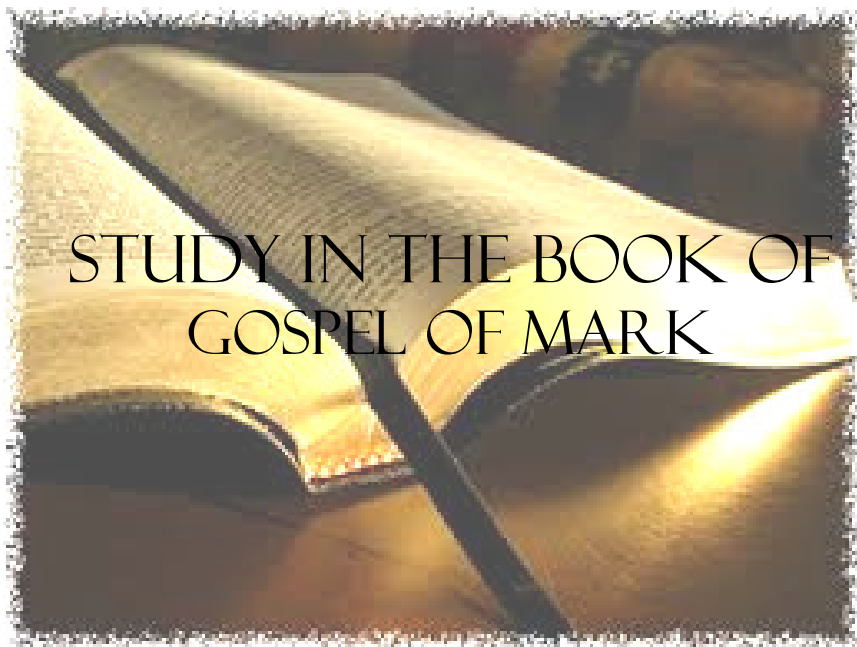


## CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Footprints into Africa

# **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

## **STUDY 1**

### **HE STOOPS TO CONQUER**

#### **THE WORK COMMENCING (1:1-45)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Mark's gospel is the perfect gospel for space age people on the go. It is the ideal gospel for busy people who want to discover how to make their lives count for God.

It is the earliest of the 4 gospels and using information which was provided by Peter, Mark gives us a beautiful picture of the life of Jesus.

He wrote it about 65 BC and J C Ryle said "it tells us very few of the sayings of Jesus, but it is rich in a catalogue of His doing.

#### **1) THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MASTER**

i) The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ the Son of God.

(1) Mark tells us nothing of Jesus early years, but he gives us 3 signs to show us that His work was about to start.

ii) An authoritative man v 3

(1) The first sign came from John the Baptist. In fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, "prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight".

(2) The response to John's preaching shows Him to be in the line of the OT prophets. He clearly brought a word from God in the tradition of

(3) Elia.

(4) As a result of his preaching Jesus would've felt that John was the one who was mentioned in Isaiah 40:3 and Matthew 3:1.

(5) Isaiah 40:3 "A voice of one calling "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God".

(6) Mat 3:1 "See I will send my messenger who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come says the Lord Almighty".

iii) An amazing message v 11

(1) At the commencement of His ministry Jesus is baptized. It was an act of dedication, a crisis of commitment. The heavens were opened and He hears God say, "You are my Son whom I love, with You I am well pleased".

iv) An anointed messenger v 10

(1) As Jesus dedicates Himself to the task the Father gave His approval and then the Spirit came upon Him.

(2) This would equip Jews for His ministry.

**2) THE INTRUSION OF THE MALINGER v 12-13**

It is interesting to see how the moment Jesus dedicates Himself to the task – the devil attacks.

i) The precipitating work of the Spirit v 12

It says “the Spirit sent Him out into the desert”.

The Lord Jesus is now equipped to appear openly as Messiah and Redeemer.

But the devil would try and stop Him.

ii) The precious work of the angels v 13

For 40 days in the desert the angels called to Jesus.

iii) The preserving work of Jesus v 13

It is interesting to see that Jesus was tempted in the desert for 40 days. Moses went up the mountain for 40 days.

Ex 24:18 “Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Elijah went in the strength of God for 40 days.

1 Kings 19:8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by the Lord he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

Therefore Jesus keeps going for 40 days tempted by satan.

**3) THE INVINCIBILITY OF THE MESSAGE v 27-45**

As Jesus begins His ministry.

a) The Challenge of His Teaching v 21-22

The people were amazed at His teaching; He taught them as one who had authority.

b) The casting out of the Spirit v 23

An evil spirit cried out, what do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus casts the evil spirit out.

c) The Case of a Fever v 30

Peter's mother in law became ill, sick with fever, and Jesus wonderfully healed her.

d) The Curing of Mary v 32-34

e) The Cleansing of the Leper v 40

Conclusion

This Chapter has given us a lovely record of the beginning of Jesus ministry. Summarized in 1:17 where Jesus says "come after me and I will make you fishers of men".

#### **4) STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

##### **STUDY 2**

##### **HE STOOPS TO CONQUER**

##### **HIS WORK CRITICISED (2:1-3:6)**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ has now commenced with His ministry, and almost immediately we hear of Jesus being cited.

This is the sad note of Ch 2, and we will see it in v 7, v 16, v 18 and v 24.

##### **1) HIS AUTHORITY OVER SIN IS CRITICIZED 2 : 1-12**

The Lord Jesus has returned to Capernaum and the people flocked to see Him.

