be immortalized for anointing Jesus before His burial. The other gospels mentioned a woman and John said Mary.

Mark 14:10 "And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them."

We see, here, that one of the elect twelve would be the one to betray Jesus. The chief priests had decided, you remember, to wait until after Passover, but they would not overlook this opportunity. It seems this happened soon after Mary anointed Jesus. Judas' greed was overwhelming. He would not overlook an opportunity for profit.

Mark 14:11 "And when they heard [it], they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him."

The money they offered him was thirty pieces of silver. We went into a good bit of detail on this in the Matthew teaching. "Thirty" or 3 times 10, is God (symbolized by the number 3) dealing with the world (symbolized by the number 10). "Silver" means redemption. We will see God redeeming the world in the most unlikely way, by the sacrifice of the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) on the cross. Judas' greed was greater than his love for Jesus. Judas plotted to betray Jesus.

Mark 14:12 "And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?"

Actually, unleavened bread was eaten all week. This was actually on the 14th of Nisan. This place they were speaking of had to be somewhere in Jerusalem.

Mark 14:13 "And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him."

In Luke the 22nd chapter the 8th verse, the Scripture tells us that the two disciples sent were Peter and John. The Lord was telling them how to recognize the man they must follow.

Mark 14:14 "And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the Goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?"

This was, perhaps, someone that Jesus already knew, but whether he knew Jesus before or not is unimportant. God had the man to be in this particular place. He would be receptive. This guest chamber Jesus told them of was a second story room. In fact, a very large room.

Mark 14:15 "And he will shew you a large upper room furnished [and] prepared: there make ready for us."

God had this man prepare this upper room for the feast. How this man knew to have this guest chamber ready, we are not told, but we know that, possibly, the Holy Spirit had caused the man to have these preparations made.

Mark 14:16 "And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover."

They had gotten the lamb, and had took it to the temple to be sacrificed by the priest. This meat would be cooked at the house of the upper room. This would consist of the bitter herbs, wine, and unleavened bread, and be eaten and drunk by Jesus and the disciples.

Mark 29 Questions

1. What two ceremonial feasts overlapped?
2. What time of the year were these feasts?
3. In verse 1, we find that the intentions of the chief priests and scribes were to do what to Jesus?
4. What was Passover celebrating?
5. Who is the passover lamb symbolic of?
6. Who is the unleavened bread symbolic of?
7. For how many years were the Jews to celebrate Passover?
8. Why were the priests planning to wait till after the feast day to capture Jesus?
9. Where did Jesus go, and was sitting at meat, when the ointment was poured on His head?
10. Who was the woman?
11. Why do you think she had done this?
12. How expensive was it?
13. How did the disciples feel about this?
14. In St. John, which disciple was mentioned specifically complaining?
15. Why do you suppose he felt this way?
16. Who did Judas go to and make a deal with?
17. How much money did they offer Judas?
18. What does the amount of money mean symbolically?
19. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, what did the disciples ask Jesus?
20. What city would the Passover be celebrated in?
21. Who went to make the arrangements?
22. What question were they to ask the man?
23. What name did they call Jesus by to the man?
24. Describe the room where they would feast.
25. What did the disciples do to prepare?

MARK LESSON 30

We will begin this lesson in Mark 14:17.

Mark 14:17 "And in the evening he cometh with the twelve."

You remember in the last lesson that, Jesus had sent two of the disciples to prepare the feast, and they must have gone back to tell Jesus that all was ready. Now, all of them came back to town with Jesus.

Mark 14:18 "And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me."

Jesus knew the thoughts and intents of Judas' heart. Jesus knew who this was, but didn't say the name, because the others would have jumped Him. Don't you know that this was difficult to hear? Judas' guilt had to have already begun. To eat and drink unworthily is a very serious thing, and that was just what happened here.

Mark 14:19 "And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, [Is] it I? and another [said, Is] it I?"

This was to be a joyful time, but the sorrow they saw in Jesus and this sad thing He told them troubled them greatly. Each started examining himself, and then asked Jesus, "Is it I?"

Mark 14:20 "And he answered and said unto them, [It is] one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish."

We read in some of the other gospels a little more detailed information on this. Jesus told that it was one of the twelve disciples. Several of the disciples were close enough to dip into the bowl with Him, so that didn't narrow it down much. This would be the night the Lord's supper would be established. John 13:26 "Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped [it]. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave [it] to Judas Iscariot, [the son] of Simon." You see, there was really no hiding for very long who this betrayer was.

Mark 14:21 "The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born."

This was another prophecy of Jesus' death on the cross. Surely, Judas would soon say himself, "It would have been better if I had never been born." Even though this was part of God's plan from the foundation of the earth, Judas chose to be part of this. Judas activated his free will to get involved. God foreknew that Judas would do this, but Judas had a choice.

Mark 14:22 "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake [it], and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body."

We see, here, the institution of the Lord's Supper. Jesus is the passover Lamb. This was teaching the disciples that this bread is symbolic of His body. It is very important that this bread be unleavened bread,

because Jesus was without sin. "Leaven" symbolizes sin. Another reason this must be unleavened bread is that the bread on the table of the Hebrews for eight days during this celebration was unleavened bread. Notice here, also, that Jesus prayed over the bread before He passed it to the disciples. This should be the order in our communion, as well. Pray over it, pass it, and then take it. Jesus was without sin, so the bread must be unleavened.

Mark 14:23 "And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave [it] to them: and they all drank of it."

Jesus had called Himself the bread and drink of life which is actually necessary to sustain life on this earth. He is Life. When you partake of Jesus, you partake of everlasting Life. The blood of Jesus is the element of salvation. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. You see, the shed blood of Jesus placed on the mercy seat in heaven is what saves you and me. In the Scripture above it says, "shed for many". It was actually shed for whosoever will partake of His Life Eternal. This New Testament is a last will and testament of Jesus Christ willing to His followers His Life, to live with Him and inherit the things the Father has provided.

