

Bible Discussion Groups

Gospel of Mark

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Mark 1:1-8

0. What two characters are introduced? What do these verses say about Jesus? John?
0. What was unusual about John? How did the people respond?
0. How would you react to such a scene? Why did they respond?
0. What does "gospel" mean? Why do people need this good news?

Mark 1:9-13

0. Why does Jesus have John baptize him?
0. What aspects of verses 10 and 11 impress you? Why?
0. What was the purpose of Jesus' testing? How does God test us?

Mark 1: 14-20

3. What was it about Jesus that caused these first disciples to follow Jesus?
3. How does Jesus ask us to follow Him today?

Mark 1:21-28

4. What was unique about Jesus' teaching?
4. If we only had these verses what could we know about evil spirits?
4. What do YOU think was the purpose of this miracle (exorcism)?

Mark 1:29-34

0. What elements in vss 29-31 impress you?
0. Why do you think Jesus prohibits the evil spirits from revealing His identity? (Compare with 1:25.)

Mark 1:35-39

2. What is Jesus teaching us by His example for prayer?
2. How do you think the disciples viewed Jesus at this point in their walk with Him? How does this parallel a new Christian experience?

Mark 1: 40-45

- 0. What elements of the healing of this leper seem significant to you: a) emotionally; b) spiritually and doctrinally?**
- 0. How was the leper's recounting of the events a "testimony"? How are Jesus instructions 180 degrees different than His instructions to Christians today (ie. The Great Commission)?**

SUMMARY: CHAPTER ONE

- 3. List the attributes of Christ gleaned from Chapter 1.**
- 3. What is the basis of Jesus' popularity thus far?**

Mark 2: 1-12

- 0. How does Jesus respond to this interruption? What catches His attention? How should we view interruptions?**
- 0. What about verses strikes you as unusual?**
- 0. What else do we learn about Jesus in this section. Is Jesus claiming to be God?**
- 0. Again what relation do Jesus' miracles have to His message?**

Mark 2: 13-17

- 2. How were tax collectors viewed in Jesus' day? Suppose you are Jesus' manager would you advise him to select Levi as a disciple? What does Jesus' selection tell us?**
- 2. Who are the "sinners" of verse 15? Who might be classified today as similar to the "tax gatherers and sinners"? How would you evaluate the churches outreach to these people today?**
- 2. Why were the Pharisees offended?**
- 2. Explain Jesus' words in verse 17.**

Mark 2: 18-22

- 0. What is the point of Jesus' teaching about the lack of fasting among His disciples?**
- 0. What is the point of the contrast of the new and the old in Jesus' two illustrations in vss. 21-22?**

Mark 3:1-12

- 2. Who is the "they" of verse 2? What does this verse tell YOU about the Pharisees?**

2. Why do you think there is no answer to Jesus' question in verse 4?
2. Verse 5 indicates Jesus was angry. Was this sin? Why or why not?
2. What should make us angry? When is anger sin?
2. What does "hardness of heart" mean? How was it manifest in the Pharisees?
2. Who are the Herodians? Were they normally on good terms with the Pharisees? Why could they agree on a plot against Jesus?
2. Contrast the people's response to Jesus against that of the Pharisees in the previous verses. Does Christ receive a similar contrasting response today? How?

Mark 3:13-19

0. If you had to choose 12 men to launch a world-wide crusade that
0. would produce fruit for hundreds of years, what type people would you select? How does Jesus' choice differ from yours?
0. How does this passage deal with the excuse "I'm nothing special, God never use me"?
0. Read Luke 6:12. What additional bit of information does Luke give us?
0. How is this important?
0. Why is the phrase "that they might be with Him" very significant?
0. One theory has the motto "To Know Him, and to make Him known. How does this capture the thought of this passage?
0. Why do you suppose Jesus selected Judas among the twelve?

Mark 3:20-30

2. What charges are brought against Jesus?
2. Do you think those making them really felt they were legitimate?
2. If not, why did they make them?
2. What is a parable? How does Jesus illustrate that the phrase, "How can Satan cast out Satan to be foolish?"
2. Turn to Isaiah 49:24, 25. How does this relate to and explain Jesus' words in verse 26? Who or what's the "Strong man", "Strong Man's property", "One who binds Strong man"?
2. What is meant by "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? Who was it spoken to?
2. What had they just done? How would you respond to one who was afraid that he/she had committed the unpardonable sin?

Mark 3:31-35

0. What is the point of Jesus' words in verses 34 and 35? Is this a violation of the command "Honor thy fathers and mothers"?
0. What parallels can you think of between a human family and the family of God?