###### **a) The Response of the Paralytic's v 4**

There was a paralytic man unable to get near to Jesus, but his 4 friends were determined to get him there.

We must admire the courage and resourcefulness of his friends. They went to the roof, made a hole in it, and let him down.

###### **b) The Response of the Christ v 4-5**

When Jesus saw the faith of the friends he said, "Son your sins are forgiven".

This is remarkable, He placed the forgiveness of sin above the healing". He gets to the heart of the issue.

We must never forget that the greatest need is the forgiveness of our sins.

###### **c) The Response of the crowd v 12**

The men stood up, took his mat and walked, and the people said, "we've never seen anything like this".

But sadly there were teachers of the law there who cited Jesus. They accused him of Blasphemy.

##### **2) HIS AFFECTION FOR SINNERS IS CRITICIZED 2:13-17**

###### **a) His Ministry is for the Lost v 17**

As he was walking, he passed Matthew who was a tax collector.

Tax collectors were hated by the Jews, but Jesus calls him to be a disciple. Even more .....

b) His Message is to the lost v 17

Levi invited all his friends to supper and Jesus went. Again the teachers of the law and the Pharisees saw Jesus and said, “why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

His affection for sinners is criticized.

The Lord Jesus responds by saying “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners”.

His ministry and His message was to the lost.

**3) HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SABBATH IS CRITIZED 2:18 & 3:6**

a) A Sabbath acknowledgement v 23-27

On the Sabbath, Jews were walking through the grain fields and some of the disciples picked some of the grain.

The Pharisee again cited Jesus, “look what your disciples are doing on the Sabbath”.

b) A Sabbath Attitude v 28

The Lord Jesus answers the criticism and says in v 28 “The Sabbath was made for man not man for the Sabbath”.

This remarkable verse shows the danger of timing the Sabbath into lots of laws. Instead of realizing that it is a day of rest and worship.

c) A Sabbath Affection 3 : 1-6

The Lord Jesus illustrated His teaching by healing a man on the Sabbath.

Conclusion

Whatever Jesus is doing is coming under harsh criticism, and we will do well to remember, not only that we will be criticized, but we must keep on with our ministry.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 3**

#### **THE WORK CONQUERING (3 : 7-35)**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

The Lord Jesus Christ has been very popular up to this point. But now there is a definite plot to have Him killed 3:6.

This causes Jesus to now move into the countryside, going from place to place.

There is a sense in this chapter where the momentum is picking up.

##### **1) THE AMAZING QUEST v 7-12**

“Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed”.

###### **a) The attraction of His words v 7**

People were coming from all over to listen to Him, even from dawn to Jerusalem.

Foreigners came from Idomeu, from Tier and Sudan. They flocked to listen to Jesus.

###### **b) The attraction of His Works v 10**

He handed money, “so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch Him”.

The crowds were growing wild in their attempts to touch Him.

###### **c) The attraction of His Worth v 11**

Even the evil spirits fell down before Him and said “You are the Son of God”.

##### **2) THE AMAZING COMPANY OF JESUS v 13-19**

We now learn how Jesus the great model-leader chases His team, who He would train for 3 years so that they would take over when He died.

###### **a) The call of the disciples v 13**

The Lord Jesus goes up to a mountain to pray, and then He called to Himself His disciples.

The choice rested totally on Jesus – there were no volunteers.

b) The commission of the disciples v 14

He then gave them a clear commission. They were to be with Him, then He would send them out to preach. And that is true today.  
You cannot go out unless you spend time with Jesus.

c) The Character of the disciples v 17

These 12 men were just normal men (ordinary).

Acts 4 : 5,6 “But many who heard the message believed. They had Peter and John brought before them... “By what power or what name did you do this?.

They were uneducated men, but people took notice of them – they had been with Jesus.

**3) THE AMAZING CONCEPTS OF JESUS v 20-35**

a) The suspicion of His friends v 21

The friends came to Jesus and said “He is out of His mind”.

b) The slander of His foes v 22

“He has Beelzebub”.

Beelzebub is the land of the flies.

c) The sensation of His family v 31

They asked Jesus to come away. They tried to draw Him away from His calling to be with them.



## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 4**

#### **HE STOOPS TO CONQUER**

#### **THE WORK IS CHALLENGED 4:1-20**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Of all the parables spoken by our Lord, this parable of the sower is probably the most well known. But, it also is the most important parable which Jesus taught.

We notice that Jesus now moves out of the synagogue and begins to preach open air.

In Matt 5:1 He spoke on a mountain

In Mark 2:1 He preached in a house

In Mark 4:1 He preached at the sea-side

In Mark 8:1-4 In the desert

We also notice that Jesus preaches in parables.

#### 1) **THE DEFINITION**

The easiest definition is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

In this parable the Lord Jesus takes what is very familiar, the experience of a sower sowing seed.

And as he sows the seed, it falls on 4 different soils (surfaces).

#### 2) **THE DIFFICULTY**

In v 11,12 the difficulty with parables is that they open the eyes of the believer, but harden the hearts of the unbeliever.

“that they be ever-seeing, but never perceiving, ever hearing but never understanding”.

#### 3) **THE DEMARCATION**

In this parable the seed is the Word of God, the sower is the one who sows the Word of God. The soil is the heart of those who hear.

The main lesson of this parable would be that the result of the hearing of the gospel always depends on the condition of the heart.