Mark 14:24 "And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." Mark 14:25 "Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

We know that every word the Lord uttered was to teach us, as well as the disciples, something. This statement "fruit of the vine" lets us know that grape juice would be used to symbolize the blood of Jesus. Jesus had just told the disciples that the bread was symbolic of His body and the wine was symbolic of His blood. In the kingdom of God, we shall eat food at the Master's table set before us. We read of the river of life which we shall drink from and the tree of life which we shall eat fruit from. All of these elements symbolize eternal life with Him where He provides all our needs.

Mark 14:26 "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."

Notice here, also, that the disciples and Jesus sang. This "mount of Olives" is where the garden of Gethsemane is, and it is in very close proximity of Jerusalem. It is, in fact, a hill overlooking the old city of Jerusalem. It is called the mount of Olives, because it is covered with olive trees.

Mark 14:27 "And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered."

What was truly intended by offended was that the disciples would suddenly be filled with doubt. They did not even expect the authorities to take Jesus. They thought Jesus would win that battle. He did, but they did not understand the victory. Jesus spoke, again, a parable that they would surely understand. He (the shepherd) would be smitten and the sheep (believers) who followed Him would scatter. Sheep must have a Shepherd to keep them together.

Mark 14:28 "But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee."

Galilee was home to these disciples. Jesus spoke prophetically, here, about His resurrection from the grave. He had told them over and over of this, but they did not understand. They had never seen any one resurrected; and they thought, perhaps, that He was speaking of life after death in the end days. Jesus loves these disciples and tried to comfort them that He would return.

Mark 14:29 "But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet [will] not I."

Peter was a very excitable man. He was one of the three (Peter, James, and John) who saw things, like the transfiguration, that the other disciples had not been allowed to see. Surely he who was called the "rock", would be strong enough not to run when the time of the crucifixion came.

Mark 14:30 "And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, [even] in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice."

The very strongest of the lot, Peter, would get afraid, deny Jesus, and even curse in the process. Jesus told Peter here, not only would you deny me, but you would deny me three times. At that moment, while Peter was with Jesus, he could not believe that he would do such a thing.

Mark 14:31 "But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all."

"Vehemently" was used here to show us that Peter strongly answered back that he would not turn. Peter and all the disciples were ready to fight for Jesus, but they did not understand Jesus' turning Himself over to be crucified. All of the disciples said they would not desert Jesus. The crucifixion of the cross was a horrible death, and when they got to this, they changed their minds. It was easy to say they would not deny Him then, because the great pressure had not been applied.

Mark 30 Questions

1. Which of the disciples met with Jesus in the upper room?
2. While they were eating, what sad news did Jesus bring them?
3. Why did Jesus not call Judas by name in the accusation?
4. What did the disciples each ask Jesus?
5. Who did Jesus say it was in verse 20?
6. What would be established forever on this night?
7. In St. John, what was said that left no doubt who it was?
8. What did Jesus say about the one who would betray Him?
9. What statement would Judas feel like saying himself after the terrible guilt sets in?
10. How long had this been planned by God?
11. Why did this not make Judas innocent?
12. As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and gave it to them, saying what?
13. What was Jesus instituting here?
14. Jesus was what at this feast?
15. Why was it so important to use unleavened bread?
16. What should be the order in our communion services?
17. What was the juice in the cup symbolic of?
18. In verse 24, what did Jesus say the cup was?
19. What were two elements used here that are necessary to sustain life?
20. Without the shedding of blood there is no _____.
21. Who does the many in "shed for many" include?
22. Where will Jesus drink this cup, again, with the disciples?
23. What makes us realize we should use grape juice?
24. What did they do before they left and went to the mount of Olives?
25. What city does the mount of Olives overlook?
26. What did it mean by the disciples being offended?
27. What happens to the sheep when the shepherd is done away with?
28. What positive promise did He make these disciples about His resurrection?
29. What did Peter say to Jesus about his loyalty?
30. Why was Peter considered the strongest of the group?
31. How many times did Jesus tell Peter that he would deny Him before the cock crowed twice?
32. What did the word "vehemently" try to convey to us about Peter's answer?

Notes

MARK LESSON 31

We will begin this lesson in Mark 14:32.

Mark 14:32 "And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray."

The word "Gethsemane" means oil press. When we were in the Holy land a few years ago, I saw a stone hewn out and another round stone inside which rolled over the olives to mash them and make olive oil. The guide told me that this was a Gethsemane. We already know that olive oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. We know this garden, then, was filled with the Holy Spirit. We see, here, the need for everyone to pray. If the Lord of the whole world needs to pray, you can see how important it is for us to pray.

Mark 14:33 "And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;"

This heaviness was of His heart. Notice He took the three He always took with Him. The three He felt that He was the closest to. Surely Peter, James, and John would stick by Him. We know that God the Son dwelt in a body of flesh while He was here on this earth. This body would feel pain as any man.

Mark 14:34 "And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch."

Jesus was telling the disciples that He was not looking forward to the pain of the flesh on the cross. Jesus left the three disciples about half way between where He was to pray and where He had left the other eight disciples.

Mark 14:35 "And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him."

The flesh of Jesus was crying out. It was bad enough to be nailed to the cross and have all the pain associated with it, but the agony of dread was terrible. I really believe that Jesus praying for this to pass, and then submitting to the will of God is a lesson for us. Many times in the flesh the work that God has called us to do is not pleasing, but we must learn a lesson from Jesus here. We must learn to say with Jesus, "I may not like the work, but I will submit to your will, O Lord." Our flesh many times is weak, but we must allow the spirit to rule over the flesh.

Mark 14:36 "And he said, Abba, Father, all things [are] possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."

