

THE BOOK OF MARK

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LESSON 1

THE COMING OF THE SERVANT

Memory Verse: Mark 1:17

Lesson: Mark 1:1-20

- A. **THE AUTHOR.** God is the author of this book. 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” We do not accept the popular theory that Mark wrote his gospel first and that Matthew and Luke copied from him. Even if he wrote first, they did not copy from him, for to believe such a theory is to deny inspiration. 2 Peter 1:21 “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” Neither do we accept the theory that Peter dictated this book to Mark.
- B. **THE WRITER.** The penman was John Mark the son of a certain Mary, who was a sister of Barnabas – Acts 12:12. He went with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey – Acts 13:5,13. Though failing at that time, Mark later proved himself to be faithful. Colossians 4:10-11 “Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister’s son to Barnabas... if he come unto you, receive him... which have been a comfort unto me. 2 Timothy 4:11 “Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.” Like Luke he was not an apostle.
- C. **THE PURPOSE.** Mark presents Christ in a different way than do the other writers. Matthew presents Christ as the King of the Jews. Luke presents Him as the Son of Man. John presents Him as the Son of God. Mark presents Christ as the Suffering Servant of Jehovah. Mark gives no genealogy or family tree, for who cares about the genealogy of a servant. Perhaps the key verse is Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” It is a book of action, written to Romans, a people of action. “Straightway” and “immediately” are used over 40 times.

I. THE FORERUNNER OF THE SERVANT – Verses 1-8

A. The Forerunner A Messenger – Verses 1-6

- a. The beginning of the gospel – Verse 1a. John the Baptist was the first person in the New Testament to preach the gospel. This shows that John was not an O.T. prophet, but a N.T. preacher of the gospel.
- b. Though Mark presents Christ as the servant, nevertheless he makes it plain in the first verse that He is the Son of God – Verse 1b
- c. The messenger prophesied – Verses 2-3. Malachi 3:1 “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.” Isaiah 40:3 “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
- d. What Jesus said about John – Matthew 11:1-15
- e. His two-fold work, preaching and baptizing – Verse 4.
- f. Repentance was preached and it was a prerequisite for baptism. It is sad that this is an unpopular doctrine in our day.
 - i. John the Baptist preached repentance – Verses 4, 15.
 - ii. Jesus preached repentance – Mark 2:17; Matthew 4:17; 9:13; 10:20; 12:41
 - iii. The apostles preached repentance – Mark 6:12; Acts 2:38; 5:31; 2 Peter 3:9
 - iv. Paul preached repentance – Acts 17:30 19:4; 20:21
- g. Preaching and baptizing rules out infant baptism – Verse 4. You cannot preach the gospel to them, and they are unable to repent and believe. This makes it impossible to scripturally baptize them.
- h. His baptism was Christian baptism, for Christ and all His apostles were baptized by John – Verses 5a, 9; Acts 1:22
- i. Many were baptized and they confessed their sins – Verse 5b; John 5:35
- j. They were immersed in Jordan – Verse 5c (No sprinkling here).
- k. His simple clothing – Verse 6a. 2 Kings 1:8 “And they answered him, He was a hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.” What a contrast between John and most modern day preachers.
- l. His plain diet – Verse 6b. Is there anyone that would be willing to live on grasshoppers and honey, just to preach the gospel without compromise?

B. The Forerunner’s Message – Verses 7-8

- a. He exalted the mighty Christ – Verse 7a

- b. He humbled his own self – Verse 7b
- c. John baptized with water – Verse 8a
- d. Christ would baptize with the Holy Ghost – Verse 8b. He does not here mention the baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11-12), for it is a baptism of judgment. This is the work of the Son of God and not of a servant. This verse does not mean that John's baptism was unauthorized – Matthew 21:25. The New Testament Church kept on baptizing in water after Christ died and rose again. Acts 2:41; 16:37; 19:5; 22:16

II. THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF THE SERVANT – Verses 9-13

A. His Baptism – Verses 9-11

- a. Jesus vindicated John's baptism by being baptized – Verse 9a. Why would He travel 60 to 70 miles to be baptized if it makes no difference who does the baptizing?
- b. He was immersed, not sprinkled in Jordan – Verse 9b
- c. The Trinity approves His Baptism – Verses 10-11
 - i. The Son ascends out of the water – Verse 10a
 - ii. The Spirit descends upon Him – Verse 10b
 - iii. The Father speaks His approval – Verse 11a

Note: He never preached, or worked a miracle until He was baptized, and neither is anyone today authorized to preach before they are scripturally baptized. Jesus never sinned and was never lost. This should surely teach us that baptism is not for salvation!!

B. His Temptation – Verses 12-13

- a. The servant driven into the wilderness to be tested – Verse 12
- b. The length of His testing – Verse 13a. Forty is God's number of testing. It rained for 40 days. Genesis 7:4. Israel was in the wilderness for 40 years. Exodus 16:35. Moses was on the mount 40 days. Exodus 24:18. Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days. Moses spent his first 40 years in Egypt, then he spent 40 years in exile in the desert, and then he spent 40 years leading Israel to the borders of Canaan.
- c. The source of His temptation – Verse 13b
- d. The witnesses of His temptation – Verse 13c
- e. The ministers of His temptation – Verse 13d

III. THE GALILEAN MINISTRY OF THE SERVANT – Verses 14-20

A. He Preaches The Gospel – Verses 14-15

- a. His message was much like John's – Verse 14; Matthew 3:2
 - b. This is the time prophesied in the O.T. concerning the Messiah – Verse 15a; Galatians 4:4 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”
 - c. The message: repent and believe – Verse 15b; Acts 20:21
- B. He Calls Fishers of men – Verses 16-20
- a. These men were already believers in the Lord – John 1:35-42
 - b. These men had an humble occupation – Verse 16; Zechariah 4:6 “Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” 1 Corinthians 1:26-27 “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.” Moses was keeping sheep when God called him. Gideon was threshing wheat when he was called. Elisha was plowing when called to take the place of Elijah.
 - c. He called them to become fishers of men – Verse 17. All of His servants are called to do the same.
 - d. Though there was no offer of security, straightway they followed Him – Verse 18. They completely left the old life.
 - e. James and John were also busy men – Verse 19. Busy people are the kind of people God will use, not lazy slothful people — Proverbs 12:24 “The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.” Proverbs 26:15 “The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.” Romans 12:11 “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”
 - f. They too, left all to follow Him – Verse 20. Mark 10:28-30

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who is the author of this book?
2. Who is the writer of this book?
3. What is wrong with the theory that one writer copied from the other writers of the gospels?
4. Describe the family relationships of Mark.
5. Describe the 4 ways that Christ is presented in the 4 gospels.

6. What is the key verse of Mark?
7. How was Christ identified by Mark?
8. Who was the messenger sent ahead of Christ to prepare the way?
9. Where is this messenger, prophesied in the O.T.?
10. How do we know that his baptism was Christian baptism?
11. Describe the clothing and diet of the messenger.
12. How did Jesus vindicate John's baptism?
13. Describe the approval of the Trinity at Christ's baptism.
14. How did Christ's preaching compare with John's in content?
15. Who were the four apostles called and what had been their occupation?
16. What did He call them to do?
17. Recite the memory verse.

Notes

LESSON 2

THE SERVANT ABOUT HIS WORK

Memory Verse: Mark 1:22

Lesson: Mark 1:21-45

Again we call your attention to the word “straightway” which is from the Greek word “eutheos.” It is also translated “anon,” “immediately,” “forthwith,” and “as soon.” It occurs 40 times in Mark, but only 15 times in Matthew, 8 times in Luke, and 4 times in John. Keep in mind that each of these are much longer than Mark. The Servant of Jehovah was sent to do a work; He straightway began and continued until He had finished the work.

I. A DEMON CAST OUT IN THE SYNAGOGUE – Verses 21-28

A. His Teaching In The Synagogue – Verses 21-22

- a. The synagogues were a center of apostate religion. How fitting that He began His ministry in a synagogue where He was then rejected – Luke 4:16-30. His headquarters is now in Capernaum and he straightway entered a synagogue.
- b. He taught them – Verse 21. False religionists need this. **Note:** Capernaum was near the sea of Galilee and on the main road to Damascus. Many events in the ministry of Christ took place in or near this city.
- c. They were astonished at His doctrine – Verse 22a
- d. He taught with authority from God – Verse 22b
- e. The scribes had no authority so they gave their opinions and the statement of others – Verse 22c. They were like the modern day religious talk shows.

B. His Delivering Power In The Synagogue – Verses 23-28

- a. Unclean spirits were comfortable in the midst of false religion – Verse 23
- b. They were uncomfortable in the presence of Jesus – Verse 24. They knew who He was, “the Holy one of God,” and that is more than the false religionist knew. He knew who they were. They knew He would someday destroy them – 1 John 3:8; Matthew 8:29
- c. “Let us alone it cried” – Verse 24. This is the cry of those estranged from God.
- d. The two-fold rebuke of Jesus – Verse 25
 - i. Hold thy peace means to shut up. Evidently this is in reference to the proclamation concerning Christ. He did cry out in Verse 26.
 - ii. Next He commanded him to come out.

- e. The devil does not easily give up his victims – Verse 26
- f. They question concerning His doctrine and authority – Verse 27. Jesus used no incantations or magic words as do the exorcists.
- g. Immediately His fame spread – Verse 28

II. A FEVER CASE HEALED IN THE HOME – Verses 29-31

A. The House Which He Entered – Verse 29

- a. It was the house of Simon Peter.
- b. This is no doubt the dwelling place of Christ – Matthew 4-13; 9:1

B. The Woman Which He Healed – Verses 30-31

- a. She was Simon Peter’s mother-in-law. v. 30a
- b. The Catholics falsely say that Peter was the first Pope. This verse proves that Peter had a wife.
- c. Further proof he had a wife – 1 Corinthians 9:5 “Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?” Cephas is another name for Simon Peter.
- d. They immediately tell Christ of her condition – Verse 30b. She must have been very sick – Psalm 55:22 “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” I Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Philippians 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
- e. She was immediately healed-by the touch of Jesus – Verse 31a
- f. Her healing was complete, for she then served them – Verse 31b. There was no lingering weakness or disability present.

III. MANY CURED AT THE DOOR – Verses 32-34

A. The Occasion Of The Healing – Verse 32

- a. It was after the close of the Sabbath which was at sunset. Remember it was the Sabbath (Verse 21) and the Jews kept a quiet Sabbath, but now at sundown the Sabbath was over.
- b. The diseased and demon possessed brought to Him. “Brought” here means to bear a burden. They could not bear a burden on the Sabbath day, but the Sabbath ended at sundown.

B. The Place Of The Healing – Verses 33-34

- a. The whole city gathered at the door – Verse 33
- b. He healed those with many diseases – Verse 34a
- c. He cast out many devils – Verse 34b
- d. He suffered not the devils to speak for they knew Him – Verse 34c. In heaven before their fall, they knew Him, now He does not want them to reveal anything about Himself. To let devils testify of Him might have led to His being charged with being in a league with them. They knew him, but not as Saviour. James 2:19 “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

IV. HIS PRAYING AND PREACHING IN GALILEE – Verses 35-39

A. His Praying Ministry – Verses 35-37

- a. He prayed very early – Verse 35a. How can we say we have no time to pray?
- b. He prayed in a solitary place – Verse 35b
- c. He was interrupted in His praying – Verses 36-37. This happens to all who would spend time in prayer.

B. His Preaching Ministry – Verses 38-39

- a. He was ready to go into the surrounding towns – Verse 38a
- b. His supreme purpose was to preach to them – Verse 38b
- c. He preached in the synagogues – Verse 39a
- d. He cast out devils – Verse 39b

V. A LEPER CLEANSED BY THE WAYSIDE – Verses 40-45

A. The Leper Cleansed – Verses 40-42

- a. Leprosy is a picture of the sin that afflicts the lost person. Read the Law’s tests for leprosy and you will see this truth.
 - i. Like sin, leprosy is deeper than the skin – Leviticus 13:3 “And the priest shall look on the plague in the skin of the flesh: and when the hair in the plague is turned white, and the plague in sight be deeper than the skin of his flesh, it is a plague of leprosy: and the priest shall look on him, and pronounce him unclean.”
 - ii. Like sin it spreads – Leviticus 13:5-8 “And the priest shall look on him the seventh day: and, behold, if the plague in his sight be at a stay, and the plague spread not in the skin; then the priest shall shut him up seven days more: And the priest shall look on him again the seventh day: and, behold,

if the plague be somewhat dark, and the plague spread not in the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean: it is but a scab: and he shall wash his clothes, and be clean. But if the scab spread much abroad in the skin, after that he hath been seen of the priest for his cleansing, he shall be seen of the priest again: And if the priest see that, behold, the scab spreadeth in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is a leprosy.”