The character of the heart determines the effect of the Word.

Whenever the Word is preached, there are 4 different responses:

1) UNRESPONSIVE HEARTS V 14

- i) "As soon as they hear it satan comes and takes away the Word that was sown in them".
- ii) In this state many people die and they are buried and lost forever in hell.

2) IMPULSIVE HEARTS V 16

- i) "At once they receive it with joy, but since they have no root, they last only a short time".
- ii) When the Word is preached some respond emotionally. There is great joy and enthusiasm, but it does not last long, and then they go back.

3) PRE-OCCUPIED HEARTS V 19,20

The 3<sup>rd</sup> group hears the Word of God preached and receives it with joy, but they become like the seed sown among the thorns and slowly they are choked to death.

John says there are 3 things that will choke them.

a) The worries of this life

They are so busy worrying about life that their spiritual life dies.

b) The Deceitfulness of riches

Others chase after money and riches, and their spiritual life is choked. They are deceived by money.

c) Desires for other things

Study the seed of God's Word is choked.

4) RESPONSIVE HEARTS

However, there is another group. They hear the Word, accept it, and produce a crop.

ie. They receive the truth of Jesus into their hearts. They believe it totally, and they obey it passionately.

The Lord Jesus has given this parable to help us to understand the different responses which we will find to our preaching. Always it will be one of those 4 responses.

**The condition of the heart determines the response.**

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 5**

#### **HE STOOPS TO CONQUER**

#### **THE WORK CONFRONTING (5 :1-20)**

Up to this point the Lord Jesus has demonstrated clearly His divine authority.

In Ch 1 : 16-20 – His authority to call  
In Ch 1 : 21-28 – His authority to defeat satan  
In Ch 1 : 29-44 – His authority to heal  
In Ch 2 : 1-12 - His authority to forgive sin  
In Ch 2 : 13-17 – His authority to call sinners  
In Ch 4 : 35-41 – His authority over nature

These 6 references teach us very clearly of the authority of Jesus.

In Ch 5 His opposition becomes stranger, and He makes it very clear what ability He has.

#### **1. THE ABILITY OF JESUS TO KNOW A MAN ESSENTIALLY V 1-9**

##### **a. He knows the spirit of sin in a man v 2**

“Amen with an unclean spirit”.

The picture we have before us is a frightening one. Here is a man possessed by satan. In the NT demon possession means a person is dominated by the Spirit of a demon. And trusted by him.

It is a dreadful situation.

##### **b. He knows the strength of sin in man v 3**

“No one could bind him, not even with chains”.

Because of his demon possession the strength was great. They would try to bind him with chains, but that failed. And therefore we save this man with the despair and failure of human treatment.

No one was able to help him.

##### **c. He knows the suffering of sin in man v 5**

“night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs crying out and cutting himself with stones”.

We cannot picture a more depressing situation, but Jesus knew exactly the situation.

## **2. THE ABILITY OF JESUS TO CHANGE A MAN ENTIRELY V 10:15**

In v 1-9 we saw how the demon possessed man was wild, naked and characterised by rage.

The people could not help him. They tried to chain him, sent him to live in the tombs, but now in v 10-15 we see this amazing miracle of how Jesus heals the demon-possessed man.

He not only knew his need v 1-9 but now we see how Jesus changes him totally (v 10-15).

### **a. The demoniacs mind v 15**

The Lord Jesus asked this man “what is your name?” and the demons replied “legion, for we are many”.

Nearly there was a hoard of pigs, and Jesus delivered the man, and sent the evil spirits into the pigs who ran to the end of a steep bank, and were drowned in the lake.

v 15 “when they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons sitting there dressed and in his right mind”. The man who previously could not be tamed, was now sitting quietly at the feet of Jesus, able to think clearly and rationally.

### **b. The demoniacs manner v 15**

Previously he was wild, night and day he would scream, cut himself with stones, but now Jesus has delivered him.

Jesus changed him completely. This is a picture of the radical change that Jesus brings about in the liver of men and women. Hallelujah Yah!

Jesus knew him and changed him.

## **3. THE ABILITY OF JESUS TO USE A MAN EFFECTIVELY V18-19**

Jesus knew him, changed him and now uses him.

### **a. The man of Gadara now had a purpose v 19**

He begged Jesus to take him with him, but Jesus declined. But instead gave him a purpose, “go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you”.

Jesus sends him back to his family, “go and tell”.

### **b. The man of Gadara now had power v 20**

“So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him”.

c. The man of Gadara now had a position v 20

This new man was driven by a passion to bring his family and friends to Jesus.

Conclusion

This is a wonderful picture of the gospel. It shows how Jesus can change a person completely, but it also shows how the Lord Jesus gives us a responsibility to Go and tell, and that begins at home.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 6**

#### **THE WORK COMMISSIONED 6 : 7-44**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

The Lord Jesus has been teaching His disciples, He has lived with them, and now we are going to see Jesus sending them out.

The work is now commissioned 6 : 7-44

The principles laid down are very challenging for anyone waiting to serve Christ.

#### **1. THE BASIC PRINCIPLE FOR ALL THE KING'S MEN 6 : 7-11**

Here the Lord lays down 3 key principles which will govern the lifestyle of His servants.

v 7 says "He sent them out two by two, and these were His instructions".

