

Mark

1 – Mark 1:1-13—Jesus “Beginning”

Remind you of Genesis? Why would Mark begin this way? Note throughout Mark the “messianic secret” revealed that Jesus is “the Son of God” (note already in v. 11). Why didn’t Mark begin with the birth of Jesus? Why begin with a quote from Isaiah? What is the message with beginning Jesus’ ministry with His baptism and temptation? Only Mark records “the wild animals” (v.13) – what is the message?

2 – Mark 1:14-45—“The Time Has Come”

Why mention John’s imprisonment? (compare v.14-15 with 1:4). Note: “the time” in v.15 is a special word, “Kairos” – meaning “the precise time”. What is Jesus’ invitation and promise? Note throughout Mark “at once”, “immediately”, “without delay” – all translate the Greek word used 47 times in this short Gospel! Why the urgency? Why the emphasis on teaching “with authority” / driving out demons and healing the sick? Why wouldn’t Jesus let the demons speak nor the healed leper? (v.34, 44) Already in Ch. 1 – what do we know about the people’s reaction to Jesus? (v.45)

3 – Mark 2:1-3:12—Jesus Is Lord!

What does it mean “Jesus saw their faith”? (v.5) The healing was secondary – what was always primary in Jesus’ ministry? Note the messianic secret in 2:10, 28, 3:11-12. What “teaching” did Jesus do in the calling of Levi (Matthew)? What were Jesus’ teachings about fasting and the Sabbath? What is already revealed in 3:6? Why also mention the Herodians with the Pharisees?

4 – Mark 3:13-4:34—The 12 And Parables

Why 12 apostles? Why mention Simon (Peter) as the first? In this 1st parable recorded in Mark – note also the “unforgivable sin” (3:28-29) What does Jesus teach about His “family”? Why are the parables of the Sower and the Lamp on a stand and the Mustard Seed recorded in Matt. and Luke and not the parable of the growing seed? Why did Jesus teach in parables? (4:33-34)

5 – Mark 4:35-5:43—On The “Other Side” And Back

How could Jesus sleep through such a storm? What does Jesus mean “do you still have no faith”? (Note: “who is this?” – the messianic secret – also 5:7) Why were the disciples “terrified” (4:41); the people afraid and amazed (5:15, 20) and the healed woman “trembling with fear” (15:33) and Jesus says, “Don’t be afraid”? (5:36) Why does Mark mention the Decapolis? (5:20; look ahead to 7:31) What does it mean “power went out from Jesus” (5:30)? What does Jesus mean “your faith has healed you”? (5:34; review 2:5 and look ahead to 10:52) Why tell the parents not to tell anyone but give the little girl something to eat? (5:43)

6 – Mark 6:1-29—Prophet(S) Without Honor

What is the difference between being “amazed” (6:2) and truly believing? Note the irony of “amazed” in 6:2 and 6. Why the contrast at this time with the sending out of the 12 and John’s death? Why did Herod want to protect John and liked to listen to him? (v.20) Why is it so hard to do the right thing?

7 – Mark 6:30-7:23—Miracles On Land And Sea

What does it mean to be “like sheep without a shepherd”? How are people like this today? Why did Jesus tell His disciples “you give them something to eat”? (v.37 – see again 6:12-13) In an impossible situation – what is one of the first questions? (v.38) Why does Mark record for us the number of 5,000? Recall 4:35-41 with 6:45-52 – and note the commentary in 6:52. Why could those who touched Jesus be healed? (6:56) What a contrast with the “your faith has made you well” and now the Pharisees in Ch. 7! What would we expect of the Pharisees? What does this teach us today? “Create in me a clean heart, O God...”

8 – Mark 7:24-37—Faith In Tyre And Decapolis

Why didn’t Jesus want anyone to know where He was? Why did Jesus answer His mother as He did? Why did Jesus drive out the demon from her daughter, because she “asked nicely”? What is “the rest of the story” of this woman and her daughter? Was there also a husband? How did the people in these Gentile cities know about Jesus? What is so ironic about Jesus’ ministry in these Gentile cities compared to His hometown and Jewish places?

9 – Mark 8:1-26—Bread And Yeast

How is this different from 6:30? What are the similarities? What is “the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod”? Note the question Jesus asks about “eyes to see and ears to hear”! Why the 2-stage healing of the blind man at Bethsaida? Why was the healed man not to go into the city?

10 – Mark 8:27–9:13—Jesus Is The Christ

After all this healing of blindness, and farther away from Jerusalem – why does Jesus question His disciples? Why does Jesus want His disciples not to tell anyone about Him? How did Peter get the answer right? How did he get it wrong? What does it mean to “follow Jesus”? How did three of the disciples see “the kingdom come with power”? Why Elijah and Moses? Again, with the healings of the deaf, why is the Father’s message, “Listen to Him”? Why did Jesus command His disciples not to tell anyone about this until the Son of Man had risen from the dead?

11 – Mark 9:14-32—True Greatness

What happened when they came down from the mountain? Why did this happen? Why didn’t Jesus immediately heal the boy? Note the wonderful prayer in v.24. Why couldn’t the disciples drive out the demon? How is your prayer life? Why would the disciples be afraid to ask Jesus what He meant? Are there times that we do too? Why?