- iii. Like sin it defiles and isolates – Leviticus 13:44-46 “He is a leprous man, he is unclean: the priest shall pronounce him utterly unclean; his plague is in his head. And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be.”
 - iv. Like sin it renders things fit only for the fire – Leviticus 13:47, 52 “The garment also that the plague of leprosy is in, whether it be a woollen garment, or a linen garment; He shall therefore burn that garment, whether warp or woof, in woollen or in linen, or any thing of skin, wherein the plague is: for it is a fretting leprosy; it shall be burnt in the fire.”
 - v. The unsaved are spiritually in worse shape than this man was physically.
- b. The leper cries for cleansing – Verse 40. Lepers were shut out of walled cities and shunned by all, but this one comes face to face with the Saviour. Our Lord was unafraid of contamination.
 - c. The Lord moved with compassion – Verse 41. He tenderly touches the man and wills him to be clean. How long it must have been since this man had been touched by a loving hand!
 - d. The leprosy departs from him – Verse 42. Leprosy is a type of sin and only the Saviour can cleanse from sin.

B. The Leper Charged – Verses 43-45

- a. He was charged not to tell others – Verses 43-44a
- b. He was commanded to go to the priest – Verse 44b; Leviticus 14:2-20. Jesus did not ignore the law.
- c. The man consumed with a desire to tell others – Verse 45a
- d. The clamor in the city kept Jesus in the desert – Verse 45b

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the use of “straightway” in Mark?
2. Where was Capernaum located?
3. What was the difference in the way that Christ taught and the way the scribes taught?
4. What did the unclean spirit say about Jesus?
5. What two things did Christ make the unclean spirit do?
6. In whose house did Christ likely live while in Capernaum?
7. What was wrong with Simon's mother-in-law?
8. Why did the crowd wait until after sundown to come to the door in verse 32?
9. Name two things about His prayer life in verse 35.
10. How do we know that the leper was cleansed by the wayside rather than in the city?
11. Quote the memory verse.
12. Quote the key verse of the book of Mark – Mark 10:45

Notes

LESSON 3

THE SERVANT PROVES HIS DEITY

Memory Verse: Mark 2:17

Lesson: Mark 2:1-28

It is important that you memorize and remember the key verse of this book – Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

The crowds came to see the sick healed and demons cast out, but most of them were not interested in the truth that He preached.

I. THE PALSIED MAN'S SINS FORGIVEN – Verses 1-12

A. He Preached the Word – Verses 1-2

- a. The kind of noise that needs to be made – Verse 1
- b. The kind of preaching that needs to be done – Verse 2. 2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - i. No city heard more of the gospel and saw more miracles than Capernaum.
 - ii. No city received greater condemnation – Why? Because they remained in their unbelief – Matthew 11:23-24 “And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”

B. He Pronounced The Forgiveness Of Sins – Verses 3-5

- a. The unknown four carry the palsied man – Verse 3. In this case his palsy was a blessing, without it his sins might not have been forgiven.
- b. The means they used to get him in Verse 4. We too need to use every Scriptural means to get people to Jesus.
- c. The faith they had – Verse 5a. Hebrews. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
- d. His sins forgiven – Verse 5b. Palsy was not his main problem. Not all sickness is caused by sin, but evidently his was – John 9:1-3

- e. These four men are a good example of being “fishers of men.”
 - i. They had concern for the man and wanted to see him helped.
 - ii. They had faith that Jesus could help him.
 - iii. They did not simply pray about it, but they did something.
 - iv. Difficult circumstances did not defeat them.
 - v. They did not put off their work until tomorrow.
 - vi. They used their God given ingenuity.
 - vii. They did not mind the physical and financial cost.

C. He Proves His Own Identity – Verses 6-12

- a. Scribes reason out of their unbelieving hearts, rather than the Scriptures – Verse 6
- b. Only God can forgive sins – Verse 7. Forgiveness of sin was the greatest miracle. Exodus 34:6-7 “And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.” Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” Micah 7:18 “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.”
- c. Jesus perceived their wicked reasoning – Verse 8. Jesus looked into their hearts.
- d. The purpose of healing miracles – Verses 9-10. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” This miracle proves that the Son of man was the Son of God. “Son of man,” is a Messianic title, and Jesus used it about 80 times in the four gospels.
- e. The man commanded to rise, take up his bed and walk – Verses 11-12. The bed had once borne him, now it is borne by him. Palsy was a disease that showed the helpless condition of the sinner. The healing is an illustration of the healing of his soul. Psalm 103:3 “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.”
- f. The scribes were forced to admit they had never seen anything like this – Verse 12

II. THE TAX COLLECTOR CALLED – Verses 13-22

A. Jesus Calls A Preacher – Verses 13-14

- a. Jesus taught the multitude – Verse 13.
 - b. His providential passing by – Verse 14a
 - c. His providential seeing of Levi (Matthew) – Verse 14b
 - d. His providential calling – Verse 14c. Levi was a publican (tax-collector). They worked for the Romans and were hated by the Jews. He was given a new calling and a new name. “Matthew” means “gift of God.”
- B. The Sick Need A Physician – Verses 15-20
- a. The feast at Levi’s house – Verse 15
 - i. Many publicans and sinners sat with Jesus.
 - ii. They had been invited by Levi, no doubt that they might hear the Word.
 - b. The critics see Him there – Verse 16. They were spies and not invited guests. They were in the tradition of the false prophets, who cried peace, when there was not peace. Jeremiah 6:14 “They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.” Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
 - c. The sick need a physician, the well do not – Verse 17a. Jesus considered them as patients and as the great physician, He made them whole and paid the bill Himself.
 - d. Sinners called to repentance – Verse 17b. Luke 13:5 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
 - e. Jesus criticized because His disciples did not fast – Verses 18-20
- C. False Doctrine Not To Be Patched With Truth – Verses 21-22
- a. The old garment and the old bottle are apostate Judaism.
 - b. The new cloth and the new wine are true Christianity.
 - c. We are not to mix things that are essentially different. Jesus came to teach new truth, not to patch up the old.
 - d. The modern ecumenical movement is guilty of disregarding these words of Jesus. This condemns any compromising world religion of our day.
 - e. Salvation is not a patching up of one’s life; it is a complete new robe of righteousness. Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

III. THE SON OF MAN IS LORD OF THE SABBATH – Verses 23-28

A. The Danger Of Following Human Tradition – Verses 23-24

- a. The hungry disciples eat in the field on the Sabbath – Verse 23
 - i. The Law did not forbid the plucking and eating of a neighbor's corn in the field. (Corn in the Bible is wheat). Deuteronomy 23:25 "When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbour's standing corn."
 - ii. The Law forbids work on the Sabbath, not eating – Exodus 20:8-11
 - iii. There is no record that God ever gave the Sabbath to the Gentiles.
- b. The Pharisees criticize on the Sabbath day – Verse 24. The Jews had added human tradition to the Law and debated over the smallest trifles. Should an egg laid on the Sabbath be eaten. In laying the egg, the hen had worked, etc.

B. The Value Of Knowing The Scriptures – Verses 25-28

- a. When David and his men were hungry and fleeing for their life, they ate the shewbread which was reserved for the priests – Verses 25-26; 1 Samuel 21:1-6
- b. David did what was right except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. 1 Kings 15:5 "Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite."
- c. The Sabbath was never meant to be detrimental to the health and welfare of man or beast – Verse 27
- d. The Lord of the Sabbath could sweep out human tradition and he did – Verse 28. Note: "Son of man" occurs 88 times in the New Testament and always refers to Christ. Revelation 1:13 "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In what city and in what place did the healing of the palsied man take place?
2. What did Jesus later on say about this city?
3. What was this man's main problem?
4. Relate the details of how this man was brought into the presence of Jesus.

5. What did the scribes say about the forgiveness of sins?
6. What was the purpose of healing the palsied man?
7. Give the two names of the publican who was called by Jesus.
8. What did the critics say about Jesus eating at the publican's house?
9. Explain the lesson of the old garment, the new patch, the old bottle, and the new wine.
10. What did the disciples do in the field that so aroused the critics?
11. How did Jesus answer their criticism?
12. Recite the memory verse.

Notes

LESSON 4

JESUS FOUNDS HIS CHURCH

Memory Verse: Mark 3:13

Lesson: Mark 3:1-35

I. THE SERVANT DISPLAYS HIS DEITY – Verses 1-12

A. The Healing Of The Man With The Withered Hand – Verses 1-6

- a. He entered the synagogue in Capernaum or some other city of Galilee – Verse 1a
- b. The withered right hand is typical of the sinner’s inability to work for God – Verse 1b. Luke 6:6 “And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.”
- c. As the critics watched Jesus, they also watch believers today – Verse 2. They watched to see if He would heal on the Sabbath day. Luke 6:7 “And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.”
- d. The sinner must hear and obey the word of the Lord – Verse 3
- e. A two-pronged question the critics could not answer – Verse 4. Matthew 12:11-12 “And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.” Luke 13:15-17 “The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.”
- f. His anger at their hardness of heart – Verse 5a. Ephesians 4:26 “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” He also found hardness of heart among the common people (John 12:37-40), and among His disciples (Mark 6:52).
- g. Notice the humiliation and faith of this man – Verse 5b. Consider the order of the man’s healing.
 - i. Stand forth – Verse 3
 - ii. Stretch forth – Verse 5.
 - iii. Restored whole – Verse 5. The aorist tense indicates immediate healing.

- h. The conspiracy to destroy Christ – Verse 6. The Pharisees and Herodians were actually enemies, but against Jesus they unite. The Herodians were more of a political party, as they wanted a return of the reign of the Herods.
- B. The Healing Of The Multitudes – Verses 7-12
- a. Jesus withdrew to the sea – Verse 7a
 - b. Multitudes follow because of His mighty works – Verses 7b-8
 - c. Preparation was made for large crowds – Verse 9. A number of times Jesus spoke to large crowds from a ship. The water makes a good sounding board.
 - d. The crowds press in for healing – Verse 10
 - e. The unclean spirits recognize Him – Verse 11. 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
 - f. The unclean spirits were charged not to make Him know – Verse 12. The crowds might make the Roman government think he was leading a revolution.

II. THE SERVANT ESTABLISHES HIS CHURCH – Verses 13-21

- A. The Place Of The Calling – Verse 13
- a. It was in a mountain – Verse 13a
 - b. It was after spending all night in prayer – Luke 6:12 “...he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”
 - c. It was a sovereign call – Verse 13b “whom He would.”
 - d. It was an effectual call – Verse 13c “they came unto Him”
- B. The Purpose Of The Calling – Verses 14-15
- a. To ordain twelve apostles – Verse 14a
 - b. That they should be with Him – Verse 14b
 - c. That He might send them forth as missionaries – Verses 14c-15
 - i. They would be sent forth to preach – Verse 14d
 - ii. They would have power to heal and cast out devils – Verse 15
 - d. That He might establish His Church. Although it is not stated here, yet the Scriptures prove it. 1 Corinthians 12:28 “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.” They were first in the Church, and these same men are later associated with the Jerusalem Church. There are many proofs that the Church was started before Pentecost.

- e. This Church would carry out His work after He went back to the heavenly Father.
- C. The People Of The Calling – Verses 16-19
- a. They were apostles, but first disciples – Luke 6:13 “...he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.”
 - i. Disciple means a learner or pupil.
 - ii. Apostle means a messenger, one sent forth with orders.
 - b. They were all saved except Judas.
 - c. They were from diverse backgrounds such as fishermen and a tax collector.
- D. The Problems Of The Calling – Verses 20-21
- a. Such a crowd came that there was no place for eating – Verse 20
 - b. Friends misunderstood Him – Verse 21

III. THE SERVANT TEACHES DOCTRINE – Verses 22-35

- A. Jesus Charged With Using Satan’s Power – Verses 22-30
- a. The accusation made – Verse 22. Even His enemies could see that He cast out devils. Beelzebub is a different spelling of Baalzebub, which means “lord of flies.” 2 Kings 1:1-3, 6, 16. In verse 22, he is called the prince of devils. “Beelzebub” means “lord of the house,” which is a name of Satan, the prince of evil spirits
 - b. The answer given – Verses 23-27
 - i. How can Satan cast out Satan? – Verse 23
 - ii. If Satan was divided against himself, his kingdom couldn’t stand – Verses 24-26
 - iii. The strong man is Satan or devils. The house is the poor sinner who is possessed. Christ binds the strong man – Verse 27
 - c. The awesome sin – Verses 28-30
 - i. They committed this unforgivable sin by saying that Jesus did His work by the power of an unclean spirit.
 - ii. They saw His person and His work, yet they believed not.
 - iii. A saved person is sealed and cannot commit it. Ephesians 1:13 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.” Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve

not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

- iv. This passage is not a refuge for the Charismatics, tongues speakers, and snake handlers. They are fakers, false teachers, and heretics and are not doing the work of God at all. If it was a sin to attribute the true work of the Holy Spirit to Satan, is it not also a sin of the same magnitude to do Satan’s work and then attribute that work to the Holy Spirit?

