

Exploring Mark: What People Say about Jesus

Jacob Jasin

PREFACE

As I read the Gospel according to Mark, the Holy Spirit showed me records of thoughts, comments, and proclamations about Jesus that caught my attention. It is a wonderful study as I meditated on those statements about Jesus. Mark has recorded major events in the life and ministry of Jesus and has included important statements that people, God the Father, and an angel say about him—from John the Baptist who gave the good news of the coming of Christ to an angel who gave the good news of the risen Christ. Jesus is the Christ, the promised Savior who have come to sacrifice himself to redeem his people and to make a new beginning for them.

Soli Deo Gloria
Jacob Jasin
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Lesson 1 – “After Me Comes He Who is Mightier than I ...”

Mark wrote this book approximately in 50-70 A.D. Mark presents facts about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mark presents Jesus as truly God and truly man. As the Son of God, Jesus is divine. He came from heaven to be a man like us with a mission to bear the punishment of our sins as our substitute. He came to save us from the enslaving power of sin and the consequence of our sins. He is our Savior.

Read Mark 1:1-8

Who is Jesus Christ according to Mark (v.1)?

The gospel means “the good news.” The gospel of Jesus Christ means the good news about him. He is the gospel. The gospel is also from Jesus Christ. He came from heaven to bring a very good news to us. Jesus has in fact brought the best news to us. The higher the authority a person has, the better the good news he brings. As the Son of God, Jesus has the highest authority in the universe. The gospel that Jesus has brought is not about someone else but about himself and what he does for us. That is why “the gospel of Jesus Christ” is the best news for our lives.

Mark quotes the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3) to explain that God has planned to send a messenger to “prepare the way of the Lord.” That messenger was John the Baptist. He came to prepare the coming of Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God and the Lord (Master) of all creation (v.2-3).

What did John do in his ministry to prepare the coming of Jesus (v.4)?

What do *repentance*, *forgiveness*, and *sin* mean in your understanding?

In the Bible, to repent means more than just to feel bad about the bad thing we do. To repent means to turn away from sin with regret and sorrow, and to turn to God with the full intention to be obedient. The Bible teaches that all people were born with a sinful nature. We sin against God because we are sinners. Sin is disobeying or not conforming to God’s law in any way. We sin against God in our thoughts, words, and actions. The penalty for our sins against God is death—total separation from God. Sin is evil and is a powerful force. Sin enslaves and corrupts us, making us to rebel against God. Jesus’ purpose of coming to this world is to free us from the enslaving power of sin and the penalty of our sins. He came to sacrifice himself for the punishment of our sins as our substitute. When we repent from our sins and put our faith in Jesus, God forgives our sins and accepts us as righteous people by crediting the righteousness of Jesus to us. This is the gospel for us.

Why did people go to John for (v.5)?

What did John wear and eat (v.6)?

What did John say when he preached (v.7)?

John understood that he was just a mere man and Jesus is the divine Son of God. He knew that he was not even worthy to stoop down and untie Jesus' sandals.

What did John say to compare himself with Jesus (v.8)?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Triune God of the Bible—one God in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. They are in unity and equal in substance, power, and glory. Jesus baptizes people with the Holy Spirit means that he will give the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who repent from their sins and put their faith in him, trusting and surrendering their lives to him.

Read Mark 1:9-13

What town did Jesus come from? Why did Jesus go to John (v.9)?

Jesus came to John to be baptized because he wanted to be identified with his people, whom he would die for. His baptism also marked the beginning of his ministry. In the Old Testament, before a prophet began his ministry, he needed to be anointed and to get affirmation from God.

What happened after Jesus "came up out of the water" (v.10-11)?

Here we see the voice of God the Father affirming Jesus, his own Son, to begin his ministry to save his people from their sins and from the enslavement of sin. The Holy Spirit came and rest on him, spiritually baptizing, anointing, and empowering him.

Where did the Holy Spirit take Jesus to after his baptism (v.12)?

What did Satan try to do to Jesus in the wilderness (v.13)?

Who came to minister to Jesus (v.13)?

Jesus was preparing to begin his ministry on earth. He was brought by the Spirit of God to the wilderness where there were wild animals. He spent time with God, praying for forty days. Then God let him be tempted by Satan (the devil). To be our Savior, Jesus needed to experience temptation and suffering as a man. He needed to become our model and hope. His victory over Satan brings hope for us to overcome our own temptation and suffering. His victory is also our victory.

Lesson 2 – “What is This? A New Teaching with Authority!”

Read Mark 1:14-20

Galilee is a region in the northern part of Israel. Jesus went there to proclaim the gospel of God. The gospel means “the good news.” The good news of God is found in Jesus himself.

What did Jesus say to people when he was proclaiming the gospel (v.15)?