This was the only place in the Bible where Jesus called the Father, "Abba". There are two other mentions of the name, one in Romans 8:15 and one in Galatians 4:6. In Romans and Galatians, it is the Christian calling the Father, "Abba". They call Him, "Abba", because they have received the spirit of adoption. All things -are- possible to God. If the cup were to pass, all of humanity would be lost. As I said in the previous paragraph, Jesus was teaching here that if He is to be our Lord, we must get to the

point that we can say, "Not my will, but Thine be done." In Jesus, the will of the flesh submitted to the will of the Spirit.

Mark 14:37 "And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldst not thou watch one hour?"

We see, quickly, here, that Peter's bragging that he would stand by Jesus to the end would not even pass this very first test. These three disciples who loved Jesus so dearly had succumbed to the weariness of the flesh.

Mark 14:38 "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly [is] ready, but the flesh [is] weak."

These words spoken to the disciples were teaching how to avoid temptation. It is just as current now as it was then. Their temptation would be to deny that Jesus was Messiah, because of their fear of crucifixion. Our temptation is to follow the ways of the flesh and avoid being sacrificed, as well. The flesh and the spirit have always fought for the soul of man. Jesus Christ the Lord was willing, but the flesh that He dwelled in was weak. The disciples' flesh was weak. Our flesh is weak, as well. The only way to overcome temptation then and now is to listen to the spirit, and not the flesh. We are told over and over by Jesus to take up our cross and follow Him.

Mark 14:39 "And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words."

This, also, is a lesson for us. God will not be angry with us, if we pray three times for the same thing. The Lord will allow us a space of time to get our flesh under subjection to our spirit. In Jesus' case, very shortly the flesh yielded to the will of the Father.

Mark 14:40 "And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him."

We see here that Peter, James, and John did not desire not to wait, but were overcome by the sorrow of what they were hearing. They succumbed to the flesh and slept.

Mark 14:41 "And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take [your] rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Perhaps, here, there was an interval of time before Judas came, and Jesus told them to take their rest before he got there. At any rate, there was no more need to watch, because He was through praying. I believe He called Himself here "Son of man" to show that His flesh was in the hands of the sinners to destroy His body. The time was at hand. Jesus called the people who did this to Him sinners whether they were Gentiles or Jews.

Mark 14:42 "Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand."

Jesus would not hide from them. He went forth to meet them, in fact. When He had decided to do this, He went forth to get it done then. Of

course, the Spirit within Him had known from the beginning that this was the purpose of Him being on earth. This was no surprise to Jesus.

Mark 14:43 "And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders."

We see, here, that the religious people of the day were Jesus' worst enemies. They came out to get Jesus with weapons like He was a common criminal. My own opinion of these chief priests, scribes, and elders is that they were afraid of losing the members of the synagogue to Jesus. Jesus had a message of hope, and people with needs in their lives had their needs met in Him. They had no power in their message at all. Their jealousy caused them to do this to Jesus.

Mark 14:44 "And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead [him] away safely."

A kiss was the greeting believers used in those days. Many times before, Jesus had vanished in the midst of them. This time He would not, because He knew that it was time.

Mark 14:45 "And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him."

An enemy could not get this close, but this one who claimed to be Jesus' friend betrayed Him with a kiss. He was not truly Judas' Master.

Mark 14:46 "And they laid their hands on him, and took him."

The "they" here was the mob with Judas.

Mark 14:47 "And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear."

St. John tells us that the one with the sword was Peter. Peter was ready to fight to the death for Jesus, if necessary. Malchus was the name of the servant, and we read in St. Luke that Jesus healed the ear. Just this miracle alone should have told them who He was. They were blinded and could not see the Truth.

Mark 14:48 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and [with] staves to take me?"

St. John goes into greater detail in chapter 18 beginning with verse 4. Jesus told them who He was and asked them to let the disciples go. Read all of it.

Mark 14:49 "I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled."

Jesus was saying here, you have no power at all over me, just as you did not when I was in the temple. This I allowed to happen to fulfill the Scriptures.

Mark 14:50 "And they all forsook him, and fled."

The "all", here, means the eleven disciples. They all ran from fear.

Notes

Mark 31 Questions

1. In verse 32, where did Jesus go?
2. What does the word mean?
3. Which three disciples did Jesus take part of the way with Him when He went to pray?
4. What was sorrowful about Jesus when He told the three to wait and watch with Him?
5. What did Jesus do when He left the three disciples?
6. What did He ask the Father to let pass?
7. What lesson did Jesus want us to learn by Him praying, but still submitting to God's will?
8. In verse 36, Jesus calls the Father what?
9. What other two places in the Bible was this name used by believers?
10. If the cup were passed over, what would have happened to all of humanity?
11. Who did Jesus scold for not being awake when He went to them?
12. Why did Jesus warn Peter, James, and John to watch and pray?
13. He said, "The spirit truly is willing but the _____ is weak".
14. What was the temptation of the disciples?
15. What two things have always fought for the soul of man?
16. What is the only way to avoid temptation?
17. How many times did Jesus pray to the Father to let the cup pass?
18. When Jesus went back to check on Peter, James and John, how did He find them?
19. Who did Jesus say He was betrayed into the hands of?
20. Why does the author believe Jesus called Himself "Son of man" in verse 41?
21. Who were classified as sinners in verse 41?
22. Who came with Judas to arrest Jesus?
23. What caused these religious people to do this to Jesus?
24. What name did Judas call Jesus that he did not mean?
25. How did Judas greet Jesus?
26. What did Peter do to the servant of the high priest?
27. What was the servants name?
28. "I was in the temple teaching daily", was what Jesus said to them. Why did Jesus allow them to take Him then?
29. Which of the disciples left Him?

MARK LESSON 32

We will begin this lesson in Mark 14:51.

Mark 14:51 "And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about [his] naked [body]; and the young men laid hold on him:"
Mark 14:52 "And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked."