##### **a. A total simplicity in lifestyle**

He tells them to take Nothing for the journey – no bag, no bread, no money. To wear sandals and not to have two times.

ie. they must live uncomplicated lives, they must not be hindered by things. And this is the biggest challenge to our materialistic world.

Every advertisement wants us to buy more things.

Jesus tells us to give them away !

##### **b. A total sacredness of lifestyle v 8**

The rabbis taught that if you entered into a sacred building. You must leave the secular outside.

But Jesus is saying the opposite.

He says "take your sandals with you". Do not separate between the secular and the Holy. Everything is holy.

Do everything for Jesus.

##### **c. A total seriousness of lifestyle v 11**

Whenever the message is rejected – move on and shake the dust off your feet and move on.

The instructions given by Jesus are radical and very challenging.

## **2. THE BASIC PREACHING 6 : 12-13,30-31**

### **a. Their Message v 12**

“They went out and preach that people should repent”. Repentance means to turn around and face in the opposite direction”.

There preaching must not be shallow.

### **b. The Movement v 7**

He sent them out 2 by 2. The emphasis is not on individuals.

### **c. Their Ministry v 7**

He gave them power to heal.

### **d. The Miracle v 3**

“They drove out many demons, and anointed many sick people with oil, and healed them”.

Their ministry was Holistic.

## **3. THE BASIC PARABLE 6 : 32-44**

The Lord Jesus concludes this challenging section by giving us the story of the feeding of the 5000.

The Lord Jesus in performing His miracles wanted to teach His disciples 3 important lessons.

### **a. Chosen by Jesus to meet the needs of the world v 41**

They were chosen by Jesus to meet the needs of the world.  
The people were hungry, they needed feed as well as teaching. And Jesus uses the disciples to meet these needs.

### **b. Broken by Jesus to meet the needs of the World v 41**

They saw Jesus breaking the bread, and then distributing it to the people (5000 people).

We must be willing ourselves to be broken first before we can meet the needs of the people.

### **c. Given by Jesus to meet the needs of the world v 41**

The Lord Jesus takes that bread, (5 loaves and 2 fish) gives it to His disciples and says “now go and feed the people”.

## Conclusion

The needs of our world are great, and Jesus wants to use us, but before we go we must be willing to be living a simple lifestyle, and then to be broken for Jesus to use us.



## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 7**

#### **THE WORK CORRECTING (7 : 1-37)**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

In many ways this section is same of the most challenging in all the trending of Jesus.

And Ch 7 will show us the tremendous difference between false religion and true religion.

The tension between Jesus and the religious leaders of the day are now made clear.

We have in Ch 7 two opposing forms of religion.

##### **1. THE CORRECTED VIEW OF GOD'S RELIGION 7 : 1-14**

###### **a. Religion isn't merely man's tradition v 1-9**

In v 9 the Lord Jesus says to the religious leaders, "You have a fine way of settling aside the commands of God in order to observe your own tradition".

The religious leaders accused Jesus' disciples of not wasting their hands.

###### **b. Religion isn't merely man's language v 6,7**

Jesus quotes from Isaiah "these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me – they worship me in vain".

###### **c. Religion isn't merely man's promises v 10-13**

The commandments of God were clear "honor your father and mother". But they said "if we have dedicated our money to God's work, we don't need to pay our parents".

And so we can see, what people sometimes do with religion – they put their traditions above God's Word.

They say religious things but they don't do it.

##### **2. THE CORRECTED VIEW OF MAN'S PROBLEMS 7: 13-23**

This passage has been called the most revelatory passage of Jesus' teaching.

The Rabbi's taught that people are good. "We only become unclean when we touch something unclean".

Jesus says to them – “You are wrong” people are not good – our hearts are evil and deceitful. And wrong actions are done because of the heart.

“What you do is because of what you are” - 13 illustrations:

Evil thoughts v 21 – they come from an evil heart

Adulteries v 21

Fornification v 21

Murder v 21

Theft v 22

Covetousness v 22

Wickedness v 22

Deceit v 22

Licentiousness v 22 No restraint

An evil eye v 22

Pride v 22

Foolishness v 22

### **3. THE CORRECTED VIEW OF GOD’S KINGDOM 7:24-30**

For Jesus the Kingdom of God was the focus. And, God's Kingdom is God's rule in the hearts of God's people; by Christ the King.

#### **a. Accepted geographical limits v 24**

Jesus left that area, and went to the area of Tyre and Sidon.

The religious leaders would never go there – that's where the Gentiles live and they are unclean. They have no place in God's Kingdom.

#### **b. Accepted religious limits v 27**

This lady who wanted her daughter healed – begs for Jesus intervention, and Jesus says “I have come for the Jews and the Gentiles”.

And Jesus honors her when she says, “even the dogs eat the crumbs from beneath the table”.

c. Accepted the Limits

For the Lord Jesus His kingdom was as wide as the world, as deep as any and as long as time.

Conclusion

From this moment onwards, they wanted to kill Jesus. He was too radical. But the big thing was ..... we do in life because of what we are.

The key issue is, sort out your heart.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 8**

#### **THE CHRIST (8:22-9:1)**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

There are two major sections in Mark.

Section 1 is Ch 1-8 which answers His question : Who is Jesus.

Section 2 = Ch 9-16 : “What sort of Messiah is Jesus”.

This study 8 will now draw to a close of Section 1. Each chapter has been building up to this point.

Peter will answer the question by saying “You are the Christ”.