The time of Jesus’ coming as the promised Savior of the world had been prophesied in the Old Testament. When Jesus came, he fulfilled the prophecies. He brought the spiritual kingdom of God into this world. The message that the kingdom of God is available to all people who would repent of their sins and believe in Jesus is the gospel message. It is the good news for all people.

To repent is to turn away from our sins with regret and sorrow, and to turn to God with the full intention to be obedient. To believe in Jesus is to trust and surrender our lives to him.

Whom did Jesus see alongside the Sea of Galilee? What were they doing (v.16)?

What did Jesus say to them (v.17)?

What do you think “fishers of men” means (v.17)?

How did they respond to Jesus’ call for them (v.18)?

Whom else did Jesus see alongside the Sea of Galilee? What were they doing (v.19)?

How did they respond to Jesus’ call for them (v.20)?

Read Mark 1:21-28

Capernaum was a village on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus entered a synagogue—a Jewish place of worship—to teach on the Sabbath. Sabbath was a holy day for the Jews. God told them to keep the Sabbath holy as a day of worship and rest from work. Sabbath was observed on Saturday until Jesus rose from the dead, which was on Sunday. Since then, Christians have worshiped God together on Sundays.

Why were the people astonished at Jesus’ teaching (v.22)?

Scribes were experts who transcribed and taught the Old Testament laws. Many of them taught the people about God's laws without practicing the laws in their own lives. Their teaching had no weight and authority. Unlike the scribes, Jesus taught with authority. In fact, he taught with the authority of his own as the Author of those laws. He did not rely on the expertise or interpretation of other people. Furthermore, Jesus modeled what he taught. He perfectly lived an obedient life to the laws of God, which no one can. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus' perfect record of obeying God's laws is credited to us when we believe and put our faith in him, trusting and surrendering our lives to him.

What did a man possessed by an unclean spirit (evil spirit) cry out to Jesus (v.23-24)?

Evil spirits or demons are followers of Satan (the Devil). Satan and his demons are angels who rebel against God. They know that Jesus is "the Holy One of God"—the Son of God who came from heaven. The evil spirit trembled and asked if Jesus came from heaven to destroy "us" (all evil spirits).

How did Jesus respond to him (v.25)?

How did the evil spirit respond to Jesus' command (v.26)?

How did the people around them react to this? What question did they ask to one another (v.27)?

The crowd were all amazed because they had never seen someone like Jesus before. They observed two things about Jesus. (1) Jesus teaches God's laws with authority. (2) Jesus has authority over evil spirits. He commands them, and they obey him. Who has authority over evil spirits other than God himself? The crowd were all amazed and questioned the identity of Jesus, "Who is this man?"

How quick Jesus' name was spread throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee (v.28)?

Read Mark 1:29-34

What illness did Simon's mother-in-law have and how did Jesus heal her (v.30-31)?

What sorts of people were brought to Jesus and how did Jesus minister to them (v.32-34)?

Why did Jesus not permit the demons to speak about him (v.34)?

Jesus did not come to be a political leader to rule. He did not want the evil spirits to expose him and endanger his mission—a spiritual mission to save his people from their sins. He came to sacrifice himself for the punishment of our sins as our substitute, so that we can have a new life in him.

Lesson 3 – “We Never Saw Anything Like This!”

Read Mark 2:1-12

While living in Capernaum, Jesus probably stayed at Simon Peter’s house. When people found out that Jesus was at the house, they came to him (v.1).

How crowded was the house (v.2)?

Why do you think many people came to hear Jesus’ preaching (from Lesson 2, see 1:22, 27)?

Who was brought to Jesus? How many men carried him (v.3)?

What did they do when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd (v.4)?

What did Jesus say to the paralytic (v.5)?

Among the crowd, there were scribes—experts who transcribe and teach the Jewish laws. When they heard what Jesus said to the paralytic, they questioned Jesus in their hearts (v.6).

What did they say to themselves about Jesus (v.7)?

Blasphemy is an offense of speaking against God. At that time, blasphemy was considered a serious sin and the blasphemer could be punished by being stoned to death. The scribes said that Jesus was blaspheming because he claimed to have authority to forgive the paralytic’s sins. Only God can forgive people’s sins. Therefore, Jesus was claiming to be God himself. His claim was a blasphemy if he was not God, and he deserved to be killed. The scribes did not believe that Jesus was God.

Did Jesus know that they were questioning him in their hearts? What did he say to them (v.8)?

What else did Jesus say to them (v.9-10)?

Jesus liked to use the title “the Son of Man” more than “the Son of God” to emphasize his humanity and heavenly kingship. Jesus told them that he had authority on earth to forgive sins. Performing a miraculous healing is easier than forgiving sins. Jesus then healed the paralytic—the easier act—to prove his authority to forgive sins as God—the more difficult act.

How did Jesus heal the paralytic (v.11)?

What did the paralytic do after he was healed (v.12)?