Most people believe this young man was Mark, himself. Most theologians believe that the Passover was held at Mark's house. We can see the flight of this young follower as the same kind of circumstance the disciples would have been in, if they hadn't run.

Mark 14:53 "And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes."

The "High Priest" was Caiaphas. They had quickly gathered a group of priests, elders, and scribes to make quick work of this trial of Jesus.

Mark 14:54 "And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire."

John 18:15 says, "And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and [so did] another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest." This other disciple was commonly believed to be John. Peter stayed with the servants out in the area for the servants.

Mark 14:55 "And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none."

They really had no charges at all against Jesus that would stand up in court. They wanted to kill Him, but had no grounds for killing Him. They could find no witness to anything that was punishable by death.

Mark 14:56 "For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together."

You see, all of them were liars, because Jesus had never sinned against God, or man.

Mark 14:57 "And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying," Mark 14:58 "We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands."

They did not realize that He was speaking of His body. And even in this accusation, they did not agree, as you see in the next verse.

Mark 14:59 "But neither so did their witness agree together." Mark 14:60 "And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what [is it which] these witness against thee?"

The high priest wanted something he could charge Jesus with. If Jesus had answered, it would have done nothing but make Him look guilty, because the accusations were so varied and without detail. The high priest could not believe that Jesus would not defend Himself.

Mark 14:61 "But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

Now the high priest had stopped asking general questions and had hit on the question that he really wanted the answer to. This question was a real set up so that the high priest could accuse Jesus.

Mark 14:62 "And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Jesus' answer was straightforward, He just said, "I am". Jesus added a warning to this high priest. In a sense Jesus was saying, "It may look like you have power over me, but there will come a time when you will stand before me to be judged". We see a prophetic statement here of when Jesus will return in the clouds for the believers.

Mark 14:63 "Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?" Mark 14:64 "Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death."

Jesus told the truth and was condemned by these evil priests and high priest. When he rent his clothes (meaning he violently tore his outer tunic off), he was showing his great displeasure in what Jesus had said. Since this high priest, the priests, the scribes, Pharisees, and elders were opposed to Jesus, it was no surprise that they condemned Him to be guilty of death.

Mark 14:65 "And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands."

We see, here, that they slapped the Lord of all the earth and spit on Him. Isaiah had prophesied about this very thing in chapter 50:6.

Mark 14:66 "And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:" Mark 14:67 "And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth."

Many people had seen Jesus and His disciples. It certainly would not be hidden for long that Peter was one of the disciples. Peter had so soon forgotten what Jesus had told him that he would do, as you see here.

Mark 14:68 "But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew."

Not only did Peter deny Jesus, but in so doing he was lying. Peter went out of the building to the porch then, so if they accused him again, he would have a better way to get away. Fear will make us do terrible things.

Mark 14:69 "And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is [one] of them." Mark 14:70 "And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art [one] of them: for thou art a Galilaeen, and thy speech agreeth [thereto]."

We see, here, a very frightened man. Peter had been with Jesus and seen the miracles. He was there at the transfiguration and heard the voice of the Father saying that Jesus was His Son. Fear of death had gripped Peter and caused him to doubt. Here they were really putting pressure on Peter, saying you may deny it, but you are with Him. Your speech and your nationality give you away.

Mark 14:71 "But he began to curse and to swear, [saying], I know not this man of whom ye speak."

Peter now committed another sin. He added cursing to his lying. It made him angry at them, but more angry at himself.

Mark 14:72 "And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept."

We see, here, a broken man. When the cock crew the second time, Peter immediately remembered what Jesus had said to him. Peter suddenly knew that he had failed his Lord. He wept not only because he let Jesus down, but wept because he felt Jesus would not forgive him for this. The next mention of Peter we will see him back in his boat fishing for fish again.

Mark 32 Questions

1. What happened to the young man (who had a linen wrap on) following Jesus?
2. Who do most people believe the young man was?
3. Where did they take Jesus to be questioned?
4. Who were with him as he questioned Jesus?
5. Who, probably, was the high priest?
6. Who followed (that was named) into the palace of the high priest?
7. In St. John, we find that another disciple was there, who was it probably?
8. Where did Peter stay?
9. For what purpose did the chief priests and the council try to get a solid witness against Jesus?
10. Why were the false witnesses not used?
11. What did some of the witnesses say Jesus had said about the temple?
12. What had they not understood?
13. When the high priest asked why Jesus didn't answer, what was he trying to do?
14. What specific question did the high priest ask Jesus?
15. How did Jesus answer?
16. What warning to the high priest did He include when He answered him?
17. What reaction did the high priest have?
18. What did they all condemn Jesus to be?
19. What does "rent his clothes" mean?
20. What did the onlookers begin to do to Jesus?
21. Where was Peter when all of this was happening?
22. Who was the first to say that Peter had been with Jesus?
23. When she accused Peter, what answer did he give?
24. Where did Peter go after the accusation?
25. How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
26. What happened immediately after, that Jesus had told Peter would happen?
27. What had gripped Peter and caused him to deny knowing Jesus?
28. What other sin, besides lying, did Peter commit?
29. Give two reasons why Peter wept.

We will begin this lesson in Mark 15:1.

Mark 15:1 And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried [him] away, and delivered [him] to Pilate."

We will bring this up to date. Jesus was first taken to Annas, then Caiphias (the high priest), and then to the Roman in charge, Pilate. We see a fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy, here, (they shall deliver him to the Gentiles). Rome had power in Jerusalem in those days and only the Romans could order Jesus' death.

Mark 15:2 "And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest [it]."

Pilate really was not in favor of killing Jesus. He asked Jesus, Are you the king of the Jews? Jesus answered Pilate in a way that left no argument. This was as if He was saying, "Yes, but you said it".

Mark 15:3 "And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing."

Sometimes, the best answer is no answer at all, and we see that was what the Lord did there. The chief priests were accusing Jesus of everything they could think of to try to stir Pilate up. They mentioned Jesus being King of the Jews, thinking Pilate would think that Jesus would lead the Jews against Rome.