In these verses we will see 3 things concerning Jesus the Christ:

##### **1. THE RESTORER OF SIGHT V 22-26**

###### **a. How the miracle was performed**

A blind man was there, and Jesus took him by the hand, took him outside the village, spat on the man's eyes and touched his blindness, and the man was healed.

At the start people looked like trees until Jesus fully restores the man's sight.

###### **b. Lessons for today**

This story has got 2 main lessons for today:

The man's blindness is a picture of our blindness. Blinded by sin until Jesus brings healing.

The man's total healing was gradual, in the same way we gradually grow in our understanding of Jesus.

The first lesson is that Jesus is the restorer of sight.

##### **2. THE REVEALER OF SALVATION V 27-30**

###### **a. The variety of opinions about Christ**

She said that Jesus was John the Baptist, others Elijah, others a prophet. In the same way today there are so many opinions of Jesus.

b. The confession of faith which Peter witnessed

Peter gives us the answer “You are the Christ”. Jesus is the promised Messiah, the true prophet greater than Moses, the long awaited Messiah – and that is the climax of Mark.

**3. THE REDEEMER OF SOULS V 31-37**

Having clearly shown them that He is the Christ, He now began to teach them what this means.

a. Jesus predicts His suffering v 31,32

He tells them that He will be rejected and killed by the religious leaders.

And if anyone wants to follow Him, in the same way they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Him.

If anyone will try to save his life he will lose it.

And what would it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?

b. Jesus then rebukes Peter v 32-33

Peter did not understand the suffering Messiah, so Jesus had to rebuke him.

“Get behind me satan”.

Satan always tried to keep Jesus from the cross.

c. Jesus explains the cost of discipleship v 34-37

This is a huge challenge.

The Lord has just explained that he is a suffering Messiah. And He demands of anyone who would follow Him that he must deny himself of everything.

There must be a denial of self v 34, a desire for service v 34, an absolute devotion to sovereignty.

Conclusion

The first section of Mark is now over, we clearly know who Jesus is – the Christ and now the rest of the book will show His way to the cross to us.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 9**

#### **PLAIN WORDS OF THEOLOGY – Mark 9 v 1-13**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

We now come to what is known as the “Transfiguration”. It occurred 6 days after Peter’s confession 8 : 29 “You are the Christ”.

And after Jesus had revealed to them His suffering.

8 : 34 “ if anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me”.

For the disciples the transfiguration was of great importance. It would clarify for them that it was not a mistake to go to the cross.

But for Jesus the transfiguration would prepare Him to face with courage the trial which lay ahead of Him.

The transfiguration reminded Him of the Father’s love for Him, and of the glory that would follow after the cross.

#### **1. THE MINISTRY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 9 : 1-3**

The Lord Jesus has just given them what it means to follow Him. It was a total commitment.

Then He said “Some of you standing here will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power”.

##### **a. The Transfigured Jesus v 2-3**

He takes with Him, Peter, James and John when suddenly He was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white. Mark draws our attention to the whiteness of his clothes. Matthew and Luke call on attention to the brightness of His face.

But this would’ve had tremendous significance for the Jews. They would have remembered what was said about the ancient of days in Dan 7 : 9.

So the link is a glorious one between Jesus and the Ancient of Days.

Also this transfiguration showed plainly how it was that indwelling divinity that now shines out of Jesus.

##### **b. The Transfigured Disciples v 6**

When Peter, James and John saw this t hey were frightened; which sadly shows us an ignorance on their part. Again not fully

understanding that before the glory ..... there must be the Cross.

c. The Transformed Scene v 7

While Jesus is transfigured before them a cloud appeared and surrounded them.

The cloud was very much part of Israel's history. It stood for the Shekina .... the glory of God.

eg. Ex 13:21 In the desert; "By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night".

Mt Sinai Ex 19 : 16 "On the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day there was thunder and lightning with a thick cloud over the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast".

And in the Holy of holies Lev 16 : 2 "Tell Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain .... or else he will die. I appear in the cloud over the cloud cover. Jesus face shone like the sun, His clothes were white as snow.

**2. THE MIRACLE OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 9 : 4-7**

Suddenly we read that two men appeared.

a. The benediction of the past v 4

Moses and Elijah appear. Moses has been dead for 1500 years. Elijah for 900 years.

They both appeared.

Moses of course represents the Law, Elijah the prophets.

Moses and Elijah were to leave the scene, and only leave Jesus there.

This also was of huge significance. They make way for the supreme fulfillment of the law and the prophets.

b. The benediction of the present v 7

"a voice came from the cloud", this is my Son whom I love, listen to Him". Once more God the Father speaks and expresses His pleasure in Christ.

Earlier He did this at His baptism. God the Father is pleased with Jesus, and they are exhorted to listen to Him.

**3. THE MESSAGE OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 9 : 8-9**

The Lord Jesus is now done with His disciples, and the realization is there.

Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Law and prophets.

a. The Message to Christ is one of perseverance v 4,7

At His baptism God the Father had said these same words, when Jesus decided to go to the cross.

Now as He enters into Jerusalem for the last time, He hears the Father's approval again. It was a message of perseverance.

b. The Message to the disciples is one of practicality v 5

Peter makes a silly statement. He asks to make 3 tents one for each of them, Jesus, Moses and Elijah.

Peter wanted to stay there. He did not want to go to the world and all its problems.

Jesus says no.

The mountain top experience will give you strength for the challenge in the valley.