How did the crowd react to this miracle? What did they say to one another (v.12)?

The crowd was amazed and glorified God—giving praise to God—for what Jesus just did. At this point, people still thought that Jesus was just a man—a great religious teacher who could heal diseases. Jesus’ act of forgiving the paralytic’s sins was an unseen and unobservable act by the crowd.

Our spiritual life is much more important than our physical life. The paralytic was healed both spiritually and physically because of his faith in Jesus. Jesus forgave his sins, healing him spiritually first, because it was the most important matter. He was free from the punishment of his sins, because Jesus would bear it for him on the cross as his substitute. We too can be forgiven of our sins by having faith in Jesus, who died on the cross for the punishment of our sins as our substitute.

Read Mark 2:13-17

Where did Jesus go to teach and who came to hear him (v.13)?

What did Jesus ask of Levi, a tax collector, and what was his response to Jesus (v.14)?

Whom did Jesus spend time with at his home (v.15)?

Tax collectors were Jewish people who worked for the Roman government to collect taxes from their own people. They often cheated people when they collected taxes. They took more money by force and would keep the extra money for themselves. Tax collectors, along with other sinners (religious law breakers), were hated by the Pharisees and the scribes—the religious leaders of the community. The Pharisees and the scribes looked down on them with spiritual pride. They did not befriend these sinners. However, Jesus reached out to them and they came to him. Jesus ate, talked, and laughed with them. The Pharisees and the scribes often times criticized Jesus for reaching out to the sinners.

What did the scribes say to Jesus’ disciples (v.16)?

What was Jesus’ response to them (v.17)?

The sinners are “those who are sick” and in need of Jesus, the Physician. The Pharisees and the scribes did not see themselves as sinners but as “those who are well” with God. They were in fact spiritually sick and needed a spiritual physician, but they were blinded by their own spiritual pride. They saw themselves as righteous people and would not show kindness to or associate with sinners. Jesus told them that he came for needy sinners, bringing healing to their souls. Jesus is the Physician of our souls.

Lesson 4 – “Who Then is This, That Even the Wind and the Sea Obey Him?”

Read Mark 4:35-41

After a full day of teaching people, Jesus was tired and wanted to rest and spend time alone with his disciples. They got into a boat and went across the Sea of Galilee to the other side.

What happened to them on the sea (v.37)?

Where was Jesus and what was he doing (v.38)?

What did his disciples do when they saw him sleeping? What did they ask of him (v.38)?

What did Jesus do after he awoke? What happened to the wind and the sea (v.39)?

What did Jesus say to his disciples (v.40)?

This was probably the first time Jesus’ disciples had ever seen someone speak to nature and nature obey. Jesus was the Son of God through whom God the Father created the world and nature. When Jesus said, “Have you still no faith,” he was challenging his disciples to think about whether or not they had faith in him, and if so, to what degree? Jesus wanted them to think about whether or not they trusted him as someone who held their lives and souls.

How did the disciples react? What did they say to one another (v.41)?

During the great storm, they were terrified that they would die. Now the storm had gone and the sea was completely calm, they marveled and were filled with great fear. The first fear was the fear of dying. The second fear was different. They realized three things.

First, they realized that Jesus was God. Who could give a command to nature and nature obey, but God himself? They saw Jesus’ authority over nature and comprehended his identity.

Second, they realized that God was with them in the boat. Jesus, the Son of God, came down from heaven to the world not only to live among his people, but also to be in the midst of their suffering.

Third, although God was with them, they realized that he allowed a great storm—great suffering—to come into their lives. Jesus could prevent the great storm from coming and did not explain to them why he allowed it. He simply asked them to have faith in him, trusting their lives to him.

God oftentimes does not explain why he lets us face difficulties in life. Jesus asks us to simply put our faith in him, trusting him as our Savior who holds our lives in his hands. This is what faith in Jesus means.

Read Mark 5:1-20

Who came to meet Jesus when he went to the other side of the sea and what can we know about him (v.1-5)?

What did he do when he saw Jesus from afar (v.6)?

What did the man cry out and say to Jesus (v.7)?

The man with an unclean spirit (evil spirit) knew the identity of Jesus. Evil spirits were angels who rebelled against God and were banished from Heaven. They spiritually deceive people to reject God and sometimes hurt people physically too.

What was the name of the evil spirit (v.9)?

Jesus was exposing the identity of the evil spirit. There was not just one, but a large group of evil spirits possessed the man—large enough to possess a herd of 2,000 pigs. The evil spirits begged Jesus not to send them out of the country, but to let them possess the pigs. Jesus has authority over evil spirits and let them enter the pigs (v.10-13).

What happened to the pigs after being possessed by the evil spirits (v.13)?

What did the herdsmen do after seeing what happened to the pigs (v.14)?

What did the people of the city ask of Jesus after learning what just happened (v.15-17)?