Mark 15:4 "And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee."

As we said before, Pilate was truly trying to get to the bottom of this. He was not on anyone's side at that moment. He marveled that Jesus was not defending Himself by answering back all these accusations, as we see in verse 5.

Mark 15:5 "But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled."
Mark 15:6 "Now at [that] feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired."

This was like a governor pardoning a criminal. It was the custom to pardon one prisoner during the Passover feast. Pilate somewhere along here sent Jesus to Herod to be judged, because Pilate could find no fault in Him. We, also, see in St. Luke 23: 12, "And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves." Pilate and Herod, even though they were involved in sentencing Jesus, were not as guilty as these high priests, priests, scribes, and Pharisees.

Mark 15:7 "And there was [one] named Barabbas, [which lay] bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection."

This Barabbas was not only a murderer but had tried to overthrow the government, as well. Barabbas was not just a regular criminal, but a vicious murderer.

Mark 15:8 "And the multitude crying aloud began to desire [him to do] as he had ever done unto them." Mark 15:9 "But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?"

You see, from the very beginning Pilate could find no fault in Jesus. In this question Pilate was asking them to ask for the release of Jesus. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent of any wrong doing. He could see right through these accusations of the high priests. He knew that their jealousy of His powerful ministry had caused them to try to get Jesus killed. He knew that Jesus was not guilty of any crime punishable by death.

Mark 15:10 "For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy."

We see priests who were supposed to be upholding the things of God, who were so puffed up with pride that they were about to destroy the Saviour of the World. High priests were supposed to know the Scriptures, and yet they would not believe that Jesus was Messiah.

Mark 15:11 "But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them."

The Chief priests had a hold on the people. They used their great influence here, and caused the people to cry out for this murderer Barabbas over Jesus.

Mark 15:12 "And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do [unto him] whom ye call the King of the Jews?"

I believe Pilate was seeking every way he could to not kill Jesus. Pilate actually believed Jesus was who He said He was, I believe. Pilate told them, you will have to judge your King yourselves.

Mark 15:13 "And they cried out again, Crucify him."

This cry will ring through all the ages. These two words "crucify him" changed all of history. It brought death and hell to those who do not believe, and life everlasting for those who do believe.

Mark 15:14 "Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him."

Pilate, through these verses, tried to make the people understand that they were crucifying an innocent man. The people would not listen to Pilate, but listened to these evil priests. What a terrible thing to know that you asked for Jesus to be crucified. They were crying out, but we had our part in this, as well. Every person who ever lived (except Jesus) had sin in his life at one time. Our sins helped cause Jesus to be crucified. He was crucified for our sins, so that we might go free.

Mark 15:15 "And [so] Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged [him], to be crucified."

In Matthew 27:24 we read about Pilate's attitude, Matthew 27:24 "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but [that] rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed [his] hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye [to it]." This was all against the wishes of Pilate. The people spoke, and Pilate allowed this, because it was the will of the people.

Mark 15:16 "And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band."

"Praetorium" means governor's courtroom, or hall of judgement. This "whole band", here, meant large number of soldiers.

Mark 15:17 "And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his [head]," Mark 15:18 "And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews!"

Little did they know that He should be robed in purple (purple is one of the godly colors). Purple showed Jesus as the King of not only the Jews, but was looking forward to when He will come in the clouds as King of kings and Lord of lords when he will be King of all the earth. Thorns were a very hated plant on the earth. This "crown of thorns" showed just how little regard these soldiers had for our Lord. Of course, it was painful, also, with the thorns sticking in His head. This salute was a sarcastic salute. They were saying, "You say you are King, but look at you now."

Mark 15:19 "And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing [their] knees worshipped him."

All of this was mocking Jesus. Had they only known who He really was, they would never have done this. This spitting and striking Jesus went on and on. Bowing to worship Him was laughing at Him and making fun, as well.

Mark 15:20 "And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him."

We know from other Scriptures that they took Him outside the city wall to be crucified.

Mark 33 Questions

1. After the council of priests, elders, and scribes met, they bound Jesus and took Him to whom?
2. Who was the only one who could order the death penalty in those days?
3. What did Pilate ask Jesus?
4. How did Jesus answer?
5. When the chief priests accused Jesus of many things, what did Jesus answer?
6. Why did the chief priest tell Pilate that Jesus said He was King of the Jews?
7. Why did Pilate marvel at Jesus?
8. This release of a prisoner at the feast was like what?
9. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod?
10. What good thing for Pilate came of all this?
11. Who was truly to blame for the crucifixion?
12. Who was the murderer who was bound for trial?
13. Who did Pilate want to release?
14. Who did the people want released?
15. Who had swayed the people's opinion?
16. What did Pilate know was the real reason the priests wanted Jesus killed?
17. Pilate asked the people what, to do with Jesus, what did they answer?
18. What did Pilate try to convince them of to no avail?
19. What part did we have in Jesus being crucified?
20. What physical thing did Pilate do to show that he had no part in this?
21. Who took Jesus away?
22. What does Praetorium mean?
23. What color robe did they put on Jesus?
24. What did this purple robe really show Jesus as?
25. What was His crown made of?
26. What other terrible things did the soldiers do to Jesus?
27. What did they put on Him to take Him to crucify Him?

We will begin this lesson in Mark 15:21.

Mark 15:21 "And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross."

"Cyrene" is a country of Africa, so this was a black man. Jesus had carried the cross part of the way, and when they saw His body was weak, they took hold of Simon and compelled him to carry the cross for Jesus. There are several mentions of Alexander in the book of Acts, and in Romans we read of Rufus, which makes us think that they were followers of the Lord. Possibly, they were part of the 120.

Mark 15:22 "And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull."

In Luke chapter 23, this place was called "Calvary". This hill really does look like a skull.