We cannot stay in the mountain top experiences we must get into the world.

c. The Message to the followers is one of perception v 1,14

This enabled the disciples to have a clearer understanding as to who Jesus is.

Conclusion

This is another key event in Jesus ministry.

Jesus is God's dearly beloved Son.

Jesus fulfils all the O.T. prophets and the Law. Thus, stay focused on Christ.

There is the cross now – but the glory is to come.

This experience equipped the disciples for ministry in the world.



## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 10**

#### **ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM – Mark 10 : 32-45**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

The Lord Jesus now turns His face towards Jerusalem.

It is about 1 week before His death, and there was a very tense atmosphere.

On the road now to Jerusalem for the last time v 32, the Lord Jesus speaks to his disciples about 3 very important issues.

##### **1. A SORROWFUL PREDICTION v 32-34**

This is now the third time when Jesus predicts His death.

8 : 31 “He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things”.

9 : 31 “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men”.

###### **a. Hostility v 33**

He tells them that he will be betrayed to the chief priests, and they will condemn Him to death.

###### **b. Severity v 34**

Jesus now goes into detail about what will happen.  
They will mock Him  
Spit on Him  
Flag Him  
Then kill Him

This is amazing to read. He knew exactly what was going to happen to Him. He is in control of everything.

###### **c. Victory v 34**

On the third day He will rise, says He.  
And so we learn that His death on the cross was carefully planned by Him.  
He always knew that the cross awaited Him.  
There will only be glory after the cross.

##### **2. A SHAMEFUL AMBITION v 35-41**

###### **a. The Request v 35-37**

James and John came to Jesus and they wanted to have the special seals of honor. They wanted the most important positions. It was a sinful, selfish, earthly ambition.

b. The Reply v 38-40

Jesus asked them if they understood what this request was. Do they understand that the path to glory is always the pathway of suffering.

There is no glory apart from suffering.

c. The Reaction v 41

If James and John were gripped by a sinful ambition, the other 10 were jealous. They wanted the positions.

And these two sins of false ambition and jealousy, we must fight against.

**3. THE SACRIFICIAL REDEMPTION v 42-45**

To deal with these two sins the Lord Jesus gives us His teaching on leadership.

it is totally opposed to what the world thinks.

“Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant.... Who wants to be 1<sup>st</sup> must be your slave”.

In the Kingdom of God greatness is achieved by self giving, in the outpouring of yourself in service to others.

And to illustrate Jesus gives Himself as an example.

a. His Coming v 45

He came voluntarily, He gave up everything “He did not come to be saved, but to save”.

b. Serving

c. His dying

And to give His life as a ransom for many.

Conclusion

In Ch 11 Jesus the King will enter Jerusalem on a donkey. He came as the Servant King. And to those who follow Him, He calls us to service – never to be served.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 11**

#### **THE KING ENTERS JERUSALEM (11:1-11)**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

It was the time of the pass-over when the Jewish people brought their sacrificial lambs to Jerusalem the City.

There would've been about 1000 people around this time: And arrives for the last time.

He would now present Himself to Israel as her Messiah, King and Saviour.

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem is the climax of Mark so far.

He no longer will teach His disciples in private, but He will be seen openly in conflict with the Jerusalem authorities.

He is God's King, come to Jerusalem to receive the honour that is due to Him.

##### **Two things would happen**

1. **It would fulfill prophecy**

Zech 9 :9 "Behold your king comes lowly and riding upon a donkey".

The entrance therefore would fulfill prophecy.

2. **It will also draw attention to His death**

With so many people in Jerusalem, all bringing their sacrificial lambs, Jesus comes as the Lamb of God.

1. **A DEMONSTRATION v 1-6**

The little village of Bethany was on the slopes of the Mount of Olives (on the side) about 2 km outside Jerusalem.

And Jesus makes preparations to enter the city.

These preparations would demonstrate 2 things:

a. **His Deity v 1-3**

He tells two of His disciples to go into Jerusalem and there they would find a colt tied.

They must untie the colt and bring it to Jesus.

If anyone asked them questions, Jesus says say "The Lord needs it". Thus we can see how Jesus predicted everything that would happen.

He was in total control of the whole situation clearly demonstrating His deity.

b. His Authority v 3

The Lord Jesus throughout this gospel has demonstrated His authority over:

- ❖ Sin
- ❖ Disease
- ❖ Evil
- ❖ Satan
- ❖ Wind
- ❖ Waves
- ❖ and now over people

All authority is given to Jesus.

**2. A MANIFESTATION v 7-10**

The colt was brought to Jesus, they put their garments on the colt to act as a saddle for Him to sit on. And slowly the procession begins, as he went down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem.

a. Lowliness

Everything that Jesus did was so against what the Romans did.

When the Roman generals entered a city with victory, they would come with elephants, tigers and the general would be pulled on a chariot by magnificent horses.

But here was Jesus on a donkey. He has not even got a saddle.

What lowliness ? He was the Servant King.

b. Loftiness

The people began to cheer. Hosanna !

This means "save now".

And here He comes as the King of peace.

The King of David's line – the Redeemer King.

**3. THE EXAMINATION V 11**

- a. The City - Luke 19 : 41 says "Jesus wept".  
He wept because Jerusalem was so lost, they were blind, and Jesus wept.

b. The Temple

The moment he enters the temple he sees the most dreadful picture.  
Huge noise – they were selling sheep for sacrifices and exchanging money in the temple.