The people might have asked Jesus to leave their region because they were afraid to lose more animals which were their financial resources. They were more concerned about their own well-being than knowing Jesus as God himself who came down from heaven—the true source of their well-being. The man who had been possessed by demons asked Jesus to allow him to travel with him (v.18).

What did Jesus ask of him instead (v.19)?

What did the man do afterwards (v.20)?

The man became a missionary, proclaiming the name of Jesus and telling others what Jesus had done for him. He brought the good news of Jesus Christ—the gospel—to others, so that they could believe in him as well. Everyone marveled hearing his testimony.

Lesson 5 – “How are Such Mighty Works Done by His Hands?”

Read Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus and his disciples crossed again to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, a great crowd of people came to him, including Jairus who was a ruler of the synagogue—a Jewish place of worship.

What did Jairus ask of Jesus (v.22-23)?

How did Jesus respond to his request (v.24)?

As Jesus walked with Jairus, the crowd followed them, including a woman with a disease.

What was her disease and how was her condition (v.25-26)?

Why did she try to touch Jesus’ garment (v.27-28)?

What happened to her after she touched Jesus’ garment (v.29)?

Did Jesus know this (v.30)?

Many people were touching Jesus in the crowd. The woman’s touch was a different touch than the other people’s touch. Jesus asked the crowd who touched him.

How did his disciples respond to his question (v.31)?

What did the woman do as Jesus was looking around among the crowd (v.32-33)?

What did Jesus say to her (v.34)?

The woman’s touch was a touch with faith. She had faith in Jesus. Jesus healed her because of her faith in him. Jesus knew that she touched her, just as he knew her unseen faith in him. He healed her by his power. He made her well. It is more likely that she received both physical healing and spiritual healing from Jesus. He saved her from her sins, made her spiritually well, and gave her spiritual peace because she put her faith in him.

Who came to Jairus while Jesus was still speaking? What news did they bring to Jairus (v.35)?

What did Jesus say to Jairus (v.36)? What might Jairus' feeling be at this time?

What did Jesus see when he arrived at Jairus' house (v.38)?

What did Jesus say to them (v.39)?

What was their reaction to this? What did Jesus do afterwards (v.40-41)?

How did Jesus bring the child back to life (v.41)?

How did the child's parents and Jesus' disciples react to this miracle (v.42)?

What did Jesus ask of them (v.43)?

Read Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his hometown, Nazareth, and taught in the synagogue.

What did the people think about Jesus' teaching (v.2)?

What did they say to one another (v.2-3)?

Joseph, Jesus' father, was a carpenter, and so was Jesus. He had most likely passed away, since his name was not mentioned. Joseph and Mary had natural children who were Jesus' siblings.

What did Jesus say to them (v.4)?

The people took offense at Jesus who grew up in their town. They knew Jesus' upbringing, family, and relatives. They could not honor Jesus as a prophet and teacher of God. They had prejudices against him.

Did Jesus do a lot of miraculous works in his hometown (v.5)? Why (v.6)?

Jesus did not do a lot of mighty works because of the people's unbelief, not because he had no power. Jesus left Nazareth and went to the surrounding villages to teach. Today, many Jews still do not believe in Jesus, while people from many nations have come to Jesus by faith, believing in him and trusting their lives to him. They experience spiritual and mighty works of Jesus in their lives.

Lesson 6 – “He Has Done All Things Well.”

Read Mark 7:31-37

Who was brought to Jesus when he arrived in the region of the Decapolis (v.31-32)?

What did the people ask of Jesus (v.32)?

The people who brought the man most likely followed Jesus as he took him aside from the crowd (v.33).

What might be the reason Jesus took him aside from the crowd privately before he healed him?

How did Jesus heal him (v.33-34)?

Jesus looked up to heaven and sighed because of his sympathy to the man. There was sadness in Jesus' heart. Jesus often grieved because of the consequence of sin that has brought much pain and suffering to this world. The reason he came to this world is to end our pain and suffering by delivering us from the power of sin and evil. Spiritually speaking, Jesus has come to bring healing and to give a new life to those who believe and put their faith in him, trusting and surrendering their lives to him. When Jesus returns, he will bring a new world for his people—heaven on earth—and end all their pain and suffering.

What happened to the man after Jesus healed him (v.35)?

What did Jesus charge those who were around and saw him healing the man (v.36)?

Did they do what Jesus charged them to do (v.36)?

What was their reaction seeing Jesus' miraculous healing and what did they say to one another (v.37)?

Read Mark 8:1-10

There was a great crowd came to see Jesus and to listen to his teaching. Jesus had compassion on them and called his disciples to address a situation.

What concern did Jesus have for the crowd (v.2-3)?

How did Jesus' disciples respond to his concern (v.4)?

What question did Jesus ask them and what was their answer (v.5)?

What did Jesus ask the crowd to do (v.6)?