12 – Mark 9:33-50—In Jesus’ Name

This was probably Peter’s house in Capernaum – what would have been a reason for the arguing of the disciples? What does it mean to “welcome a little child in Jesus’ name”? What’s the irony in the “tattle-tale” (v.38)? What’s the “reward” of giving a cup of cold water in Jesus’ name? Why such a strict warning against causing someone to sin? What does it mean to be “salted with fire”? (see [Leviticus 2:13](#)) Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth” (Matt. 5:13) – so how do we “lose our saltiness”?

13 – Mark 10:1-16—Divorce And Children

What was behind the question asked by the Pharisees? What is Jesus’ teaching on divorce? Why is divorce so “easy” today? With the teaching on divorce, how does “hindering little children” relate? How do “little children receive the kingdom of God”? (How do they receive almost everything?) How does that often change as they grow up? Why is this?

14 – Mark 10:17-31—Rich Young Ruler

What was the young ruler really asking? How does Jesus warn this young man by his answer in v.18? Note that Jesus “looked at him and loved him”! But what did the young man love more? What about us? What is the truth about the camel and needle? Are we “rich”? How do we “enter the kingdom of God” / impossible for us but possible with God? What does Jesus mean by “the first will be last and the last first”?

15 – Mark 10:32-52—Blind Eyes

Why does Mark record “Jesus leading the way”? (v.32) Why were the disciples astonished and the people afraid? Why didn’t the disciples really hear Jesus? What if Jesus HAD given James and John what they asked? (Note that v.45 is the key verse for Mark.) What’s the significance of blind Bartimaeus in contrast to Jesus’ own disciples? Why did Jesus ask him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” What does it mean that he “followed Jesus”?

16 – Mark 11:1-19—Palm Sunday

Why a “colt which no one has ever ridden”? What was the message of cloaks on the road and the words of [Psalm 118](#)? Why did Jesus clear the Temple? What would He do in church today? The fig tree was a symbol for Israel – What’s the message of Jesus’ curse on the unfruitful fig tree? (look ahead to v.20-26) How does this fit in with the Temple and its cleansing? Note again – the religious leaders “feared Him” and the whole crowd was “amazed at His teaching.” How do people respond to Jesus today?

17 – Mark 11:20–12:44—Conflict Of Leaders

Compare v.22 with 10:52 – what is God’s message for us? What is God’s message to us about prayer? What is the message about “authority”? Since the leaders wanted to kill Jesus, why didn’t they when Jesus was openly in the Temple teaching – especially parables that they knew were against them? (Note: like the fig tree, the vineyard was a symbol for Israel – God’s chosen people.) Pharisees and Herodians were political opposites – but what are they seeking together? How is this also true of opposite political parties today? What was so very ridiculous about the question posed by the Sadducees? How was it that the teacher of the law “was not far from the kingdom of God”? (v.34) Why did it “delight” the crowd that Jesus questioned the leaders about David and the Son of David? What lesson does Jesus teach with the Widow’s offering? Why did this happen on Tuesday of Holy Week?

18 – Mark 13—Signs Of The End Of The Age

What wrong idea did the Jews have about Herod’s Temple in Jesus’ day? What did Jesus teach them? What wrong idea do Christians still have today? What does Jesus teach us? Why is Jesus warning about “watch out” / “be on guard” so many times in this chapter? What is the only way to “stand firm to the end” / part of the “elect”? What is the “lesson from the fig tree”? (refer back to Ch. 11 also!) How are we to “watch”?

19 – Mark 14:1-11—Jesus’ Anointed

What is so ironic about when Jesus was arrested and executed? (How did the Passover always point to Jesus?) Why the concern of the people rioting? How is this similar to the rebuke of Peter in Ch. 8? Why did the woman pour perfume on Jesus’ feet? Why did Jesus say she did it? What irony about “money” – v.5 and v.11! what does this teach us today? What is ironic about “an opportunity” in v.11? What “opportunities” do we have today?

20 – Mark 14:12-15:47—Arrest, Trial And Death

Why does Mark record about “customary to sacrifice the Passover Lamb”? Was the “man” in v.13, John Mark, the author of this Gospel? (see also [Acts 12:12](#)) How many of the disciples ended up “betraying” Jesus in one way or another? What is the message of “dipping bread in the same bowl”? Why the repetition of “I tell you the truth”? (Note 14:28 for 16:7.) Review again Jesus’ teaching in Ch. 13 with “Stay here and keep watch” 14:34. Why call Peter “Simon” in 14:37? Which disciple had the sword? How do you know? Who was “the young man who fled naked”? (only recorded here [keep reading – so many more questions could be asked!])

21 – Mark 16—Resurrection

Why only 8 verses for the resurrection? Why end the Gospel with “trembling and bewildered... they were afraid”? (Note this recurring theme throughout this Gospel – and Christians under persecution who would’ve been some of the first recipients.) Why would someone have possibly added verses 9-20? Why are they included in our canon of Scripture?

22 – 1 Peter 1:1-12—Praise To God

to whom is Peter writing? Why these titles? How does Peter note the Trinity? Why “new birth”? What is the “living hope”? How is our “inheritance kept in heaven”? What is the purpose of “grief” and “all kinds of trials”? How is our salvation already ours now? How is it still to be received? Note the words: “grace”, “peace”, “mercy”, “faith”. How are we blessed greater than the angels?