They were robbing the people.

Jesus gets a card and throws them out of the temple quoting from Isaiah 56 : 7 "my house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers".

Jesus cleanses the temple and He anticipates the final destruction of the temple.

But He also showed us that He came to establish a new temple – this one would be destroyed when Jerusalem was destroyed.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 12**

#### **TESTING FAITH – 12 : 1-44**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

In Ch 12 we will read of 3 groups of people who came to test Jesus.

The chief priests and scribes  
The Pharisees  
The Saducees

We will see that as they did this, in fact, Jesus tested them.

#### **1. A PARTISAN FAITH IS FULLY TESTED BY JESUS 11:27 – 12:27**

##### **a. Deeply held materialistic principles 12 : 18-27**

The saducees came to Jesus, they were a group of people who did not believe in the resurrection or angels, and they provided the high priests of the day.

They came to Jesus with a question. It was designed to make belief in the resurrection look ridiculous.

This lady was married, but her husband died without her having children. So his brother married her, and he too died. And there were 7 brothers.

The question was, who would be married to the woman in heaven.

Jesus answer is amazing.

He tells them that they have 2 problems.

They don't know Scripture  
They don't know God's power

The power of God would raise the dead, and there will be no marriage in heaven.

##### **b. Deeply held political 12 : 13-17**

Now the Pharisees came to Jesus and they asked if it was right to pay tax to Caesar.

Again Jesus answer was amazing "Render to Caesar what is his and to God what is God's".

c. Deeply held religious principles 11:27 – 12:12

The last question was on Jesus' authority.

He tells them a parable which so clearly applies to them. The Parable of the Vineyard. And so in this passage the position of the Pharisees and Saducees was clearly exposed.

**2. A PERSONAL FAITH IS FULLY TRACED BY JESUS 12 : 23-34**

One of the leaders came to Jesus with another question.

a. The Context v 28

This man was impressed with Jesus answers. So he came with his own question.

b. The Concern v 28

Which is the most important commandment he asks Jesus.

The Pharisees had 613 commands.

c. The Challenge v 29-30

Jesus gives a very clear answer, and said;

"love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and the 2<sup>nd</sup> is love your neighbour as yourself".

v 34 "From that time on no-one dared ask him anymore questions"

**3. A PRETENTIOUS FAITH IS FULLY SEEN BY JESUS V 12 : 41-44**

The Lord now sat with His disciples opposite the place where the offerings were given.

a. The rich gave out of their wealth v 41

These people had lots of money and they put large amounts in.

b. The widow who gave out of her want v 42

But then Jesus saw a widow who was poor and could only give 2 small copper coins not worth much.

c. Jesus gave out of His wisdom v 43

The Lord then said to His disciples.

"This poor widow has put more in than all the others".

The lesson is clear, it is not how much you give, but how much you've got left over.



## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 13**

#### **THE BLUEPRINT OF THE END - 13: 1-37**

Ch 13 of Mark is what is called an apocalypse.

He gives us a blueprint of the end times.

One of the wonders of the world was the temple – it was incredible. And John said it was going to be destroyed. So Peter asked Him when?

Jesus replied and taught 4 things.

#### **1. DESTRUCTION v1-4**

Not one stone will be left on another.

- i) A Magnificent Temple v 1  
There was no building like it.
- ii) A terrible forecast v 2  
In A.D. 70 it happened.
- iii) The disciple's questions v 3-4  
When will this happen ?

#### **2) DISASTERS v 5-8**

- a. Deception v 5-6  
"Watch out that no one deceives you, many will come in my name claiming "I am Him".
- b. Disruption v 7  
"There will be wars and rumors of wars".
- c. Destruction v 8  
"Wars and earthquakes there will be".

#### **3. DELIVERANCE v 9-23**

- a. Personal Miseries v 9-13  
"You will be handed over and flogged", arrested and trialed, brother will betray brother; father his children".
- b. National Miseries v 14-23  
It will be so bad says Jesus that you must run to the mountains.  
But, for those who rely on the Holy Spirit v 11 must spread the gospel v 10.

#### **4. CHRIST WILL COME v 24-37**

- a. He will Shake His Creation v 24-25  
Even the sun will be darkened.
- b. He will Send His Christ v 26-27  
“You will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds with power and glory”.

### Conclusion

As Jesus gives the disciples this blueprint.

- 1. It is the truth – Jesus is going to come again v 28-31
- 2. The time – No one knows v 32
- 3. The Task v 33-37

The task is a clear and a direct one; watch and pray.

And now everything is ready for Jesus to go to the cross.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **JESUS THE MAN**

#### **JESUS OUR PASSOVER LAMB - Mark 14 : 10-31**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Judah is now introduced into the story. And Mark will show up the contrast between the devotion of the woman and the treachery of Judas.

Chapter 14 and 15 will now deal with the death of our Saviour.

#### **1. HIS BETRAYAL V 10-11**

"Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the thief priests to betray Jesus to them".

a. The Die is cast v 10

Judas had been with Christ for 3 years now decided to betray Jesus.

b. The Deal is made v 11

He would be paid 30 pieces of silver, which in those days was a price of a slave who had been insured by an ex.

Jesus is now put on the bargain table of life and is sold very cheaply.