What did Jesus do with the seven loaves of bread (v.6)?

Jesus gave thanks to God for the bread. As a man, Jesus modeled prayer for us, thanking God for the provision he provides us. As the Son of God, Jesus multiplied the bread with his divine power to feed the crowd.

What else did they have besides the seven loaves of bread (v.7)?

What did Jesus do with the fish (v.7)?

Jesus also blessed the fish, giving thanks to God, and multiplied the fish with his divine power to feed the crowd.

How were the people after eating the bread and the fish (v.8)?

How much food did they have left over (v.8)?

How many people were there in the crowd (v.9)?

With seven loaves of bread and a few small fish, Jesus fed about four thousand people. He had compassion on them. Jesus did not want them to go home and faint on the way. He met their physical need and they were satisfied. However, Jesus was more concerned about satisfying their spiritual need—saving them from their sins—and having them to believe and put their faith in him, trusting and surrendering their lives to him. Jesus is *the true Satisfier*. He is the only one who can satisfy the deepest need of our souls.

Lesson 7 – “You are the Christ.”

Read Mark 8:27-30

Jesus continued to go to different places to bring the gospel and to teach about the kingdom of God. He brought his disciples with him. He went to the villages of Caesarea Philippi—an ancient Roman city at the foot of Mount Hermon.

What question did Jesus ask his disciples on the way to the villages of Caesarea Philippi (v.27)?

Do you think this is an important question? Why?

What did they tell Jesus (v.28)?

People were identifying Jesus with some of the great messengers of God. John the Baptist was a messenger of God who prepared the coming of Jesus to this world. He was a relative of Jesus through their mothers. Elijah was a great Old-Testament prophet who did not experience physical death. God took him up to heaven with a chariot and horses of fire.

What was the next question that Jesus asked his disciples (v.29)?

Why do you think Jesus wanted to know whether his disciples knew about his identity or not?

What was Peter’s answer (v.29)?

“Christ” is a title of Jesus. It is from the Greek word “Christos” which means “the anointed one” or “the chosen one.” The Hebrew word is “Mashiach” which is translated “Messiah.” Jesus is the Christ, because he is the promised Messiah and the anointed one, whom God has promised to send to deliver his people from the power of evil and darkness and to bring them into the kingdom of his marvelous light.

What did Jesus ask of his disciples (v.30)?

Over and over Jesus charged his disciples not to tell people about his identity as the Christ—the Son of God who came to this world. He did not want people to take him as a political leader and therefore jeopardized his mission. His mission was to sacrifice himself for the punishment of our sins as our substitute, so that we can have a new life in him by putting our faith in him and trusting our lives to him. He came to take away our guilt and shame, free us from the enslaving power of sin, and give us hope for a new life in him.

Read Mark 8:31-38

What did Jesus begin to teach his disciples about (v.31)?

The elders, the chief priests, and the scribes were the religious leaders of the community. They rejected Jesus and did not believe that he was the Christ. They did not like people following Jesus and believing in him. They considered Jesus as an opponent. Jesus told his disciples that these religious leaders would make him suffer and kill him. Jesus also said that he would rise again from the dead after three days. Here, Jesus began to foretell about his death and resurrection to his disciples.

What was Peter's reaction hearing this (v.32)?

How did Jesus respond to Peter (v.33)?

Jesus turned and looked on his disciples first before rebuking Peter. Jesus rebuked Peter and Satan at the same time. Satan was trying to influence Peter's mind and to use him to discourage Jesus for accomplishing his mission to sacrifice himself for his people. Jesus told Peter to set his minds on the things of God and not of man.

What did Jesus say to the crowd and his disciples (v.34)?

To deny ourselves means to submit our will to God's will for our lives. To take up or carry our cross means to be willing to die to ourselves—giving up our ways of living our lives—and to live for Jesus. The cross was a Roman's first-century form of punishment. Jesus would carry a cross and die on the cross. Spiritually speaking, Jesus carried our cross and died for the punishment of our sins as our substitute.

What did Jesus teach the crowd about life (v.35)?

Jesus taught the people that for one to save his life—to enter heaven and to live with God for eternity—he must be willing to give up his life for the sake of Jesus and the gospel. In other words, for us to be saved by God, we must stop trying to save ourselves and to start believing and putting our faith in Jesus, trusting and surrendering our lives to him.

What else did Jesus say to teach the crowd about life and death (v.36-37)?

What did Jesus say about those who are ashamed of him and of his words (v.38)?

Here, Jesus tells us that he will return to this world. He will return with his heavenly glory, and angels will accompany him. Jesus will take those who faithfully follow him to his heavenly kingdom. He will reject those who reject or are ashamed of him.

Lesson 8 – “This is My Beloved Son; Listen to Him.”

Read Mark 9:2-13

Where did Jesus take Peter, James, and John to (v.2)?

What happened on the mountain (v.2-3)?