B. Jesus Changes Relationships – Verses 31-35

- a. His mother and half brothers were outside calling Him – Verses 31-32. Friends had tried to hinder Him in verse 21. Now His own fleshly relatives are there to hinder, whether they meant to do so or not,
- b. Spiritual relationship is more important than physical relationship – Verses 33-35
- c. Our duties and responsibilities to Christ and His church are not to be neglected, just to please family members. Many Baptists do not seem to understand this.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why were some in the synagogue watching Jesus?
2. How did He respond to their criticism?
3. Why was He angry with them?
4. Why did multitudes follow Him?
5. Why did He ordain the twelve?
6. Why do we believe that at this time He established the Church?
7. Where did the scribes say that He got His power?
8. How did Jesus answer their accusation?
9. Why cannot a saved person commit the unforgivable sin?
10. Who does Jesus say are His mother and brother?
11. Recite the memory verse.

LESSON 5

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Memory Verse: Mark 4:19

Lesson: Mark 4:1-20

This parable reveals to us the kind of results we will see when we faithfully sow the word of God in the hearts of men. This should encourage us in spite of knowing that we will be disappointed in some of the results. The results will not always be good, but there will be some good results in the good ground hearers. We are to faithfully sow the word, and leave the results to the Lord of the harvest.

I. THE PRESENTATION OF THE PARABLE – Verses 1-12

A. The Place Where He Taught – Verses 1-2

- a. The meaning of parables. 1) A placing of one thing by the side of another, juxtaposition, as of ships in battle. 2) metaph. 2a) A comparing, comparison of one thing with another, likeness, similitude 2b) An example by which a doctrine or precept is illustrated 2c) A narrative, fictitious but agreeable to the laws and usages of human life, by which either the duties of men or the things of God, particularly the nature and history of God's kingdom are figuratively portrayed 2d) A parable: an earthly story with a heavenly meaning 3) A pithy and instructive saying, involving some likeness or comparison and having perceptive or admonitory force 4) a "proverb." In a parable, there is a comparison of something in the natural world, being used to teach spiritual truth.
- b. Proverbs were given to an estranged people. They were used in the O.T. in regard to the estrangement of God's people. In the N.T. they are only used in the gospels, and never in the church epistles. The last parable mentioned is in John 10:6.
- c. The sea speaks of sinful humanity – Revelation 17:15 "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Revelation 13:1 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy." Revelation 16:3; 20:17; Daniel 7:1-3. It is significant that in the new heaven and the new earth, there will be no more sea. Revelation 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."
- d. He was there to teach – Verse 1. This is a ministry that Jesus has committed to his churches, and most churches are failing to do it – Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus

came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

- e. He was on the ship to speak, and they were on the shore to listen.
- f. He taught them doctrine – Verse 2. Many people today do not want doctrine. They want entertainment, excitement, and the things that please the flesh. 2 Timothy 4:2-4 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
- g. Many scriptures reveal the importance of sound doctrine – 1 Timothy 4:13 “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” 1 Timothy 4:16 “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” 2 Timothy 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.” Titus 2:1 “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”

B. The Parables that He Taught – Verses 3-12

- a. In this passage we can begin to understand the meaning of parable. He used these common and ordinary experiences in farming, and then he brought alongside the spiritual condition of people. Thus He could illustrate the spiritual truth they needed to learn.
- b. The sower is Christ, His apostles, His church, the God called preachers, and every Christian that spreads the gospel. This should encourage us in what to expect from different kinds of people, when we sow the word.
 - i. The wayside hearers – Verse 4. The fowls are a symbol of evil.
 - ii. The stony ground hearers – Verses 5-6
 - iii. The thorny ground hearers – Verse 7
 - iv. The good ground hearers – Verse 8
- c. The question of the disciples – Verse 10
- d. The mystery of the kingdom – Verses 11-12. Matthew 13:13-15 “Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see

with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”

- e. We learn that parables were used to reveal truth to some, and at the same time conceal truth from others – Isaiah 6:9-10 “And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.”

II. THE EXPLANATION OF THE PARABLE – Verses 13-20

A. The Wayside Hearers – Verses 13-15

- a. The seed is the Word of God – Verse 14. The word must be received in meekness if the soul is to be saved. James 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- b. The wayside hearers are the wayward hearts of men.
- c. The fowls represent Satan. When a farmer plants his corn, the crows and other birds are there to gobble up the seed that are exposed.
- d. Satan takes away the word of God from their hearts. People hear the God’s message, but they leave church and go out into the world. Out there the devil will use sports, movies, TV, and the many other things of the world to rob their hearts of the saving gospel.

B. The Stony Ground Hearers – Verses 16-17

- a. The stony ground hearers have sin hardened hearts – Verse 16. Ezekiel 33:31-32 “And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.”
- b. They hear the word in only a shallow and superficial way – Verse 16. Most modern day evangelism is geared to reach this kind of hearer. The use of entertainment, shallow contemporary music, audio visuals, no preaching on sins, and no demand for repentance, will produce the stony ground hearers.
- c. With no real roots, they cannot long endure – Verse 17
- d. They cannot stand affliction and persecution – Verse 17
- e. These fair weather hearers cannot stand the pressure – Verse 17

- f. The least little thing will offend them. They stumble easily and are prone to let anything lead them to sin.

C. The Thorny Ground Hearers – Verses 18-19

- a. They are hindered by the thorns which represent the sinful power of the world – Verses 18. Remember that the thorns came about because of sin. Genesis 3:17-19 “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”
- b. They are hindered by the cares of this world – Verse 19a
- c. They are hindered by the deceitfulness of riches – Verse 19b. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
- d. They are hindered by the lust of other things – Verse 19c. Luke 8:14 “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”
- e. They are hindered by the word being choked – Verse 19d
- f. They are hindered from bearing fruit.

D. The Good Ground Hearers – Verse 20

- a. The good ground is the heart that has been prepared to receive the gospel.
- b. They hear and receive the word – Luke 8:15 “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”
- c. They bear fruit with varying degrees of success.
- d. Fruit bearing is concrete proof of one’s salvation – John 15:1-8
- e. God’s children are to bear fruit. Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Colossians 1:10 “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.” 2 Peter 1:8 “For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Where did Jesus teach in this lesson?
2. What does the sea symbolize in the Bible?
3. What does the seed symbolize?
4. Who is the sower?
5. Describe the way side hearers.
6. Describe the stony ground hearers.
7. Describe the thorny ground hearers.
8. Describe the good ground hearers.

Notes

LESSON 6

THE PARABLES AND THE STORM

Memory Verse: Mark 4:39

Lesson: Mark 4:21-41

I. THE PARABLES – Verses 21-34

A. The Parable of the Candle – Verses 21-25

- a. The purpose of a candle – Psalm 119:130 “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”
- b. It should be placed on a candlestick – Verse 21. Matthew 5:15 “Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.”
- c. The light of God’s truth is not to be hidden.
 - i. Putting it under a bushel, refers to people letting their money or business interests hide their light.
 - ii. Putting it under a bed speaks of letting comforts & laziness cover the light.
- d. The candlestick is where the light is placed, in order to give the most light.
- e. New Testament Scriptural churches are represented as being candlesticks. This is where every Christian ought to be that their light would shine. If they are not, then they are hiding their light. Revelation 1:20 “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”
- f. We are not only to receive light, but we are to impart light. This refers to all Christians, not just the pastor. Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” 1 Peter 4:10 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” Ephesians 5:8 “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.” Philippians 2:15 “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”
- g. We are not to hide the truth, or to hide sin, for it will be revealed one day – Verse 22. 1 Corinthians 4:5 “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:2 “But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”

- h. We are to be careful what we hear – Verse 24a. We are to hear the truth and apply it to our lives.
- i. The measure of our reward will be according to the measure of our diligent labor for Him – Verse 24b. We decide whether God will use a teaspoon or a shovel when He gives us our reward.
- j. Our rewards will be adjusted to fit the case – Verse 25

B. The Parable of the Seed – Verses 26-29

- a. The seed is the word of God, and the ground is the world of lost men – Verse 26
- b. The seed doesn’t bring results immediately. We must wait for results – Verse 27
- c. We have no control over the process – Verse 28
- d. The harvest will come in due time – Verse 29
- e. Let us notice some important lessons for us.
 - i. There must be a sower and that is our responsibility.
 - ii. We do not know how the process works, but that is in the hand of God. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”
 - iii. It is through the Holy Spirit that this comes about. John 1:11-13 “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”
 - iv. As there is a process that works with corn, so is there a process that works in the heart of a man. Remember that the mighty oak was once an acorn.
 - v. We must wait for the harvest.

C. The Parable of the Mustard Seed – Verses 30-34

This parable must be interpreted very carefully, or we will make it teach error instead of truth. It can best be interpreted in relationship to the prophetic parables of Matthew 13.

- a. In the parable of the sower we see the seed sown with different degrees of success. Matthew 13:3-23. This we can expect in the age of grace.

- b. The tares among the wheat show us that the devil will imitate the work of God with evil seed, which will produce a mixed crop – Matthew 13:24-30
- c. The mustard seed represents the building of a religion that will end up as the one world church of the last days – Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32
- d. The placing of the leaven in the meal represents the planting of falsehood among truth, which of course is what we have in the religious world – Matthew 13:33-35
- e. The net cast into the sea brings forth two kinds of fish. One is good and the other is evil. This shows the mixing of the lost and the saved in religion.
- f. This parable of the mustard seed also shows the deterioration in kind and quality. It represents professing Christianity, but not the pure things of God.
- g. The mustard seed produces a monstrosity that becomes a tree. See Matthew 12:32
- h. This is a public manifestation of religion as we see in the great apostasy of our day.
- i. The fowls of the air represent Satan and his evil workers who are roosting in false religion of the last days. The fowls represent evil. Revelation 18:2 “And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”
- j. There is a contrast between the seed in the previous parable and the seed in this parable. Corn (Verse 38) is a fitting type of Jesus Christ the bread of life. The seed in this parable is mustard seed which cannot represent Christ the bread of life. The mustard plant is no more evil than the leaven, but they are both a symbol of evil.
- k. There is no harvest, but just a tree full of evil birds. Daniel 4:20-22 “The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.” The tree in Daniel 4 represented the evil corrupt empire of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon. Notice that it is too filled with evil birds.
- l. Jesus used many parables to teach the multitude, but when He was alone with His disciples He explained them.

II. THE STILLING OF THE STORM – Verses 35-41

A. The Awesome Storm – Verses 35-38

- a. A strange proposal – Verse 35. Jesus certainly knew that a great storm was coming, but He wanted them to see that Christians must face the storms of life.

- b. They had just heard the Word of God, and it produces faith. Now they are going to be tested – Romans 10:17
- c. Jonah was in a storm because of disobedience, but they were in the storm because of obedience – Verse 35
- d. Reasons why they had nothing to fear.
 - i. Jesus said they would go to the other side.
 - ii. Jesus Himself was with them and they had seen His miracle working power.
 - iii. Jesus Himself had gone to sleep, revealing that there was nothing to be afraid of – Psalm 4:8 “I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.”
- e. Some of His disciples were experienced sailors, but even they were afraid. This happens when we walk by sight and not by faith.
- f. God does not exempt His children from the storms of this life. 1 Peter 4:12 “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.”
- g. We should make sure that we have the Lord with us, when the storms hit. Psalm 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Psalm 46:11 “The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.” Isaiah 43:2 “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.” Psalm 27:1 “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

B. The Awesome Calm – Verses 39-41

- a. The authority of His words – Verse 39. Psalm 107:29 “He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.” Jeremiah 5:22 “Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?” Psalm 89:9 “Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
- b. He rebuked them for their lack of faith – Verse 40. Matthew 8:26 “And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.”
- c. They learned a great lesson about Him – Verse 41

LESSON 7

THE SERVANT COMES TO THE SINNER

Memory Verse: Mark 5:15

Lesson: Mark 5:1-20

This lesson reveals why Jesus traveled through a storm to get to this place. (Mark 4:35-41) It was to help this demon possessed man. This shows how Jesus loves the lowest of sinners.