Mark 15:23 "And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received [it] not."

This was a drink to kill the pain, but the Lord refused the pain killer, because He wanted not to be numbed from the pain, but to endure the full impact of the cross.

Mark 15:24 "And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take."

We see, here, that Mark doesn't go into great detail about the crucifixion, it just states that they crucified Him. His coat was a coat that had no seam. They didn't want to tear it, so they cast lots. In St. John 19:23, we read that four soldiers each got a part, and then, they cast lots for His coat.

Mark 15:25 "And it was the third hour, and they crucified him."

This was at nine o'clock A.M. Jesus suffered on the cross six hours, symbolic of six days of work on the earth.

Mark 15:26 "And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

In St. Matthew 27:37 the superscription was, Matthew 27:37 "And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

Mark 15:27 "And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left." Mark 15:28 "And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors."

Of these two thieves, the one on the right repented and was saved, and the one on the left died in his sin. These two symbolized the lost of all humanity on the left, and those saved by the blood of the Lamb on the right. In heaven, it will be Jesus, the Judge of all the world who will put the

sheep on the right and the goats on the left; the separation, sheep (saved) goats (lost). Both the man on the left and the man on Jesus' right were sinners and deserved their punishment. The difference was the one on the right repented, and Jesus promised him eternal life.

Mark 15:29 "And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest [it] in three days," Mark 15:30 "Save thyself, and come down from the cross."

You see, they had no idea that He was speaking of His body in this. Jesus spoke in parables, so that the unbelievers would not understand. Understanding of this and all other Scriptures comes from the Holy Spirit of God revealing the meaning to us. He could have come down off the cross any time He wanted to, but had He gotten down before the body died, all of humanity would have been lost. This was the choice that Jesus Himself made to endure the shame of the cross that we might be renewed to God and live.

Mark 15:31 "Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save."

If there ever was an incorrect statement, this was it. Jesus did save others (this is true). He could save Himself (He just wouldn't for our sakes). One terribly false teaching going around is that demons took Jesus off the cross. Satan, a demon, or nothing else ever had power over the Lord Jesus. He stayed on the cross, because He chose to. He defeated Satan for all time on the cross. Jesus did not-suffer in hell. He was victorious on the cross, and the Father had planned it. This was victory, not defeat.

Mark 15:32 "Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him."

They would not believe even if He came down from the cross. Jesus raised the dead, opened blind eyes, freed the demoniac man, fed the 5000, and they did not believe. Even a voice from heaven came and called Jesus God's Son at Jesus' baptism. This would not alter their opinion any more than all of these things did. You either believe, or you don't; and they didn't. Jesus did not use His great power for personal reasons. He would suffer the pain and humiliation of the cross to fulfill the will of the Father, and to save all who will believe. We, Christians, can learn a lesson from this. When others revile us for the gospel's sake, just hang in there that much firmer.

Mark 15:33 "And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour."

I believe this three hours of darkness was symbolic of the three days the Light of the world would not shine, because Jesus' body would be in the belly of the earth. Satan thought he had put out the Light of the world, but Satan never counted on the resurrection.

Mark 15:34 "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

God the Father cannot look upon sin. Jesus had taken the sin of the whole world upon His body, so that sin might die upon the cross. The Father, for a moment, turned away so the full pain of the flesh could be experienced by Jesus our Lord (His Son) . Sin was crucified with Jesus on the cross.

Mark 15:35 "And some of them that stood by, when they heard [it], said, Behold, he calleth Elias."

In Malachi the 4th chapter, it had been promised that Elijah would come before the great and terrible day of the Lord. Some of these people thought Jesus was calling Elijah.

Notes

Mark 34 Questions

1. Who did they compel to carry Jesus' cross?
2. What country was he from?
3. What did that tell us about him?
4. Who are Alexander and Rufus, probably?
5. Give two other names for Golgatha?
6. What did they offer Jesus to drink?
7. Why did He not take it?
8. After they crucified Him, what did they do with His garments?
9. Why did they not separate the coat?
10. How many soldiers were His garments given to?
11. At what hour did they crucify Him?
12. How long would Jesus be on the cross?
13. In Mark 15:26, what was the superscription of His accusations?
14. In Matthew 27:37, what was said?
15. Who was crucified with Jesus?
16. Who did the two thieves symbolize?
17. What was the difference in the two here?
18. What did those wagging their heads say to Jesus?
19. How do we read and understand a parable?
20. Had Jesus come down off the cross, what would have happened to all of humanity?
21. In verse 31, what did the chief priests mockingly say about Jesus?
22. What is a terrible teaching going around about demons and Jesus?
23. Where was Jesus victorious?
24. In verse 32, what did the priests call Jesus?
25. Why do we know that they would not have believed, even if He had come down?
26. What lesson can we, Christians, learn from this?
27. At what hours was the darkness over the land?
28. What does this three hours of darkness symbolize?
29. What did Jesus cry out at the end of the ninth hour?
30. What had Jesus taken on His body?
31. Who did some of the people believe Jesus called?
32. What Old Testament prophecy caused them to believe this?

MARK LESSON 35

We will begin this lesson in Mark 15:36.

Mark 15:36 "And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put [it] on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down."

In the last lesson, Jesus had cried out to the Father, and those standing around thought He was calling out to Elijah. In the verse above, the vinegar was to partially revive Him, so they could see if Elijah would appear.

Mark 15:37 "And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost."

This showed that the act of giving up the ghost was of Jesus' free will. This loud voice indicated His power was still there to do as He would. The six hours of work on the cross was over. He had accomplished what He had set out to do.

Mark 15:38 "And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom."

Here, we see the curtain, which closed the way to God the Father, opened. It was not opened by man (from the earth), but by the Lord of all the heavenly. It was torn from the top; showing that God did it. Now, the way to the Father was open to man. No mere man could go to the Father before, but now, the way was opened by the Son.