To transfigure is to change in form into something more beautiful or elevated. In his transformation, Jesus revealed his divine nature and glory to his disciples.

Who suddenly appeared and talked to Jesus (v.4)?

Elijah was a great Old-Testament prophet who performed great miracles by the power of God. He did not experience physical death. God took him up to heaven with a chariot and horses of fire. Moses was a great Old-Testament prophet and a leader of the nation of Israel. He also performed great miracles by the power of God and delivered Israel out of slavery in Egypt.

What did Peter say to Jesus (v.5)?

How did Peter, James, and John feel about seeing this wonder (v.6)?

A cloud came to enfold them all. Then there was a voice of God the Father came out of the cloud (v.7).

What did God the Father say about Jesus (v.7)?

Peter, James, and John experienced a foretaste of Christ’s kingdom and divine glory that all his people will experience when he returns and takes them to his heavenly kingdom.

What suddenly happened after the disciples heard God’s voice (v.8)?

What did Jesus charge his disciples to do as they came down the mountain (v.9)?

What did they question themselves about (v.10)?

What question did they ask Jesus (v.11)?

What was Jesus' answer to them (v.12-13)?

When Jesus told his disciples that Elijah had come, he was speaking of John the Baptist. John was not Elijah in literal sense, but like Elijah, he was empowered by the Holy Spirit in his work. John prepared the coming of Jesus and called people to repent of their sins. Like Elijah, John was persecuted as God's messenger. He was even put to death by King Herod (Mark 6:14-29).

Read Mark 9:14-29

What did Jesus see when he came down from the mountain to the rest of his disciples (14)?

How did the crowd react when they saw Jesus (v.15)?

What situation was brought to Jesus (16-18)?

What did Jesus say to his disciples (v.19)?

What did the evil spirit do to the boy when he was brought to Jesus (v.20)?

How long had the boy been possessed by the evil spirit (v.21)?

What did the father of the boy ask of Jesus (v.22)?

How did Jesus respond to his statement (v.23)?

How did he react to Jesus' response (v.24)?

How did Jesus heal the boy from the evil spirit (v.25-27)?

The evil spirit cried out after Jesus commanded him to come out of the boy. Jesus demonstrated his authority over the evil spirit. Jesus took the boy's hand and helped him stand up.

What question did the disciples ask Jesus and what was his answer to them (v.28-29)?

There are particular situations caused by evil power that God wants us to pray persistently and to trust in him to deliver us from those situations.

Lesson 9 – “Hosanna! Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord!”

Read Mark 10:46-52

Who was sitting by the road side as Jesus, his disciples, and a great crowd who followed him were leaving Jericho (v.46)?

What did the blind beggar ask of Jesus (v.47)?

“Son of David” is a title for the Messiah—the promised Savior—whom God has promised to deliver his people from the enslaving power of sin and evil. By calling Jesus the Son of David, Bartimaeus believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Bartimaeus was blind and had never seen Jesus but had heard of him and believed in him. He asked Jesus to have mercy on him—to heal his blindness.

What did the people do to him as he was crying out loud (v.48)?

How did he respond to them (v.48)?

What did Jesus do as he heard him crying out loud (v.49)?

How did Bartimaeus respond as he heard people calling him to come to Jesus (v.50)?

What did Bartimaeus ask of Jesus (v.51)?

What did Jesus say to him? How did Jesus heal him (v.52)?

“Go your way” means “your request is granted.” Jesus healed Bartimaeus because of his faith. In contrast to Bartimaeus’ faith in Jesus, many people in the crowd who followed Jesus did not believe he was the promised Messiah. They followed Jesus with different reasons. Some simply wanted to see Jesus performed miracles.

Read Mark 11:1-11

Jesus planned to go to the city of Jerusalem—the capital of Israel—to accomplish his mission by sacrificing himself for the punishment of our sins as our substitute. He would be arrested and crucified by the religious leaders.

What did Jesus ask two of his disciples to do (v.2)?

What should they say if anyone ask them about why they were doing that (v.3)?

Did they find a colt (a young male donkey) as Jesus said (v.4)?

Did anyone ask them why they were untying the colt (v.5)?

Did the people let them take the colt (v.6)?

The disciples brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. The Old-Testament Prophet Zechariah prophesied that the Messiah would come as a righteous and humble king riding on a colt to bring salvation to his people (Zechariah 9:9). Jesus was fulfilling this prophecy (v.7).

What did people do as Jesus riding the colt (v.8)?

What were they shouting as they followed Jesus entering Jerusalem (v.9-10)?

David was a great king of Israel and the Messiah was prophesied to be a descendant of him. Jesus is a descendant of King David. The people were shouting that Jesus would establish a new kingdom, the kingdom of the Messiah. Many of them did not understand that Jesus came to establish a spiritual kingdom—his church—and not a physical kingdom. He will establish a physical kingdom for his people when he returns at the end of the world.