I. HIS CONDITION – Verses 1-5

A. What The Devil Did – Verses 1-3a

- a. He dwelt in the country of the Gadarenes – Verse 1. It was located east of the Sea of Galilee and near the south end. Luke 8:26 “And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.”
- b. He dwelt among the tombs – Verse 2-3. There are a lot of tombs hewn out of the cliff. Now there are stone coffins littering the valley below. Vandals robbed the tombs later on. No doubt it was an active burying place in the days of Jesus. Since the tombs were hewn out ahead of time there would have been empty tombs for this man to dwell in.
- c. The devil filled him with unclean spirits – Verse 2
- d. The devil is a thief. John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” Revelation 9:11 “And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.”
- e. He had yielded to the temptations of sin, and Satan had literally taken over his life. 2 Timothy 2:26 “And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”
- f. Satan has great power – 1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” Ephesians 2:1-3 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh,

fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

B. What Man Could Not Do – Verses 3b-5

- a. No man could bind him – Verses 3b-4. Mark 9:18-22
- b. The weird behavior that we see in the unbelievable acts of men is the work of the devil. Mass murders, sexual perversion against children, and other unbelievable acts today are the work of the devil.
- c. Psychiatrists, counselors and the medical profession cannot solve these problems. Prisons cannot reform them.
- d. Only God can change them through salvation. Matthew 19:26 “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Genesis 18:14 “Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.” Jeremiah 32:27 “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?” Luke 1:37 “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”
- e. Men could not change him or restrain him – Verses 4-5
- f. He continued in this hopeless condition – Verse 5. John 8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
- g. He cut and mutilated his on body – Verse 5. 1 Kings 18:28 “And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.” This explains all the body piercing that we see in many people today. People with rings in the ear, tongue, eyebrows, nose, and private parts of their bodies, are all indications of the work of the devil today. When people start messing with drugs, they open the door for Satanic oppression and demon possession.

II. HIS CONVERSION – Verses 6-17

A. What The Lord Could Do For Him – Verses 6-8

- a. We believe that the Lord worked in his heart and caused him to be willing to worship. John 6:44 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”
- b. The demons resisted him – Verse 7. Unclean spirits always resist Jesus. They know who he is and greatly fear him.
- c. He did command the evil spirits to leave the man – Verse 8

B. What The Lord Could Do For The Evil Spirits – Verses 9-13

- a. They confessed that they were many – Verse 9. A legion consisted of 6,826 men in the Roman army.
- b. They requested to remain in that country – Verse 10. This must have been a good country for evil spirits to dwell. There are certain regions of the world that seem to be given over to demon activity.
- c. The evil spirits wanted to be in the herd of swine – Verses 11-12. Evil spirits greatly want a body to dwell in.
 - i. Swine were considered to be unclean and they were forbidden to Jews. Leviticus 11:7 “And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.” Isaiah 65:4 “Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine’s flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels.” Did this man in the lesson eat some of their pigs?
 - ii. Nothing is too rotten or filthy for the devil.
 - iii. This was gentile territory which explains the swine.
- d. The violent reaction of the fearful swine – Verse 13.
 - i. In their terror they ran of a cliff into the sea.
 - ii. To lose 2,000 swine was a great economic loss.
 - iii. We are not told what happened to the evil spirits.
- e. The evil spirits believed and trembled, but they could not be saved – James 2:19
- f. They also believe in a coming judgment. Matthew 8:29 “And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? "The time," is the time of judgment that they know is coming.”

C. What The Evil Swine Owners Could Do – Verses 14:17

- a. The feeders reported the loss, since they did not want to be responsible for the great loss – Verse 14a
- b. The owners and others came to see what had happened – Verse 14b
- c. They were not impressed with the changed condition of the man – Verse 15
 - i. They should have rejoiced in what they saw.
 - ii. Instead they were interested in their own prosperity. The world is not impressed when people are saved and changed today.
 - iii. They were afraid of the man before, and they are afraid of the supernatural that had changed him.
- d. The event was explained but they were not impressed. Charismatics believe that healing, casting out demons, and speaking in tongues will cause people to believe

and be saved today. It is not so. Luke 16:30-31 “And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

- e. They wanted to get rid of Jesus – Verse 17. This is what’s going on in the world today. They want to get Jesus out of the schools, government, and public life.

III. HIS COMMISSION – Verses 15, 18-20

A. The Lord Calls Converted (Changed) Men – Verse 15

- a. He was sitting at the feet of Jesus – Luke 8:35. He is now at rest. Sitting is the place of learning. Luke 8:35 “Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.”
- b. He was clothed. He was now clothed in the righteousness of God. He was also now modest. Nakedness and immodesty is the work of the devil.
- c. He was in his right mind. This explains the difference in his behavior. Sinful people are not in their right mind, but in the wrong mind. He now has the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.” Philippians 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

B. The Lord Calls Those Who Are Surrendered – Verses 18-20

- a. He earnestly wanted to be with Jesus – Verse 18. People who are converted ought to want to be in the Church for He is there. Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”
- b. He heard the command and obeyed – Verses 19-20.
- c. He became a mighty witness for the Lord.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Where were the disciples when they got off the ship?
2. What did the man do when he saw Jesus?
3. What was the name of the unclean spirit?
4. What happened to the swine when the spirits entered them?
5. How did the man appear after the unclean spirits had left him?

LESSON 8

THE SERVANT CONTINUES HIS MIRACLES

Memory Verse: Mark 5:34

Lesson: Mark 5:21-43

The people of Gadara were glad to see Him leave. In our lesson today, the people were glad to see Him coming. Jesus reached out to help the ruler of a synagogue, but first he must help a poor nameless woman. He was not a respecter of persons, but treated them both with love and compassion.

I. THE WOMAN AND DISEASE – Verses 21-34

A. The Man With A Dying Daughter – Verses 21-24

- a. Jairus was one the important officers of the synagogue. Along with others he ordered the affairs of that particular synagogue – Verse 22
- b. He made an emotional plea for Jesus to heal his daughter – Verse 23. Luke 8:42 “For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.” Matthew 11:28 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
- c. Only the touch of Jesus would be needed – Verse 23
- d. The crowd pressed in around Jesus as they traveled – Verse 24

B. The Woman And A Deadly Disease – Verses 25-34

- a. This woman had been plagued with an incurable disease for the past 12 years – Verse 25. Luke 8:43 “And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any.”
- b. She had spent her money with doctors and had gotten worse – Verse 26. She was ceremonially unclean, which restricted her religious and social life. Leviticus 15:19 “And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even.”
- c. She had faith to believe that Jesus could heal her if she could only touch His clothes – Verses 27-28. Mark 3:10 “For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.” Mark 6:56 “And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.”
 - i. She could have said that Jarius was with an important man and why bother.

- ii. She could have said that she had tried everything, why bother any more.
 - iii. Her faith was weak, but it was strong enough to believe.
- d. The healing that physicians could not bring, was accomplished instantly – Verse 29
 - e. The “virtue” was the “dunamis” or “power” flowing forth from Jesus to the woman – Verse 30. Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power (dunamis) of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 - f. Many were touching Him, but only the woman touched Him in faith – Verse 31
 - g. He turned and talked with her, because she not only needed healing for her body, but she needed the healing for her soul – Verse 32.
 - h. She was willing to kneel in faith and confess what she had done – Verse 33. Psalm 107:2 “Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.” Psalm 107:20-21 “He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”
 - i. Jesus pronounced that her faith had saved her, which seems to indicate that her soul was healed as well – Verse 34

II. THE DAUGHTER AND DEATH – Verses 35-43

A. The Devastating News – Verses 35-39

- a. The news of her death and a plea to give up any hope of healing – Verse 35
- b. Jesus encouraged his faith, and quieted his fears – Verse 36. Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Psalm 37:5 “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”
- c. Jesus was greeted with a scene of weeping and wailing – Verse 38
- d. The girl was dead as far as the people were concerned, but to Jesus she was only sleeping – Verse 39. John 11:11-14 “These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.” 1Corinthians 15:51 “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.”

- i. In death the spirit leaves the body. If the person is a Christian, the soul and spirit go to be with God. James 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” Philippians 1:20-23 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”
- ii. The body does sleep until the resurrection – 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
- iii. Christians should realize that death is only for a little while. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

B. The Glorious Command To Arise – Verses 40-43

- a. Because of their unbelief, only five people were allowed to witness this miracle – Verse 40. The witnesses were father, mother, Peter, James and John.
 - i. Only two or three witnesses were required under the law. Deuteronomy 17:6 “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.” Deuteronomy 19:15 “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

- ii. Unbelief laughs at the word of God, but faith lays hold and believes.
- b. Here was the touch of life and the voice of authority over death – Verse 41-42. Matthew 9:25 “But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. He is the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25 “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”
- c. She arose, walked and ate, proving that a miracle had taken place – Verse 43

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did the man request of Jesus? What was Jesus' answer? (verses 18, 19)
2. Why did Jairus come to Jesus? (verses 22, 23)
3. What did Jesus do? (verse 24)
4. What did faith do for the woman in the crowd? (verses 25-29)
5. What did Jesus say to her? (verse 34)
6. Can poverty or weariness keep the believer from the help of the Lord? (See Psalm 34:6)
7. What reward did the faith of the father of the girl bring him? (verses 41, 42)
8. What did Jesus command the people to do after He had healed the girl? (verse 43)

LESSON 9

THE TWELVE SENT & THE MURDER OF JOHN

Memory Verse: Mark 6:6

Lesson: Mark 6:1-29

I. THE SERVANT RETURNS TO HIS OWN CITY – Verses 1-6

A. His Rejection – Verses 1-3

- a. His own country was Nazareth – Verse 1. Luke 4:16 “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” Though born in Bethlehem and now residing in Capernaum, He was always Jesus of Nazareth.
- b. He taught in the synagogue – Verse 2a
- c. Their astonished three part question – Verse 2b
 - i. They question the source of these things.
 - ii. They question the source of His wisdom.
 - iii. They question how His hands could do such works.
- d. Their fatal mistake – Verse 3
 - i. They saw Him only as the carpenter and His human relationships. These brothers and sisters were His half-brothers and half-sisters which were born to Joseph and Mary. This destroys Catholic doctrine.
 - ii. They were offended at Him. “Offended” is from the Greek “SCANDALIZO” which is similar to our scandalized. They both have to do with a snare, trap, or stumbling block. They snared themselves. These poor souls thought they knew Jesus, but they knew Him not at all.
 - iii. To them He was a stone of stumbling. Isaiah 8:13-14 “Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” 1 Peter 2:7-8 “Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”
- e. His Response – Verses 4-6

- i. A true statement – Verse 4. It has been said, “Familiarity often breeds contempt,” but this only with contemptible things & contemptible persons.
- f. His work there limited – Verse 5
 - i. He could do no mighty works there because of their unbelief. This was not because of any defect in His power, but because their unbelief caused Him to purpose to do no great works there. Unbelief hinders the work of God. Remember the purpose of miracles. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
 - ii. Out of compassion He did heal a few sick folk.
- g. Two times Jesus marveled.
 - i. He marveled at the faith of the Centurion – Matthew 8:10-12
 - ii. He marveled at the unbelief of those of Nazareth – Verse 6.
 - iii. Beware of unbelief. This was the sin of Eve and it is one of the oldest and deadliest sins. Hebrews 3:12 “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.” “Believe” and “faith” come from the very same Greek word and mean the same thing. “Unbelief” means there is no belief and no faith.

II. THE SERVANT SENDS FORTH HIS OWN CHURCH – Verses 7-13

A. Their Provisions – Verses 7-9

- a. The twelve made up the first church – 1 Corinthians 12:28 “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.” He called them and made them the charter members of His Church – Mark 3:13-19
- b. They were sent forth two by two – Verse 7a. Two is the number of witness. Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?” Deuteronomy 17:6 “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”
- c. They were given power over unclean spirits – Verse 7b. God’s commandments always include His enablement. 2 Corinthians 3:5 “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.”

- d. They were to take only a staff – Verse 8. The scrip was a bag in which they carried provisions. Contrast Luke 22:35-36.
- e. They were to wear sandals but not two coats – Verse 9. The reason for these instructions was due to the fact they were to go forth in haste and in faith.