Mark 15:39 "And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God."

The fact that Jesus dismissed His Spirit from His body tells you He was in total control. This is more fully described in Luke 23:46, "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." Jesus, you see, commanded His Spirit to go to the Father, dismissing His Spirit from His body. This centurion had been at many crucifixions and knew this one was different. He was convinced by the happenings that Jesus truly was the Son of God.

Mark 15:40 "There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;" Mark 15:41 "(Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem."

We see that the women (even in the face of these self-righteous religious people) had not abandoned Jesus. Jesus' ministry involved these women. Mary Magdalene had been delivered by Jesus of seven devils. These women never doubted who this was. It is very sad, but even today the larger percentage of the church is made up of devoted women. Most churches have three women for every man. Perhaps, the women were not in as much danger as

the men being close by. We do not know the details, we just know they were there. John was there, also, and brought the account.

Mark 15:42 "And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath," Mark 15:43 "Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus."

The sabbath began at 6 p.m., so the body had to be taken care of quickly. About 3 p.m. Jesus gave up the ghost. This left three hours for getting the body wrapped and in the tomb before sabbath. This was Friday, not Wednesday, as many would have you believe. Sabbath is Saturday, the day before is Friday. St. Matthew tells us a little more about Joseph of Arimathaea. It says that he was a rich man, and also, a disciple of Jesus. Perhaps, he was of the 120 disciples. We know he had a cave that had not been used for burial. This was where he would lay Jesus. Joseph loved Christ enough to expose himself to the danger of association with Him, just to be able to bury His body. Possibly, he was known of Pilate, but at any rate, he was allowed to see Pilate and ask for the body. Remember, Pilate found no fault in Jesus.

Mark 15:44 "And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling [unto him] the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead."

This was a very unusual turn of events. Most crucifixions were long and drawn out. Many times the legs of the victims had to be broken to hasten death. This was not the case with Jesus. He had no broken bones. The perfect Lamb sacrifice could have no broken bones. In St. John, we read a little more detail about their not breaking His legs. St. John 19:31-34, John 19:31 "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and [that] they might be taken away." John 19:32 "Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him." John 19:33 "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:" John 19:34 "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." Every little detail of prophecy was fulfilled. Jesus is our Lamb Sacrifice. The centurion could only say, "Yes, He is dead" when Pilate asked.

Mark 15:45 "And when he knew [it] of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph."

Hebrews do not embalm, embalming is Egyptian, so Jesus was wrapped in fine linen and carried to the tomb, as we read in verse 46.

Mark 15:46 "And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre."

We see from all this several things. The fine linen symbolizes righteousness. The Lord was wrapped in righteousness. We see that Joseph loved Jesus, possibly, even helped with the wrapping and carrying of the body personally. At any rate, Jesus was put in a brand new tomb which had

belonged to Joseph of Arimathaea. This had been hewn out of a rock, and Jesus was laid inside, and a large stone rolled over the door. This fulfilled the Scripture which stated He would be buried with the rich.

Mark 15:47 "And Mary Magdalene and Mary [the mother] of Joses beheld where he was laid."

The women had still been at the cross when Joseph came and got the body, and they followed, and saw where the body was laid. The spices or perfumes would be applied to the burial cloths later. I say one more time, Hebrews were not embalmed. That was an Egyptian practice. Hebrews, even today, are not embalmed. They are buried within 24 hours so embalming is not necessary.

Notes

Mark 35 Questions

1. When they gave Jesus the sponge of vinegar, what were they wanting to see?
2. What did Jesus do right, before He gave up the Ghost?
3. What did that show us and the centurion?
4. How many hours was the suffering on the cross?
5. How was the temple veil torn?
6. What does this show?
7. When the centurion saw all of this, what did he say?
8. In Luke 23:46, what do we learn about Jesus' death on the cross?
9. Who were the loyal followers of Jesus who stood nearby?
10. What is a sad thing in our churches today regarding women?
11. Who was Mary Magdalene?
12. What disciple had been at the crucifixion?
13. What was the hurry to get the body off the cross and buried?
14. Who came for the body?
15. Who did he ask for it?
16. How many hours were left for the burying before the sabbath?
17. What day of the week was Jesus crucified?
18. In verse 42, what left no doubt as to the day?
19. Who was Joseph of Arimathaea?
20. What did Pilate marvel at?
21. What sometimes had to be done to hurry death?
22. Were Jesus' legs broken? Why?
23. When the soldier pierced Jesus side, what two things came out?
24. When did Pilate release Jesus' body to Joseph?
25. What was Jesus wrapped in?
26. What does the material symbolize?
27. After Jesus was placed in the rock hewn tomb, what was done to secure the tomb?
28. What country does embalming come from?
29. Was Jesus embalmed?
30. What two women beheld where He lay?

MARK LESSON 36

We will begin this lesson in Mark 16:1.

Mark 16:1 "And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the [mother] of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him."

Here, again, many believe they intended to embalm Jesus, but Jesus was not embalmed. He was anointed with sweet smelling perfume.

Mark 16:2 "And very early in the morning the first [day] of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun."

Sunday is the first day of the week. You can see from this, that they came at the very first moment possible. It was against Jewish law to go anywhere on sabbath (which was punishable by death). They came at first light, at the first moment possible. They were not coming because it was the thing to do, but because they loved Jesus. These women were the last at the crucifixion, and the first at the grave.

Mark 16:3 "And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?"

Even though they were not sure they could get in to anoint the body of Jesus, they went anyhow hoping someone would be there to let them in. They showed great loyalty to the Lord.

Mark 16:4 "And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great."

St. John said at this sight, Mary Magdalene ran to tell the others.

Mark 16:5 "And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted."

In this type of tomb, there are two chambers. One is to sit and mourn, while the inside chamber is for the body. This young man undoubtedly was an angel. The white garment, possibly, shows that he was from heaven. Fear and excitement, as well, probably, came over them. His purpose in being there possibly was to tell them.