Mark 4: 1-10

- 2. What is the setting and who is the audience for this parable? What titles might we give to this parable?**
- 2. What four types of soils are mentioned in the parable? Which one alone produced fruit? What was the problem with the other three? What happened to the seed in each case?**

Mark 4:10-20

- 0. Who is the audience for the explanation of this parable? What questions do Jesus' words in vs 11 and 12 bring to your mind?**
- 0. Read Matthew 13:10-17. What is the purpose of parables according to these verses?**
- 0. What prevents the production of a crop in Jesus' explanation of the first three soils? Was the seed any different?**
- 0. What is the point of the parable? How does this relate to the historical situation in which it was given: rejection by some; shallow interest in some; discipleship in others?**
- 0. What application does this parable have for us today?**

Mark 4:21-34

- 2. Jesus' audience heard these parables rather than reading and studying them. Imagine yourself in the crowd, as you listen, what is your reaction? How would you describe what you heard to a friend who was not there?**
- 2. What do you think Jesus means by "If any man has ears to hear, let him hear?"**
- 2. Read 4:35. What points from these parables do you think Jesus explained in detail privately?**

Mark 5:1-20

- 0. Name all the people who observed or were a part of this scene. How did each react?**
- 0. What things do you discover about evil (unclean) spirits?**
- 0. Compare the reactions of those who heard the herdsmen's version of what happened, to the reactions of those who heard the healed man's story. Why such a difference?**

Mark 5:21-24a

7. Who was Jairus? What was his need?
7. If you had been Jairus, do you think you would have come to Jesus?

Mark 5:24b - 34

0. Who was this woman? What was her need?
0. Have you ever taken a similar need to Jesus in prayer? What happened?
0. Why do you think Jesus stopped and accentuated what had happened?
0. What could the woman learn from the situation?
0. Is there something you could learn from this?

Mark 5:35 - 43

8. How did Jesus treat Jairus when he first approached Jesus? When his daughter was raised from the dead?
8. How did Jesus handle the mourners? Have you ever been laughed at or ridiculed? How did Jesus react under these circumstances?
8. What do you learn about Jesus' character as you see Him in this situation?
8. Think back over this chapter, is there a verse or two that you think sums up the main lessons in this chapter?

Mark 6:1-6

0. Tell all that you can about Jesus' earlier life and family background.
0. How did the people in Jesus' hometown feel about Him? How did He feel about them?
0. Why do you think Jesus' statement in verse 4 is true?

Mark 6:7-13

7. What instructions were the disciples given before this journey?
7. What lessons might they have learned?
7. Would you have liked to be sent out on a journey like this?

Mark 6:14-29

0. What kind of a man was Herod?
0. If you had to describe Herodias with two or three words, what would they be? What about her daughter?
0. Can you see how any good could come out of a situation like this?

Mark 6:30-44

0. What was Jesus' intention for the disciples when they returned from their journey? Why do you think this is important?
0. Why were their plans changed? Have you felt about a person or group of people like Jesus felt in verse 34?
0. What do you learn about Jesus' character in this passage?

Mark 6:45-52

0. How do you think you would have reacted if you were with the disciples and saw Jesus on the water?
0. What would you have done when He spoke? How would you have felt when the wind ceased? What would you have been thinking through all this?
0. What can you learn from this incident? Are there any practical lessons you could apply this week?

Mark 6:53-56

0. What do you learn about these people?
0. Would you like to be like them? Explain.

Mark 7:1-23

4. What gives rise to the Pharisee/s question in verse 5? What is their point in asking it?
4. How do the Pharisees view themselves? Jesus and His disciples?
4. What is their view of spiritual maturity?
4. How does the passage cited by Jesus clarify the real issue at hand?
4. How does Jesus' example in verses 10-13 substantiate Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees?
4. What is the point of Jesus' parable? How does it answer the Pharisee/s issue? The real issue?
4. Take one of the evils mentioned and explain how it comes from within the person.
4. John Flavel wrote a book entitled, "The Keeping of the Heart." How do we keep our heart pure?
4. Are traditions necessarily wrong? When do they become wrong?
4. How were the Pharisees legalistic?

Mark 7: 24-30

- 0. Locate Tyre and Sidon on the map. (This was Jesus' only trip out of truly Jewish land.)**
- 0. What do we know about this woman?**
- 0. Is Jesus being rude to her at first? Explain (Read paragraph passage Matthew 15:21-28).**
- 0. What is impressive about this woman?**
- 0. How does Jesus' delay in answering her request bring out these positive qualities?**

Mark 7:31-37

- 4. Locate the Dacapolis region.**
- 4. Which concerned Jesus most, meeting the man/s need or gaining a reputation? How do you know?**
- 4. Describe in your own words the method Jesus used to heal the man.**
- 4. Does Jesus always use the same method? Why do we tend to focus on the method rather than the person.**
- 4. Again Jesus orders silence about this miracle. What does their response tell you about them? How do they view Jesus?**

Mark 8:1-10

- 0. What need does Jesus set before His disciples (v2-3)? How do they respond? What response should they have made?**
- 0. What lessons should the disciples have learned from this incident? (Read Mark 8:14-21)**
- 0. What do we learn about God's provision from this section?**

From this point you may write your own questions for the sections ahead....