B. Their Instructions – Verses 10-13

- a. They were to stay in the one house in each place – Verse 10. This of course was how their needs were supplied.
- b. What they were to do where they were not received – Verse 11
 - i. They were to shake the dust off of their feet – Verse 11a
 - ii. God's judgment to be great upon such a city – Verse 11b
- c. The doctrine they preached: repentance – Verse 12. A needed doctrine today.
- d. The work they did – Verse 13

III. THE BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST – Verses 14-29

A. Herod's Troubled Conscience – Verses 14-16

- a. This was Herod Antipas son of Herod the Great who ruled Galilee and Perea from 4 B.C. to A.D. 39. His incestuous marriage to his niece Herodias, former wife of his half-brother Philip, resulted in the murder of John the Baptist. Leviticus 18:16 "Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy brother's wife: it is thy brother's nakedness." Leviticus 20:21 "And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing: he hath uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless."
- b. Herod thought that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead – Verse 14
- c. Some had other opinions – Verse 15
- d. Herod was convinced it was John – Verse 16. John had nothing but the truth, but that truth continued to work on the conscience of Herod.

B. Herod's Terrible Crisis – Verses 17-20

- a. John imprisoned for Herodias' sake – Verse 17
- b. John's bold preaching – Verse 18. How different from the compromised preaching today on divorce and remarriage.
- c. Herodias' desire to kill – Verse 19
- d. Herod's high opinion of John the Baptist. Feared him but did not obey him. He did not fear God. We ought to highly esteem this man John the Baptist because:
 - i. His ministry was the beginning of the gospel – Mark 1:1-4
 - ii. He was a man sent from God – John 1:6 "There was a man sent from God."

- iii. No greater man was ever born of woman – Matthew 11:11 “Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”
- iv. He was the first Baptist and the first baptizer.
- v. He baptized Christ and all the apostles, the material from which Christ established His church. Acts 1:21-22 “Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.”
- vi. He was the forerunner of Christ.
- vii. He was the end of an era and the beginning of a new era. Luke 16:16 “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”

C. John’s Head On A Charger – Verses 21-29

- a. Herod’s birthday supper – Verse 21
- b. Herod's stepdaughter arouses his carnal desires through the dance – Verse 22a. The Jews would have forbidden a woman to dance before a group of men.
- c. His amorous and foolish promise – Verse 22b-23. Lusting in this manner is prohibited by God. Matthew 5:28 “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Job 31:1 “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” Proverbs 6:25 “Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.” James 1:14-15 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
- d. Herodias’ wicked proposal – Verse 24
- e. Salome’s request – Verse 25. The charger was a platter used to serve food.
- f. The king’s foul predicament – Verse 26
- g. John beheaded – Verse 27
- h. John’s head on a charger – Verse 28
- i. John's disciples bury him – Verse 29 In this incident we see the cost of being faithful to God and the little reward that some of God's choice servants receive in this world. Nevertheless John was not the loser!

FOOTNOTE: In A.D. 39, Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:1), nephew of Herod Antipas, denounced his uncle to the Roman emperor and Antipas was deposed and sent into exile. Mark 8:36

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What was the name of Jesus' own country?
2. What was the reaction to His teaching here?
3. Repeat the reply of Jesus.
4. Who are these who are called his brothers and sisters?
5. Explain the meaning of offended as used here.
6. How did Jesus send forth His church?
7. What were they to take and what were they not to take?
8. Where were they to stay, and what were they to do where they were not received?
9. What doctrine did they preach?
10. Who was this Herod and give the background of his marriage?
11. Who did Herod think that Jesus was?
12. Relate how John the Baptist lost his head.
13. Repeat the memory verse.

LESSON 10

THE SERVANT DEFEATS THE LAWS OF NATURE

Memory Verse: Mark 6:34

Lesson: Mark 6:30-56

I. THE SERVANT SUPPLIES THE FOOD – Verses 30-44

A. The Disciples Need Of Rest – Verses 30-34

- a. The apostles return from their mission trip – Verse 30. See verses 7-13
 - i. They gathered themselves unto Jesus – Verse 30a. They set a good example.
 - ii. They rehearsed all they had done and taught – Verse 30b. The servants of the Lord still need to return to the Lord in prayer and report. They are answerable to Him.
- b. The apostles told to withdraw and rest – Verse 31. Four possible reasons for this withdrawal. The opposition of Herod and of the Jewish rulers. The fanaticism of the people and the need for rest.
 - i. Few Christians need to be constrained to rest as most are lazy in Christian work. Few need the bridle, most need the spur.
 - ii. Obedient servants of the Lord do need to come apart and rest. If you don't come apart and rest, you may come apart.
 - iii. We can be thankful that Christ needs no rest today. Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”
- c. The private departure – Verse 32
- d. The anticipation of the people – Verse 33. They anticipated where he was going and simply walked around the shore arriving first.
- e. The compassion of the Saviour – Verse 34. Though tired and weary He was concerned about their condition. Their greatest need was truth.
- f. The Multitudes Need Of Refreshment – Verse 35-44
- g. The impatient disciples – Verse 35-36
 - i. They had come for rest and found none.
 - ii. They were in an uninhabited desert place.
 - iii. They wanted to send the people away to buy food.

- iv. They are a good example of some committees. As individuals they can do nothing, and as a committee, they decide nothing can be done.
- h. The impossible command – Verse 37. They had no bread to give, and the cost would have been about \$35.00 if there had been a place to buy, and it is doubtful if they had the money.
- i. The insufficient supply located – Verse. John 6:9 “There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?”
- j. The imparted command for orderliness – Verse 39-40. 1 Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.” Psalm 23:2 “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”
- k. The implemented plan – Verse 41. The impossible command of verse 37 is now made possible by the miracle of the Lord. God gives us seemingly impossible tasks, but with the Lord’s help they can be done. We must believe this miracle just as it is stated. Because Christ was God, He could do this!
- l. The immediate need more than satisfied – Verse 42, 44
- m. The immense supply – Verse 43. It is a sin to waste good food and this they did not do. No doubt they ate of this in the days following. (According to John 6, this time was the highwater mark of the popularity of Christ.)
- n. It was after this miracle that Jesus gave His sermon on the bread of life. John 6:35 “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” (See John 6:22-51)

II. THE SERVANT CALMS THEIR FEARS – Verses 45-52

A. The Reaction To The Miracle – Verses 45-46

- a. They wanted to make Him their Messiah bread king. John 6:14-15 “Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.” John 6:26-27 “Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.” They wanted the bread, but they did not want the bread of life.
- b. He compelled His disciples to leave and sent the people away – Verse 45. Thus He defused the explosive situation.
- c. He went into a mountain to pray – Verse 46. “None ever did such mighty works as He did. None ever spake such words. None ever was so instant in prayer.” J. C. Ryle.

Colossians 4:12 “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 4:2-3 “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

B. His Response To Their Fears – Verses 47-52

- a. The solitary Saviour sees the plight of His disciples – Verse 47-48a. He sees us also in the midst of our toil, tears, and fears. In Mark 4:38 He was asleep in the stern, here He is in the mountain praying. Yet, in each case He knew their need!
- b. The storm described in our text happened after He had fed the 5,000. In the New Testament the storm of persecution came after He had saved 5,000. Acts 4:4 “Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.”
- c. The sovereign Saviour walks on the sea – Verse 48b. He made as if to pass them by, so they would confess their need of Him.
- d. The superstitious sailors thought they had seen a spirit – Verse 49. Naturally they were afraid.
- e. The supernatural Saviour identifies Himself – Verse 50. “It is I” in the Greek is sometimes translated “I AM.” Exodus 3:13-14 “And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” John 6:48 “I am that bread of life.” He is the great “I AM.”
- f. The surprised sailors caused to wonder – Verse 51-52. The wind ceased immediately but their hardened hearts did not let them comprehend, even though they had seen the miracle of the loaves.
- g. God’s people are in a storm today in this world, but He is in heaven making intercession for them. Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”
- h. The Lord makes provision – Psalm 23:1, The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. The Lord gives protection. Psalm 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

III. THE SERVANT CURES IN RESPONSE TO FAITH – Verses 53-56

A. The Saviour Recognized – Verses 53-54

- a. Gennesaret was an area on the northwest side of Galilee – Verse 53
- b. The Saviour immediately recognized – Verse 54

B. The Saviour’s Healing Power Revealed – Verses 55-56

- a. The news of His presence spread like a flame – Verse 55
- b. He continued by land to Capernaum – Verse 56. Compare John 6:24 “On the way many were healed.” Evidently they had heard of the healing of the woman in Mark 5:28. In comparing John 6, we find that it was this very day that multitudes turned away from Him. They were looking for a healing and feeding Messiah, and when He preached His great spiritual claims on them (John 6:26-71), they departed from Him. It is the same today. Many want a Christ, a religion, and a church that will feed them. Many want a Christ, a religion, and a church that will heal them or perform miracles for their entertainment. This explains the popularity of the social gospel and the charismatic gospel.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did the apostles do when they returned from their mission trip?
2. What did Jesus then tell them to do?
3. What did Jesus do for those He met and why?
4. What did the disciples want Him to do with the people and why?
5. What did the Saviour instruct the disciples to do about food?
6. How much food did they find and where?
7. After Christ fed the crowd, what did they want to do with Him?
8. What was His twofold response?
9. Why did the Saviour come walking on the water?
10. What is the meaning of “it is I.”?

LESSON 11

THE SERVANT DENOUNCES HUMAN TRADITION

Memory Verse: Mark 7:9

Lesson: Mark 7:1-37

“It is worshiping God in vain to rest in the outside of religious exercises when the heart is not right with God. Our first care should be the washing of the heart from wickedness which makes us odious to God, rather than ceremonial washing. Christ never puts any away from Him who fall at His feet in humble faith, and give themselves up to be ruled by Him.” Keith L. Brooks

I. THE TRADITIONS OF MEN VS. THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD – Verses 1-23

A. The Doctrine of the Pharisees – Verses 1-5

- a. The critics from Jerusalem arrive – Verse 1. His greatest critics came from Jerusalem, not Galilee.
- b. Their criticism of the disciples – Verse 2
 - i. To get at Christ they attacked His disciples – Verse 2; 2:16-18; 2:23-24
 - ii. “Defiled” is from “koinos” meaning common. The N.T. was written in “koine” Greek meaning that it was the language of the common people.
 - iii. Their tradition was human tradition, but doctrinal truth handed down through the prophets and apostles, and recorded in the Bible, is Godly tradition. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” 2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
- c. Their washing was a religious ceremony and not just for cleanliness – Verse 3. This is not from O.T. law, but from the Jewish Talmud which gives the way of tradition teachers used in interpreting the law.
- d. After possible contact with Gentiles they must wash (baptizo) – Verse 4a. Baptizo means “to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)”.
- e. Their washing (baptismos) of cups etc. – Verse 4b. Baptismos means “to dip repeatedly, to immerse.”
- f. Their attack on the practice of the disciples – Verse 5. It is not that Jesus condoned eating with dirty, filthy hands, but rather He opposed a false religious ceremony.

- g. The traditions of men only added to the burdens of the people. Matthew 23:4 “For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”

B. The Doctrine Of The Prophets – Verses 6-13

- a. Isaiah’s message to the hypocrites – Verse 6. They gave lip service, but no heart service. Hypocrites are used from the acts of stage actors. Thus a hypocrite is putting on an act. Isaiah 29:13 “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.”
- b. Their doctrines were the commandments of men – Verse 7
- c. They cast aside God’s commandments in order to substitute the traditions of men – Verses 8-9
- d. Moses’ message concerning parents – Verse 10. They are to be honored and cared for. They simply ignored the Word of God. Exodus 20:12 “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 21:17 “And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.” Leviticus 20:9 “For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him.”
- e. How the hypocrites (play actors) avoided this – Verse 11. The money or property that should have gone to maintain the parents was dedicated as a gift, but not necessarily given then or later to the Temple, thus depriving the parents. Corban means “a gift offered (or to be offered) to God.”
- f. The false teachers condoned this unlawful deed – Verse 12
- g. Thus by tradition they cast aside the law of God – Verse 13. This was to rob God’s Word of its power.
- h. Some quotations that reveal how they justified their beliefs. “It is a greater offense to teach anything contrary to the voice of the Rabbis than to contradict the Scriptures itself.” (From the Mishna in the Talmud.) “He who expounds the Scriptures in opposition to the tradition has no share in the world to come.” (Rabbi Eleazer)

C. The Doctrine For The Public – Verses 14-16

- a. His desire that the people know the truth – Verses 14,16
- b. The source of sin and defilement is from within – Verse 15. There was a fundamental difference in their theology of sin. The Pharisees viewed man as innocent and only needing to keep from being defiled from without. Our Saviour taught the depravity of man and that the source of evil was in the heart.