Mark 16:6 "And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

"Angels" are ministering spirits, and the Lord had left this angel here to minister to those who came seeking Him. What wonderful news. HE IS RISEN. In this instance, He was specifically called "Jesus of Nazareth". There was no mistaking, He was the one. Don't you know that many of the things Jesus had told them about how He would rise again came flashing into their minds? What joy, He was alive.

Mark 16:7 "But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."

Here, we see the angel telling these women to carry the good news of the risen Christ to the other disciples. Peter was specifically mentioned, because Peter probably believed that Jesus would not want to see him, because he denied Him three times.

Mark 16:8 "And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any [man]; for they were afraid."

This would be a very frightening experience. Their amazement and joy were paled by their fear of being in the presence of this angel.

Mark 16:9 "Now when [Jesus] was risen early the first [day] of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils."

Mary loved Jesus, because He had freed her from the bondage of these seven devils. Here again, we see He first appeared to a woman (Mary Magdalene), mainly because there were no men there to appear to. I believe this was specifically mentioned to show that women have been set free by Jesus to follow Him the same as the men. She was, in fact, like the first missionary. She carried the first gospel message to the disciples.

Mark 16:10 "[And] she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept."

They had forgotten that He said He would rise on the third day. They mourned, because they felt there was no hope. Can you imagine how they felt when she told them? Some, probably, did not believe her, but others began to see a glimmer of hope, but still could not bring themselves to believe that she was telling the truth. They wanted to believe, but couldn't.

Mark 16:11 "And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not."

Their recollection of His telling them that He would rise again had been totally forgotten. They had never seen anyone rise before, and they did not believe her. It reminds me so much of our day. You can tell someone of a wonderful experience that you have had with God, and they don't believe you. The only time it becomes real to them is, when it happens to them.

Mark 16:12 "After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country." Mark 16:13 "And they went and told [it] unto the residue: neither believed they them."

This whole group would not believe, until they saw Him for themselves. The 24th chapter of Luke has a detailed account of Jesus appearing to the two disciples. Read it for more information on this. It was no different when the two disciples told that Jesus was alive, than when Mary Magdalene told them. They did not believe it.

Mark 16:14 "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen."

Here, Jesus scolded the disciples for not believing what Mary and the two disciples had told them about His resurrection. He had predicted it before the cross. They just had not received this into their hearts. Of all who should have believed, it should have been the disciples or the eleven, as they were called then.

Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

This is called the "great commission". It is just as valid to each of us as it was to the followers of Jesus of old. The gospel shall be preached in all the world, and then shall the end come. Ministers (men and women) are called to go, preach and baptize. You can't sit at home twiddling your thumbs and get any one saved. Preach the good news of Jesus Christ to every one who will listen. By the foolishness of preaching, people are saved.

Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

The first step to salvation is believing that Jesus is our Saviour. In Romans 10:9-10, we read that believing in the heart is the important thing, and then telling someone is the next. Baptizing is an outward show to the world what has happened in your heart. The new birth occurs in your heart. If you have a brand new heart, washed in the blood of the Lamb, then you want to be baptized (buried in a watery grave to rise again to newness of life with Him). Those who do not believe are lost, because without faith it is impossible to please God.

Mark 16:17 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;" Mark 16:18 "They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

This is really tough. Do you believe? Have you cast out any devils in Jesus' name lately? Is your tongue brand new? Have you done battle with any serpent lately? The serpent, you know, is that old Satan himself. We must remember that "greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world". If you are truly Jesus' follower (a Christian), He will protect you from the enemy. Notice, I didn't say we had the power, I said Jesus has the power. We just use His power. He lets us use His name, if we are His. One more question. How many sick have you laid hands on lately? These signs shall follow them that believe. Examining these Scriptures one by one shows us quickly where we fall short, doesn't it?

Mark 16:19 "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."

Forty days are gathered in this sentence. Over 500 saw the resurrected Lord during this forty days. He truly was carried to heaven on a cloud, and does even now sit at the right hand of the Father, for His work of salvation is done. He told us that from the cross, when He said, "It is finished".

Mark 16:20 "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

After they finally believed, they went and preached. Can they say that about us? After we believed, we went and preached. The Lord confirmed His Word. As they ministered in His name, He healed and showed great signs.

Notes

Mark 36 Questions

1. Who came to the sepulchre as soon as sabbath had passed?
2. What were they there to do?
3. In verse 2, what day was intended?
4. How early was their arrival at the tomb?
5. What question were they asking each other as they went?
6. When they looked, what did they see?
7. St. John said at this point, Mary Magdalene did what?
8. When they entered the sepulchre, what did they see?
9. When they saw this, what effect did it have on them?
10. Why do you suppose he was in the tomb?
11. What wonderful news did the angel give them?
12. What are angels?
13. Who is Jesus specifically called by the angel?
14. What did the angel tell them to do?
15. Why do you think he specifically mentioned Peter?
16. Where did the angel tell them Jesus was?
17. What did the angel tell them to do?
18. Who did Jesus appear to first?
19. How many devils had Jesus cast out of her?
20. What were the others doing, when Mary went to tell them?
21. What was their reaction, when she told them?
22. Who did Jesus appear to on the road?
23. Did the disciples believe them?
24. What did Jesus upbraid the eleven for?
25. What is known as the great commission?
26. Who told them to do it?
27. What are the signs that follow?
28. In verse 17, this commission is to whom?
29. In verse 16, who shall be saved?
30. Do you believe? Are these signs following you?
31. How many days was Jesus on earth after the resurrection?
32. How many saw Him after the resurrection?
33. Why is He sitting at the right hand of the Father?
34. Have you been stirred by this study to go and reach others?

Thank you for taking the time for me to share my thoughts on these Scriptures in Mark. May God richly bless you, as you continue to read His Word.

Your friend in Jesus,

Louise

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