Where did Jesus go in Jerusalem (v.11)?

Jesus looked around, surveying the temple—the place of worship. As the time was late, he left the city of Jerusalem and stayed in Bethany—a small town outside of Jerusalem—with his twelve disciples. The crowd who followed Jesus might feel disappointed as he did not do anything spectacular or show signs to establish a new physical kingdom on his first day in the capital city. Jesus began his ministry in Jerusalem by cleansing the temple on the next day, so that people from all nations could worship God.

Lesson 10 – “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Read Mark 15:1-15

Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, betrayed Jesus. He conspired with the religious leaders (chief priests, elders, and scribes) to hand Jesus over to them. While Jesus and his disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemane in the night, the religious leaders sent soldiers to arrest him.

What did the religious leaders do to Jesus on the next morning (v.1)?

Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea. The religious leaders brought Jesus to Pilate in order to get a death sentence for Jesus. During the Roman’s occupation, only a Roman official could give a death sentence. The Jews were not allowed to give the death penalty in their own court.

What was Pilate’s question to Jesus and what was Jesus’ answer to him (v.2)?

How did Jesus respond to the many charges brought against him (v.3-5)?

What was the custom that Pilate used to do (v.6)?

“The feast” refers to the Passover Feast to celebrate the deliverance of the Jews out of Egypt. Pilate used to release and give amnesty to a prisoner chosen by the people in order to please them.

What was the name of a murderer who was among the prisoners (v.7)?

What was Pilate’s question to the crowd when they were asking him to release a prisoner (v.8-9)?

Why did Pilate ask that (v.10)?

How did the chief priests react to Pilate’s question (v.11)?

How did Pilate respond to the chief priests and the crowd (v.12)?

What did they want Pilate to do to Jesus (v.13)?

How did Pilate reason with the crowd and attempt to release Jesus (v.14)?

How did the crowd respond to him (v.14)?

What did Pilate finally do and what was his reason (v.15)?

Pilate found no evidences to crucify Jesus. He knew it was a religious matter between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. He wanted to release Jesus and to please the Jews at the same time. He had the authority to release Jesus—an innocent man. Ironically, he chose to satisfy the crowd by delivering Jesus to be crucified.

Read Mark 15:16-20

What did the soldiers do after Pilate giving them the order to crucify Jesus (v.16)?

How did they humiliate Jesus (v.17)?

What did they say to mock him (v.18)?

A purple cloak was expensive and a mark of royalty or high rank. The soldiers put on Jesus a purple cloak and a crown of thorns to ridicule him. Then they mocked him by saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” “Hail” is a form of salutation. The soldiers mocked Jesus as if it was his coronation day as a king.

What else did the soldiers do to torture Jesus (v.19)?

What did they do to Jesus after mocking him (v.20)?

Is Jesus the King of the Jews? Yes, he is. Jesus is not only the King of the Jews but is also the King of all people. He is the Creator of the universe. He is the Son of God who loves us so much. He came to sacrifice himself to die on the cross for the punishment of our sins as our substitute. He came to take away our sins, guilt, and shame, so that by believing and putting our faith in him, trusting and surrendering our lives to him, we may receive his righteousness that takes away our sins, guilt, and shame. In Jesus, each of us become a new person and have a new life.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

Lesson 11 – “Truly This Man Was the Son of God!”

Read Mark 15:21-32

Whom did the soldiers compel to carry Jesus' cross (v.21)?

The Romans would force a condemned man to carry his cross beam weighing thirty to forty pounds. The soldiers compelled a passerby, Simon, because Jesus was too weak to carry his cross after being tortured. Mark recorded that Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus. This is very important because Mark provided this detail information to prove the accuracy of his account. He was indirectly telling his readers that they could check the truth with Alexander and Rufus, who were still alive when he wrote this.

Where did the soldiers bring Jesus to? What is the meaning of that place (v.22)?

What did they offer Jesus to drink? Did Jesus drink it (v.23)?

Wine mixed with myrrh was used to reduce pain—a pain killer. Jesus refused to drink it, because he wanted to bear his suffering in full.

What did the soldiers do with Jesus' garments after they crucified him (v.24)?

Jesus was crucified without clothing. The crucifixion was meant to humiliate the condemned man.

At what time was Jesus crucified (v.25)?

Ancient Jews used the sun as their time. The first hour is 6 a.m. our time. The third hour is 9 a.m.

What inscription did they put for Jesus (v.26)?

The inscription was usually nailed on the cross above the head of a crucified man.

Who else were crucified with Jesus (v.27)?

What did the people who passed by say to mock Jesus (v.29-30)?

What did the chief priests and the scribes say to mock Jesus (v.31-32)?

Jesus was not angry to the people who mocked him. He forgave them.

Read Mark 15:33-41

What happened from the sixth hour to the ninth hour (v.33)?