- c. Moses taught that God wanted love and obedience to come from the heart, and not be by obedience to rules. Deuteronomy 6:4-5; 10:12; 30:6; 30:20
- D. The Doctrine Explained To His Own People – Verses 17-23
 - a. In privacy His own disciples question Him – Verse 17
 - b. Their lack of perception is amazing – Verses 18-19; Acts 10:11-15
 - c. The evil black procession marching forth from the heart – Verses 20-23. James 1:14-15 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” Food ends up in the stomach and passes through the body. Sin begins in the heart, and remains to defile and bring spiritual death.

II. THE TRIP INTO THE COASTS OF TYRE & SIDON – Verses 24-30

- A. The Pursuit Of Privacy – Verse 24
 - a. As we have seen there was a rising tide of opposition.
 - b. There was no doubt a need for rest and a concern for the Gentiles.
 - c. He could not be hid. So it should be today – Verse 24
- B. The Plea Of A Pagan – Verses 25-26
 - a. A pathetic description of a child – Verse 25
 - b. The plea of a Gentile woman – Verse 26
- C. The Plan Of The Prophet – Verses 27-30
 - a. He was sent to the lost sheep of Israel – Verse 27a; Matthew 15:24 “But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
 - b. He shows the low degree and condition of the woman – Verse 27b. The word for dogs refers to little dogs, such as family pets, and not the scavenger dogs that roamed the streets. This gave the woman a little hope and she claimed it.
 - c. The woman’s reply – Verse 28. She by God’s grace was equal to the occasion.
 - d. The gracious reply of the Saviour – Verse 29
 - e. The granted request – Verse 30. Jesus healed from a distance, which hints of the spiritual distance between Jews and Gentiles, which would be done away with at the cross. Ephesians 2:11-22

III. THE TRIP TO THE COASTS OF DECAPOLIS – Verses 31-37

- A. The Request – Verses 31-35

- a. Decapolis was to the east and south of the Sea of Galilee – Verse 31. It means ten cities and they contained colonies of Gentiles.
 - i. It was not ruled by Herod Antipas, but by the more moderate Herod Philip.
 - ii. Before Jesus left that Gentile region, they were glorifying the God of Israel. Matthew 15:31 “Inasmuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.”
 - b. They request that He heal a deaf man who was partly dumb – Verse 32
 - c. The unusual ceremony of the Saviour – Verse 33
 - d. The command of the Saviour – Verse 34
 - e. The marvelous healing – Verse 35
- B. The Result – Verse 36-37
- a. Though told not to tell it, they told it – Verse 36. Though told to tell it, we tell it not.
 - b. A correct statement – Verse 37
- These miracles are meant to teach spiritual lessons. (1) The devil possessed girl represents lost children under the power of Satan. Loving and training them is not enough, but God must do a work in them. (2) The deaf man with a speech impediment teaches us that sinners cannot hear God, or speak to God until Jesus has touched them.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Where did Jesus’ most severe critics come from?
2. Why did they criticize the disciples?
3. What is the meaning of defiled? Where does this word come from?
4. Explain the Pharisees’ washings.
5. What was Isaiah’s message to such people?
6. What is a hypocrite?
7. How did these false teachers let people deny their obligations to their parents?
8. What proceeds out of the heart of man?

LESSON 12

THE SERVANT WARNS OF FALSE DOCTRINE

Memory Verse: Mark 8:15

Lesson: Mark 8:1-26

I. BREAD FOR THE HUNGRY – Verses 1-9

This is not to be confused with the feeding of the 5,000, which is recorded in all four Gospels. The feeding of the 4,000 is recorded only in Matthew and Mark. The feeding of the 5,000 took place near Bethsaida in Galilee with mostly Jews involved. The feeding of the 4,000 took place near Decapolis and involved mostly Gentiles. Liberals have attempted to prove that there is a mistake in the Bible, by saying that there was only one miracle and that some mistakes were made in the retelling of it. This is not so, because Jesus referred to these as being different miracles in Mark 8:19-20. Of course there are no mistakes in the Bible.

A. Christ Seeing The Need – Verses 1-5

- a. He is followed by the multitude to a desert like area – Verse 1
- b. The compassion shown by the Saviour – Verse 2. It is remarkable that Jesus showed compassion upon these Gentiles who were faithless, graceless, and a people of the world. He did the same for us in freely giving us the Bread of Life.
- c. The peril of the hungry – Verse 3
- d. The disciples' difficult question – Verse 4
- e. The small supply of food – Verse 5
 - i. He fed the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes, and they had 12 baskets left over – Mark 6:32-44
 - ii. He fed the 4,000 with seven loaves and a few small fishes, and they had seven baskets left over.
 - iii. This shows us that the Lord can take our little supply, if we will put it in His hand, and meet the need. "Little is much if God is in it," is a song that expresses a great truth.

B. Christ Supplying The Need – Verse 6-9

- a. The breaking of seven loaves – Verse 6
 - i. The bread a type of Christ – John 6:48 "I am that bread of life."
 - ii. Seven is God's number of perfection.
- b. The breaking and blessing of fish – Verse 7

- c. Their need fully met – Verse 8a. Christ is able! Luke 1:37 “For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Colossians 1:19 “For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.”
- d. Seven baskets left over – Verse 8b. Just as there was plenty of bread for all who sat down, even so, there is enough of the Bread of Life for all who will come to Him. John 6:37 “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” Revelation 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”
- e. The number fed – Verse 9

II. LEAVEN FOR THE UNWARY – Verses 10-21

A. The Waiting Pharisees – Verses 10-13

- a. Leaving Decapolis they sailed to Dalmanutha – Verse 10. The location of Dalmanutha is unknown, but it must have been near the shores of Galilee.
- b. The Pharisees await the Saviour – Verse 11. No doubt they were still angry over His rebuke of them. Mark 7:1-23
 - i. According to Matthew 16:1-12 “...the Sadducees were there.” A strange alliance indeed, for they differed greatly in doctrine. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection, angels, and spirits, the Sadducees did not. Acts 23:6-8 “But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.”
 - ii. As long as Jesus was in Decapolis among the Gentiles the Pharisees did not bother him.
 - iii. Their questions and seeking of signs was only to tempt – John 6:30-31. True faith never asks for signs. Sign seeking is a symptom of unbelief.
- c. He had performed earthly miracles, but they wanted a supernatural heavenly display – Verse 12. Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Many foolishly look for signs now rather than believe the word of God. Their unbelief caused Him to sigh. Matthew 16:4 “A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.”
- d. He sailed away and left them – Verse 13. They were left to their own unbelief.

B. The Warning Against False Doctrine – Verses 14-21

a. The forgetful disciples – Verse 14

- i. Their minds were dull – Mark 6:52; Mark 4:12
- ii. We often forget His blessings. Psalm 103:1-2 “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”
- iii. It must have grieved the Lord that His own disciples were so forgetful. The heart of the Lord and the heart of a pastor can be grieved when people forget to do the simple things they ought to do.

b. Jesus issues a warning about leaven – Verse 15

- i. At the Passover all leaven had to be removed from the house. Exodus 12:18-20 “In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread.”
- ii. Leaven was not allowed with their offerings, because the offerings represented the sinless body of Christ. Exodus 23:18 “Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread; neither shall the fat of my sacrifice remain until the morning.” Exodus 34:25 “Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.” Leviticus 2:11 “No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.”
- iii. Leaven is a picture of sin. 1 Corinthians 5:7 “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.” For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
- iv. Leaven is a picture of false doctrine. Galatians 5:9 “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”
- v. Leaven also pictures hypocrisy. Luke 12:1 “In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”
- vi. We must beware of bringing any of the leaven of false religion and of the world into the local church. This leaven is destroying churches today.

c. They misunderstood the warning – Verse 16

- d. His rebuke to them – Verse 17. He was warning them about false doctrine. Matthew 16:12 “Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”
- e. Their eyes and ears did not perceive – Verse 18. Even today, people do not want to be warned concerning false doctrine.
- f. He had provided, but they had not learned – Verse 19-21. We need to see if that fits us today.

III. SIGHT FOR THE BLIND – Verses 22-26

A. The Presenting Of The Blind Man – Verse 22

- a. He arrives at Bethsaida on the northwest side of Galilee – Verse 22a
- b. The blind man brought and the plea made – Verse 22b

B. The Healing Of The Blind Man – Verse 23-26

- a. He takes him away from the crowd – Verse 23a. Bethsaida was severely rebuked by Jesus. Jesus brought him out of the city and away from their unbelief. Matthew 11:21-22 “Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.”
- b. The peculiar method used – Verse 23b
- c. He sees indistinctly – Verse 24. This may show us that he had not been born blind.
- d. The healing completed – Verse 25. This is a strange case. He could have healed him immediately, but choose not to. The way God works may seem to be slow at times.
- e. The man told not to go back to Bethsaida – Verse 26. He had pronounced judgment upon it. Matthew 11:21-24. Now He did no miracle there and forbid a witness to be given there. We need to be careful where we send converts.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Pharisees not bother Christ in Decapolis?
2. What did they want when they saw Him in Dalmanutha?
3. Explain Christ’s warning about leaven.
4. Why was the blind man not healed in Bethsaida?

LESSON 13

THE GLORY ON THE MOUNT

Memory Verse: Mark 9:7

Lesson: Mark 8:27-9:13

I. A QUESTION FOR THE DISCIPLES – Verses 27-33

A. The Question About His Person – Verse 27-30

- a. The place where they went – Verse 27a. Caesarea Philippi was located 25 miles north of Bethsaida, at the foot of Mt. Hermon. It was built to glorify Rome, but the glory of Rome has faded. The glory of Jesus Christ is eternal.
- b. The question as to who He was – Verse 27b. What you confess concerning Jesus Christ has eternal consequences. Multitudes are doomed because they do not confess Christ from the heart. John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” 1 John 2:22 “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” 1 John 4:1-2 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.”
- c. The opinions of men – Verse 28. This was a poor answer.
- d. The divinely revealed answer – Verse 29. Most people never learn this answer.
- e. This was the place and time when Jesus announced the formation of His Church. Matthew 16:17-18 “And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Though the words about the Church (Matt. 16:18) are not found in Mark, nevertheless we call attention to the fact that this was a fitting place to make such a pronouncement. Caesarea Philippi was built on a rock cliff several hundred feet high. This huge strata of rock (petra), was a fitting symbol of Christ upon whom the Church is built.
- f. The prohibition given – Verse 30. To announce that He was the Messiah might have caused a political uprising, which was not the will of God at this time.

B. The Proclamation of His Prophecy – Verse 31-33

- a. A prediction of His rejection and death – Verse 31. The disciples failed to grasp this.
- b. The protest of Peter – Verse 32. When we argue with God’s word, we are open to accept Satan’s lies. To them the Christ, the Messiah was a political leader who

would rule and reign when he appeared. This is the reason for verse 30, for they must be taught the true purpose of His coming.

- c. The rebuke of Peter – Verse 33. This verse does not mean that Peter was Satan or that he was demon possessed. He was simply by his protest following the plan of Satan to keep Jesus off the cross.

II. THE VALUE OF A SOUL – Verses 34-37

A. A Warning About The Soul – Verses 34-37

- a. What the disciple must do – Verse 34. Cross symbolizes death. “DENY and TAKE UP are aorist imperative tenses expressing once-for-all acts. FOLLOW is a present imperative, meaning a repeated, continuous, or habitual act.” — Hobbs
- b. A wonderful paradox – Verse 35. This verse reveals the motivation for true discipleship. There is a price to pay if you are a true disciple.
- c. The unanswerable question – Verse 36. Note that “life” in verse 35 and “soul” in verse 36 both come from the same Greek word (psuche). It is clear that more than physical life is in view, for this passage is talking about the real person and where they will spend eternity.
- d. A mistake that cannot be rectified – Verse 37

B. A Warning About Shame – Verse 38

- a. There are some who are ashamed of Him and His words today.
 - i. Are we ashamed to let people know that we believe of Christ?
 - ii. Are we ashamed to live according to the words of Christ?
 - iii. Are we ashamed to be identified with the people of Christ?
- b. He will be ashamed of them in that day.

III. THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST – Verses 9:1-13

A. The Transfiguration Promised – Verse 1

- a. This verse is not talking about the crucifixion, Pentecost, or the destruction of Jerusalem.
- b. It is not talking about His actual Second Coming.
- c. It really refers to the miniature picture of the kingdom that they would shortly see on the Mount.