#### **2. THE CHARACTER OF JESUS v 12-14**

a. Participation

Before the Passover there were 2 ceremonies which took place there was the search for leaven, and then the sacrifice of the Lamb.

b. Planning v 13-14

The furniture had to be arranged in a certain way, including a table and some couches on which they would lie – the meal had to be prepared and 4 cups of wine to complete the meal. Exod 6 : 6-7.

#### **3. THE CONCERN OF JESUS V 17-21**

That evening they came together for the last time.

a. There was affection v 20

Jesus showed love for the disciples and for Judas.

b. There was anguish v 18

Where one of them could betray Jesus.

c. There was awareness v 27

Jesus said "The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him". Psalm 4 : 9  
Psalm 55 : 12-13.

4. The Covenant of Jesus v 22-26

While they were having the meal, the Lord Jesus then instituted the Lord's supper. The bread would remind them of His body and the wine of His blood.

And having instituted these they sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 15**

#### **THE DEATH OF JESUS – Mark 15 : 1-47**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

It is now 9 o'clock in the morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, in the year A.D.33, when Jesus was put to death.

The greatest and the most glorious of all subjects is the Cross of Christ.

##### **1. THE COURT V 1-5**

The Lord Jesus is now bound and handed over to Pilate.

###### **a. How monstrous it was : v 1**

The trial of Jesus was both irregular and illegal. They condemned Jesus after mid night – that should never have been allowed and Pilate asked Him if He was the King of the Jews.

###### **b. How majestic it was v 5**

The Lord Jesus is totally in control and He simply replies, yes, it is as you say.

At this point the Lord Jesus is being led like a lamb to the slaughter.

###### **c. How mindless it was v 2**

Pilate remained undecided. He was a weak, pathetic ruler, who knew that Jesus was innocent.

##### **2. THE CROWD V 6-15**

Earlier the crowd hailed to Jesus but now they chose the way of blood.

They rather wanted Barabbas to be released a man accused of murder and insurrection.

###### **a. They chose the way of blindness v 7**

You cannot even compare Barabbas and Jesus, and people were blind.

###### **b. They chose the way of brutality**

Pilate handed Jesus over, to be flogged, mocked and then to be put to death on a cross.

##### **3. THE CROSS V 22-41**

The Lord Jesus was brought to a place called Golgotha.

###### **a. The Shout of Vicariousness**

The Lord Jesus cries out "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me".

At that moment, He was taking our sins upon Himself – dying in our place, substitution – and the wrath of God was upon Him.

b. The Job of Viciousness v 39

He quotes from the cross from Psalm 22 : 3,31

c. The Sign of Victoriousness v 37

In John's gospel 19 : 30 "It is finished". The word had been done, the price paid.

Conclusion

The precious Lamb of God has given His life for us – and all that remains.

## **STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

### **STUDY 16**

#### **VICTORY OVER THE GRAVE OF THE GLOBE 16 : 1-20**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

The struggle is over, the battle has been won. The work which the Father gave to the Son is now finished, and the body of Jesus suffers no more pain. His Spirit has now entered into Paradise.

This last chapter will deal with Jesus victory over the grave (v 1-13) and over the globe (v 14-20).

##### **1. VICTORY OVER THE GRAVE V 1-13**

The first person who is mentioned in this chapter is Mary Magdalene (v 1) she is the 1<sup>st</sup> person to see the risen Christ, and as she brings her spices to anoint the body of Jesus, we learn 3 things:

###### **a. Despair and the earthly repose of Jesus 2-3**

As the women arrive at the tomb, Mary was weeping, she came full of despair, she had lost her helper, her hero, her Lord.

###### **b. Delight and the East rising of Jesus v 9**

In v 9 we read how Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, and from despair we see delight, the resurrection of Jesus would now energize these early disciples into a new zeal.

###### **c. Doubt and the enthusiastic report of Jesus v 13**

The ladies told the disciples what they had seen; for some there was a reaction of doubt but soon it would be renewed when they saw Jesus.

##### **2. VICTORY OVER THE GLOBE v 14-20**

In some of the manuscripts Mark ends with v 8.

v 9-20 are not found in some of the earlier manuscripts, however, they are not to be doubted.

Because their readings are in line with the rest of Mark eg.  
John 7:53 – 8:11.

There are 2 critical points in these verses, and they summarize the plan of Jesus to reach the world.

The progress of the kingdom is assumed v 15

###### **a. Eagerness**

Jesus tells His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

God has committed to us the task of telling the whole world about the salvation which comes through faith in Christ.

b. Evangelism

We are to preach the good news to all creation.  
But we must remember:

The message is Exclusive  
“whoever does not believe will be condemned”.

Offensive

To other religions this is offensive, to teach that Jesus is the only way.

Triumphant

There will be signs following enabling the world to see that what they were preaching was the truth.

c. Education

Matthew adds to Mark (Matt 28 :19) and says “teaching them to observe all I have commanded you”.

Teaching must follow evangelism, if we are to make disciples.

Jesus never asked us to get converts, but He tells us to make disciples.

**3. THE PRESENCE OF THE KING IS ASSURED V 19,20**

The disciples will now go into the world.

a. Assured of Divine presence.

The Lord promised to be with them, and the abiding presence of Jesus that sustained Christian workers from the beginning.

He is with us!

b. Divine Partnership v 20

c. Divine Power

“And confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it”.

Conclusion

In a sense Mark's gospel leads up to Ch 16. The person and the Work of Jesus was finished.

And now He sends His people into the world to make disciples, but promises that He will be with us to the end.