What did Jesus cry with a loud voice at the ninth hour (v.34)?

Jesus was quoting and fulfilling Psalm 22:1, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Even when he was suffering and dying, Jesus still quoted scripture. His mind was saturated with God’s word. Jesus’ agony was immeasurable. He was being separated from God the Father, whom he had a very close relationship with. We suffer when we are separated from our loved ones. The closer the relationship we have with someone, the deeper the suffering is when we are separated from that person.

What did some of the bystanders think when Jesus cried with a loud voice (v.35)?

Someone tried to give Jesus sour wine—wine that almost become vinegar—to prolong his life. They did not want Jesus to die soon and wanted to give more time to see if Elijah would come. They thought Jesus was calling Elijah. Jesus soon died and breathed his last breath (v.36-37).

What happened to the Temple of Jerusalem when Jesus died (v.38)?

“The curtain” is the divider between the holy place and the holiest place, where only a high priest can enter in on behalf of the people as a mediator between them and God. The curtain was massive and heavy. The curtain was supernaturally torn from top to bottom, because Jesus has become the new High Priest for his people.

What did a centurion—a Roman commander of a hundred soldiers—say about Jesus after watching him died (v.39)?

Who were some of the women witnessing Jesus’ death from a distance (v.40)?

Mark recorded these women as witnesses to whom his readers could check the truth. Many women followed Jesus and helped him in his ministry. These women stayed to see the crucifixion of Jesus, while the apostles and other male disciples were too afraid and had fled (v.41).

Jesus came to this world to sacrifice himself for the punishment of our sins as our substitute. He has accomplished his mission. He died for us. He took the death we deserve, so that we can have a new life in him by believing and putting our faith in him, trusting and surrendering our lives to him.

Jesus died and would be buried. He had one more mission to accomplish for us—conquering death.

Lesson 12 – “He Has Risen; He is Not Here.”

Read Mark 15:42-47

Friday was “the day of Preparation” for the Jews to prepare for Sabbath. Sabbath was a holy day for the Jews. God told them to keep the Sabbath holy as a day of worship and rest from work. Sabbath was observed on Saturday until Jesus rose from the dead which was on Sunday. Since then, Christians have worshiped God together on Sundays (v.42).

Who went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus? Who was he (v.43)?

By asking for Jesus’ body, Joseph was in opposition with other religious leaders and members of the Sanhedrin council. He could lose his religious career and reputation that he had achieved. Joseph had been following Jesus in secret. Now, he became a courageous follower of Jesus.

How did Pilate respond to Joseph’s request (v.44)?

A crucified man died slowly on the cross. Pilate was surprised that Jesus died within several hours.

Did Pilate give Jesus’ body to Joseph (v.45)?

What did Joseph do with Jesus’ body (v.46)?

Who saw where Jesus’ body was laid (v.47)?

Read Mark 16:1-8

Who went to Jesus’ tomb to anoint his body on Sunday morning—the first day of the week (v.1-2)?

What were they discussing on the way to Jesus’ tomb (v.3)?

What did they see when they arrived at Jesus’ tomb (v.4)?

What did they see inside the tomb (v.5)?

They were alarmed and frightened because the young man was an angel.

What did the angel say to them (v.6)?

Jesus rose from the dead because he is God. He defeated death. Death has no power over him. Jesus has conquered death for us. His victory over death is also our victory if we are in union with him—having a personal covenant relationship with him.

What message did the angel have for Jesus' disciples (v.7)?

What did the women do after seeing the angel? Why (v.8)?

Read Mark 16:9-20

Whom did Jesus appear first to (v.9)?

Did Jesus' disciples believe her when she told them that Jesus was alive (v.10-11)?

Jesus also appeared to two of his disciples as they were walking into the country. The two disciples could not recognize Jesus because he had "another form"—a new glorified and imperishable body which was different from his previous body. They told the other disciples, but they did not believe them (v.12-13).

What did Jesus do to the eleven disciples (the apostles) when he appeared to them (v.14)?

What instruction did Jesus give them to do? Why do you think Jesus gave that instruction (v.15)?

What will happen to those who believe the gospel and to those who do not (v.16)?

To believe in the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ—means to believe that Jesus is the Son of God who has sacrificed himself and died on the cross for the punishment of our sins as our substitute, and to put our faith in him alone as our Lord and Savior, trusting and surrendering our lives to him.

What signs would accompany the apostles as they went and proclaimed the gospel (v.17-18)?

Where did Jesus go after he had spoken to his apostles (v.19)?

Jesus "sat down at the right hand of God" means he has finished his mission to redeem his people. He is now governing the universe with the Father and mediating for his people as their Great High Priest.

How did Jesus work together with his apostles as they went and proclaimed the gospel (v.20)?

Jesus still does supernatural work in our lives, as we live our lives for his gospel and glory.

Resources

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