B. The Transfiguration Performed – Verse 2-4

- a. After 6 days He took three apostles – Verse 2a. 2 Peter 1:16-18 “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.”
- b. The high mountain may have been Mt. Hermon which was not far from Caesarea Philippi – Verse 2b. It is 9,200 feet high.
- c. He was transfigured before them – Verse 2c. Transfigured means to change into another form, as a caterpillar is turned into a butterfly. It refers to His external form, which is an outward expression of His inner nature.
- d. His clothing became white as snow – Verse 3
 - i. Especially significant if they were on Mt. Hermon which was snow capped.
 - ii. This is an outward manifestation of His inner nature and sinless character.
 - iii. It was a preview of His future appearance in glory upon the earth.
- e. Elijah and Moses appear on the mount – Verse 4
 - i. This reveals the state of the dead.
 - ii. Elijah and Moses (not their ghosts or a vision of them), but the real people appeared on the mount.
- f. This entire passage gives us a picture of the kingdom age, and illustrates the glory which Christ and His people will have at His Second Coming. Notice the types:
 - i. **CHRIST** - Glorified in His kingdom.
 - ii. **MOSES** - The dead in Christ rose and in His kingdom. Note Moses death and burial. Deuteronomy 34:5-6 “So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.”
 - iii. **ELIJAH** - The raptured saints. Elijah didn’t see death but was taken up in a whirlwind. 2 Kings 2:11 “And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. At the rapture we will go up to Him in the air.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

iv. Three **DISCIPLES** - The tribulation saints going into the kingdom

C. The Transfiguration Misunderstood – Verses 5-8

a. The overwhelming blunder – Verses 5-6

- i. He was wrong in desiring three tabernacles – Verse 5a. Peter wanted to live in the clouds, rather than go back down to the people and proclaim Christ.
- ii. He was wrong in putting Moses and Elijah on the same level with Jesus Christ – Verse 5b
- iii. He was wrong in speaking out of fear – Verse 6

b. The overshadowing cloud – Verse 7a

- i. This was the Shekinah cloud which marked the presence of God. Exodus 13:21 “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.” 2 Chronicles 7:1 “Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.”
- ii. They needed no new tabernacle with its Shekinah cloud, for Christ was with them and He was filled with glory.

c. The overwhelming voice of God – Verse 7b

- i. He identified His Son. See Mark 1:11
- ii. He intended for them to hear His Son. He speaks to us in His word, and we are to hear and obey what He says.

d. The overpowering presence of Jesus – Verse 8

D. The Transfiguration Concealed – Verses 9-13

- a. They were not to tell it until He was raised from the dead – Verse 9. They were not to excite people with it. They would not understand it until then.
- b. They did not understand about His rising from the dead – Verse 10
- c. The scribes taught that Elijah would come before the Messiah – Verse 11. This confused them since they understood that Christ came first.
- d. John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah – Verses 12-13. Luke 1:17 “And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Malachi 4:5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.” The complete fulfillment of this will take place in the tribulation. Revelation 11:3-6
- e. The disciples did not understand the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ – Verse 12b. Isaiah 53; Psalm 22

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did the disciples say about who Christ was?
2. What was the reaction when Christ predicted His own rejection and death?
3. What does it mean for a disciple to take up his cross and follow Christ?
4. What is the unanswerable question proposed by Christ?
5. What is the danger of being ashamed of Christ?
6. Who went up on the Mount of Transfiguration?
7. Which high mountain may have been the one?
8. What is the meaning of transfiguration?
9. Describe Christ as he appeared in the Transfiguration.
10. Who appeared on the mount from the O.T. period?
11. What did the transfiguration prefigure?

Notes

LESSON 14

CHRIST TRIUMPHANT; DISCIPLES FAILING

Memory Verse: Mark 9:35

Lesson: Mark 9:14-41

I. THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST – Verses 14-29

A. The Failure Of The Disciples – Verses 14-18

- a. Contrast the glorious experience on the Mount with what they found below.
- b. The disciples questioned by the scribes before the multitude – Verse 14. The scribes were debaters and were taking advantage of the disciples to create confusion. Of course they did not offer to cast out the dumb spirit themselves. Matthew 12:27 “And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.”
- c. The amazed crowd running to Him – Verse 15
- d. The scribes do not answer His question – Verse 16
- e. The man with the afflicted son answers – Verses 17-18
 - i. He brought his son to Jesus – Verse 17. All fathers should bring their sons and daughters to Jesus.
 - ii. The awful condition of his son – Verse 18a. This was no doubt much worse than a convulsion.
 - iii. The tragic failure of the disciples – Verse 18b. John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”
 - iv. Even though Jesus gave them the power to do so, they failed – Mark 6:7-13

B. The Success Of The Saviour – Verses 19-29

- a. He rebukes the lack of faith, which included His disciples – Verse 19a
- b. He commands the son to be brought – Verse 19b
- c. The resistance of the dumb spirit – Verse 20. Mark 5:7
- d. He had been in this hopeless condition since childhood – Verse 21. Christ’s question was to make him see his one hope.
- e. The plea made by the father – Verse 22
 - i. His plea was on the basis of his son’s dire condition – Verse 22a

- ii. His plea was for compassion – Verse 22b. Lamentations 3:22-23 “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”
 - iii. His plea was for help – Verse 22c. Note the “us,” which reveals how he identified himself with his son.
 - f. The tremendous value of believing faith – Verse 23. Our lack of faith stops many of the blessings of God.
 - g. A tearful confession of faith – Verse 24a. Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
 - h. A tearful confession of unbelief or no-faith – Verse 24b. The believing heart in honesty recognizes the presence of unbelief.
- C. The multitudes run to see – Verse 25a
 - a. Jesus rebuked the foul spirit – Verse 25b. Evil spirits do not repent, but they were rebuked and forced to obey the Son of God. “Charge” here is a word that was used in military commands that must be obeyed. The evil spirit was forbidden to return.
 - b. The departing spirit did his worst to the boy – Verse 26
 - c. Though said to be dead, Jesus lifted him up – Verse 27
 - d. The disciples asked why they had failed – Verse 28
 - e. The reason for their failure – Verse 29. They had cast out devils (Mark 6:13), but now they have failed. Their lack of faith (verse 19) could be traced to their failure in the practice of prayer, fasting and self discipline. Matthew 17:20-21 “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”
 - f. Our faith in Christ brings glory to God. Romans 4:20 “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.”

II. THE FAILING DISCIPLES – Verses 30-37

- A. They Failed To Understand His Coming Passion – Verses 30-32
 - a. Jesus returns to Galilee from the Mt. Hermon area – Verse 30
 - i. This was perhaps six months before His death.
 - ii. This was a private trip in which He taught the disciples.
 - iii. It was in preparation for His trip into Judea. Mark 10:1

- b. He taught His disciples about His coming death – Verse 31 “Delivered into the hands of men” means His betrayal.
 - i. This was the beginning of the end for Him.
 - ii. This is the third time that He has revealed this to them in the gospels.
- c. They understood not – Verse 32. In their minds they were expecting Him to set up the kingdom.
 - i. They did not understand who would deliver Him.
 - ii. They were afraid to ask Him.
 - iii. They were sorrowful and grieved, but not enough to put aside their desire for preeminence. Matthew 17:23

B. They Failed To Conquer The Desire For Preeminence – Verses 33-37

- a. He questions them as to why they disputed as they traveled – Verse 33
- b. They were ashamed to answer, but Jesus knew why – Verse 34a
- c. The dispute was as to who would be the greatest – Verse 34b. This was in regard to the kingdom according to Matthew 18:1 “At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” How shameful that Christ told them about His death and resurrection shortly before, and now they argue about their own desire for pre-eminence. It is so in churches today.
- d. He shows them the way to greatness – Verse 35
 - i. Those who would be first must learn to be last – Verse 35a
 - ii. Those who would be first must be servant to all – Verse 35b
- e. He demonstrates the way to greatness – Verses 36-37
 - i. A child has a simple and trusting nature.
 - ii. A child is helpless and mostly without influence in worldly affairs.
 - iii. A child cannot reward one with influence and money.
 - iv. Thus we should be willing to serve children and adults who can do little to promote or reward us in Christian service.

C. They Failed To Curb Their Prejudice – Verses 38-41

- a. John makes a charge – Verse 38. John is called one of the “sons of thunder.” Mark 3:17. Luke 9:51-56. No doubt this man was a true disciple of Christ, but not one of the twelve. Philippians 1:15-18 “Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.”

- i. It was not so much zeal as jealousy which caused him to say, “he followeth not us.” Numbers 11:26-30 “But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the spirit rested upon them; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp. And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them. And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD’S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them! And Moses gat him into the camp, he and the elders of Israel.
 - ii. He did not deny the man was casting out devils.
 - iii. He did not deny that it was being done in Jesus name.
 - iv. He did not charge the man with false doctrine. Romans 14:4 “Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.”
- b. Jesus defends the unnamed man – Verse 39
- i. This passage should not be used to teach toleration for apostasy or heretics. Romans 16:17 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” Titus 1:13 “This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.” 2 Thessalonians 3:14 “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.” Titus 3:10 “A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject.” 2 Corinthians 6:17 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”
 - ii. Neither does it teach toleration for immorality. Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” 2 Thessalonians 3:6 “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.” 2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”
 - iii. It does teach against jealousy and a narrow view that all who serve the Lord should follow us.
- c. A great lesson to remember – Verse 40. There can be no neutrality when it comes to our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- d. A profound lesson on rewards – Verse 41

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why could not the disciples cast out the dumb spirit?
2. Recite the memory verse.
3. Why did the disciples not understand His prediction of His coming death?
4. What did they dispute over while they were in the way?
5. How did Christ teach them to be great?
6. Who did he use as an example in His lesson?
7. What did John charge someone as doing?
8. What had He tried to do?
9. Does this passage teach toleration toward heretics?

Notes

LESSON 15

JESUS TEACHES ON HELL AND ON MARRIAGE

Memory Verse: Mark 9:42

Lesson: Mark 9:42-10:12

I. THE FIRE OF DEATH – Verses 9:42-50

A. The Stumblingblocks – Verse 42

- a. Evidently the child of verse 36 is still with them. It is certain that the child was old enough to believe in Jesus, whether it had been born again or not.
- b. To “offend” means to cause to stumble.
- c. This shows the magnitude of the sin of causing someone to stumble. Leviticus 19:14 “Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.” Romans 11:9 “And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them.” Romans 14:13 “Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.” 1 Corinthians 8:9 “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.”

B. The Scorching Fires of Hell – Verses 43-48

- a. Missing hell is more important than our hands – Verse 43
 - i. None of these verses teach that we should literally mutilate our bodies, or that we need to do so to escape hell.
 - ii. They teach that nothing that we have is more important than being saved.
- b. Missing hell is more important than our feet – Verse 45
- c. Missing hell is more important than our eyes – Verse 47
- d. Hell will be eternal punishment for the lost – Verses 44, 46, 48. Isaiah 66:24 “And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.” Luke 16:22-24 “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.” Revelation 20:10 “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone,

where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Revelation 20:15 “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

- i. Some of these verses (Mark 9:44, 46, 48) are left out of the modern versions (perversions). This is a terrible mistake. The seeming repetition in this passage was given for an emphatic warning about the awful reality and eternity of hell.
- ii. These verses refute the idea that there is no fire in hell.
- iii. They refute the idea that sinners will simply be consumed, burnt up, by the fires of hell.
- iv. The fire is not quenched, the worm dieth not, and it is everlasting fire. Matthew 18:8 “Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.”
- v. There can be no everlasting life if there is no everlasting hell. They stand or fall together. In Matthew 25:46 “everlasting” and “eternal” come from the same Greek “aionios.” It means “without end, never to cease, everlasting.” Heaven and hell are both everlasting. Matthew 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

C. The Savorless Salt – Verses 49-50

- a. Salt improves taste, preserves, and has healing power.
- b. Salt can be diluted and corrupted to the point of losing its value and use.
- c. This can be caused by sin or selfish ambition, such as some disciples were given to in this lesson.
- d. He is not telling about a saved person losing their salvation. This cannot happen. But a saved person can lose his usefulness and his opportunity as a servant of the Lord. Matthew 5:13 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”
- e. It is important that we obey God and have peace one with another. Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

II. JESUS TEACHES ON DIVORCE – Verses 10:1-12

This chapter marks the beginning of His final journey to Jerusalem. On this occasion he went through Perea on the other side of Jordan. At this time the cross was only a short time away.

A. The Question Of The Pharisees – Verses 1-4

- a. Jesus taught the people who came – Verse 1
- b. The Pharisees ask about divorce – Verse 2. It was not an honest question because they wanted to tempt Christ. The discussion of marriage is why John the Baptist was beheaded – Mark 6:14-29. They may have hoped that the answers of Jesus would get him in trouble. The Jews were greatly divided on the subject of divorce. Some thought that a man could obtain a divorce for any reason, while others had a very different view. Jesus was bound to offend at least one of these two groups.
- c. He asks them what Moses commanded – Verse 3
- d. Their answer was based on what Moses wrote – Verse 4. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 “And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.”

B. The Answer Of Jesus – Verses 5-9

- a. Moses never commanded divorce, but it was permitted because of the hardness of their hearts – Verse 5
- b. Jesus goes beyond Moses, back to the beginning – Verse 6. Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” Genesis 2:21-24 “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”
- c. Parents are to be left so that the husband can cleave unto the wife – Verse 7. There was no provision for man to marry a man or a woman to marry a woman.
- d. Marriage makes the two one flesh – Verse 8
- e. Jesus forbids divorce – Verse 9. In this He restores the original intent of marriage.

C. Jesus Teaching The Disciples – Verses 10-12

- a. Privately the disciples ask for more information – Verse 10

- b. Divorce and remarriage results in adultery – Verses 11-12
- c. **Note:** A great deal of misunderstanding has resulted from a misinterpretation of the exception stated in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9. The book of Matthew was written primarily for the Jews who practiced betrothal. Under Jewish betrothal or espousal, a couple was spoken of as husband and wife before they were actually married. See Matthew 1:18-20, 25 for proof of this. If Jesus had not been conceived of the Holy Ghost, then Joseph would have had every right to put her away, because she would have been guilty of fornication. So during the time of betrothal was the only time that a woman could be put away for fornication. After they knew each other in marriage, this could not be done. Luke 16:18 “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.” Romans 7:2-3 “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.” 1 Corinthians 7:10-15 “And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”
- d. The man or woman that is “not under bondage,” still does not have the right to remarry. If they marry out of the will of God, they will have to repent and ask God’s forgiveness before they can have any fellowship with God.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What does this lesson teach about hell?
2. What does it teach about salt?
3. Recite the memory verse.
4. Which route did Jesus take in His last journey to Jerusalem?

5. What did the Pharisees want to know about divorce & why?
6. What did Moses command about this?
7. What was God's original intent in regard to marriage?
8. Why is a man to leave father and mother?
9. Did Jesus okay divorce?
10. What is the true meaning of "except for fornication" in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9?

Notes

LESSON 16

THE SERVANT DEPARTS FOR JERUSALEM

Memory Verse: Mark 10:15-16

Lesson: Mark 10:13-31

I. JESUS BLESSES LITTLE CHILDREN – Verses 13-16

A. Little Children Brought To Jesus – Verse 13

- a. Many people in our world today look upon children as being a burden. In Bible times, children were counted a blessing. Psalm 127:3-5 “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.” Psalm 128:3-4 “Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.”
- b. Young children brought for Jesus to touch – Verse 13a. There were also infants brought according to Luke 18:15-16.
- c. Those who brought them rebuked by the disciples – Verse 13b. It seems strange that the disciples would do this, after what He said in Mark 9:36-37. Perhaps they were trying to shelter Christ and give Him rest. Nowhere in the Bible does it teach baptizing the little children. Only those who could repent and believe were baptized in the N.T. Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” Acts 8:36-37 “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

B. Little Children Blessed By Jesus – Verses 14-16

- a. He rebuked the disciples – Verse 14a
- b. They were forbidden to stop the children – Verse 14b
- c. Adults must receive the things of God with simple child like faith – Verse 15
- d. He takes them up in His arms and blesses them – Verse 16. What a tender and touching scene.

C. The Importance of Bringing Children to Christ.

- a. Children by nature are lost. Psalm 51:5 “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Psalm 58:3 “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.” Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Ephesians 2:3 “...and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
- b. Parents are responsible for teaching their children the scriptures. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
- c. Parents should take their children to Sunday School and Church services. If parents love their children, how can they neglect such an important duty. Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
- d. This can make all the difference in the world, in the eternal destiny of children. 2 Timothy 3:15 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

II. JESUS PROCLAIMS SALVATION – Verses 17-22

The background of this man – He was young (Matthew 19:22) and he was a ruler (Luke 18:18).

A. A Seeker’s Question – Verses 17-18

- a. He called Jesus Good Master – Verse 17a
- b. His question about eternal life – Verse 17b. Like all men, he supposed that he could do something to gain eternal life. John 6:28-29 “Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”
 - i. This shows that he had a superficial view of sin.
 - ii. He had a superficial view of Jesus Christ. He called Him master, which means teacher.
 - iii. Sinners cannot be saved by the Law. Learn the purpose of the Law. Galatians 3:24 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”
- c. There is none good but God – Verse 18. Of course Jesus was God and deserved the title, but the man did not really realize this.

B. A Salvation Message – Verses 19-22

- a. Man must see himself guilty under the law – Verses 19-20
 - i. The commandments show man his guilt – Verse 19
 - ii. This man had a shallow view of the law and was deceived into thinking he kept it – Verse 20.
 - iii. Sinners cannot be saved by the Law. Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” Ephesians 2:8-10 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
- b. Man must turn from sin – Verse 21a
 - i. The love of Jesus for sinners.
 - ii. He had not kept the law perfectly for he did not love his neighbor as himself. He had been guilty of covetousness and when he was told to sell all his goods and give it to the poor this was too much. Exodus 20:17 “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s. 1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
 - iii. His problem was that he had an idol (possessions) that he was unwilling to turn from. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 “For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”
 - iv. Man is forbidden to have other gods – Exodus 20:3 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”
 - v. Not everyone who would be saved has to sell all they have and give it away, but it is only those who have it as a god.
- c. Man must come to Christ – Verse 21b. Those who come to Christ will follow Him. John 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”
- d. Some men cling to their idols – Verse 22. Money is a wonderful servant, but it is a horrible master.

III. THE DANGER OF WEALTH – Verses 23-31

A. The Peril of Riches – Verses 23-27

- a. The background for these warnings may be found in verses 17-22. The rich young man had gone away sad and lost – Verse 22
- b. The lesson was for His disciples – Verse 23a
- c. The hindrance of riches – Verse 23b. “Hardly” means “with difficulty.” It does not say that the rich cannot be saved, but their riches are an hindrance. Proverbs 18:11 “The rich man’s wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.
- d. The astonished disciples – Verse 24a
- e. The reemphasized hindrance of riches – Verse 24b. It would be well to remember that 90% of the American people are rich compared with the rest of the world and the people of Jesus’ day. Houses, property, riches, good incomes, pleasures, recreation, and dozens of other things hinder American people from being saved.
- f. It would take a miracle to put a camel through the eye of a needle – Verse 25. This is a sewing needle, not a gate.
- g. The disciples ask, “who then can be saved?” – Verse 26. All are rich in something, so can anyone be saved?
- h. With men it is impossible to be saved – Verse 27a. This is true even of the poor.
- i. With God salvation is possible – Verse 27b. Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” 1 Corinthians 1:22-29. We should learn to be content in the state we are in. Philippians 4:11 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” 1 Timothy 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

B. The Promise Of Reward – Verses 28-31

- a. Peter’s concern about rewards – Verse 28. Matthew 19:27 “Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?”
- b. What they had left – Verse 29. They had left their boats and nets. Some had left other occupations. All had left homes and families
- c. The receiving of a hundredfold “now in this time.” – Verse 30a. This refers to the spiritual blessings received now.
- d. In the world to come will come the full reward – Verse 30b
- e. The reversal of things – Verse 31. This is comparing this world with the next.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus rebuke his disciples in regard to little children?
2. What did the man ask Jesus about eternal life?
3. What was his real problem in regard to salvation?
4. What was he told to do?
5. Recite the memory verse.
6. Why do riches hinder salvation?
7. Who are the rich today?
8. Explain the camel and the eye of a needle.
9. How can anyone be saved?
10. What had the disciples left?
11. What did Jesus promise them?
12. What did Jesus say that would be done to Him?

Notes

LESSON 17

THE SERVANT'S AMBITIOUS DISCIPLES

Memory Verse: Mark 10:45

Lesson: Mark 10:32-52

I. THE DESIRE OF JAMES AND JOHN – Verses 32-45

A. Jesus Foretells His Death – Verses 32-34

- a. On the way up to Jerusalem, Jesus begins to prepare His disciples – Verse 32.
- b. The word “up” is significant, since Jericho was about 800 feet below sea level and Jerusalem was about 2,500 feet above sea level. In about 15 miles they would climb about 3,300 feet in altitude.
- c. It could be that prophecy was on His mind as He traveled. Isaiah 50:6-7 “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.”
- d. What the Jews would soon do to Him – Verse 33
- e. What the Gentiles would soon do to Him – Verse 34. All of this shows His perfect foreknowledge of what wicked men would do in carrying out the “determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God.” Acts 2:23 “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”
- f. He told his disciples what was going to happen, and that He would die for the souls of men, but their minds were on something else, as the following verses reveal. It is the same with Christians today, instead of having our minds on the great work of God, we have them on our own selfish desires to glorifying ourselves.

B. James And John Foretell Their Desire – Verses 35-45

- a. They wanted Him to promise He would grant their desire – Verse 35. Jesus was going to die for men’s souls, but they were only interested in glorifying themselves.
- b. Jesus wouldn’t make such a promise – Verse 36. Beware of making blind promises.
- c. They wanted seats of preeminence in the kingdom – Verse 37
- d. The mother of James and John were involved in this request. Matthew 20:20-21 “Then came to him the mother of Zebedee’s children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She

saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.”

- i. God does not answer selfish prayers – James 4:2-3 “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”
 - ii. If God answers such a request, it is to teach us. Psalm 106:15 “And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.” 1 John 5:14-15 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”
 - iii. They did not know the price to be paid. Acts 14:22 “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”
 - iv. They were burdened with their own self-esteem – Philippians 2:3 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”
- e. This is almost incredible that they should bring up such a thing after what Jesus said in verses 32-34. He had told them of His death in Mark 9:31-32, and yet they had disputed over who would be the greatest. See Mark 9:33-34. This desire for self exaltation is one of the curses of our day. Some preachers practice it, and many church members do the same. Churches are torn asunder over this again and again.
- f. Christ asked if they could drink the cup and be baptized with His baptism – Verse 38. He is talking about Gethsemane and His suffering. Psalm 69:2, 15 “I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.”
- g. They would indeed suffer – Verse 39. They had no idea what they were agreeing to, but they would find out. James was the first of the twelve to be executed (Acts 12:1-2), and John would be exiled to Patmos (Revelation 1:9). Please note that the two thieves were on the right and the left during the crucifixion.
- h. He could not grant their request – Verse 40. 2 Timothy 4:8 “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” Revelation 22:12 “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”
- i. The displeasure of the other disciples – Verse 41. This created division in the group and course this was bad – James 3:134:2
- j. God’s people are not to be as the lost – Verse 42

- k. Whoever would be great must minister – Verse 43
- l. Whoever would be chief must be a servant – Verse 44. Luke 14:11 “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”
- m. The great example – Verse 45. Psalm 49:7 “None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him.” Isaiah 53:11-12 “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. 1 Peter 1:18,19 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”
- n. Jesus came “to give his life a ransom for many.” – Verse 45. This reveals the meaning and the blessing of His death. Isaiah 53:6-8 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.”

II. THE DELIVERANCE OF BARTIMAEUS – Verses 46-52

A. The Helpless Cry – Verses 46-48

- a. Jesus near Jericho – Verse 46a. There is no contradiction between this verse and Matthew 20:29 and Luke 18:35. There were two Jerichos, the old and the new. One writer says that they were approaching Jericho and the other says they were leaving. They were talking about two different Jerichos.
- b. The poor blind beggar is a type of the lost sinner – Verse 46b. Although he was blind in body, yet by faith he saw the Christ, which the High Priest never did.
- c. His interest was stirred when he heard that Jesus was passing by verse 47a. It is the same with sinners as they hear the word. Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Ephesians 2:1 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”
- d. His cry for mercy – Verse 47b. He saw himself unworthy and undeserving.
- e. The efforts to silence him – Verse 48. It is ever so when men are under conviction, the devil hinders. He always has someone to voice his will. Sometimes it is a cold professing believer, who stands in the way of sinners.

B. The Heavenly Call – Verses 49-52

- a. The call and the comfort – Verse 49
- b. He came to Jesus – Verse 50
- c. His one concern – Verse 51. Alms are forgotten. Every sinner is blind and needs his sight. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”
- d. The Saviour’s compassion – Verse 52a
- e. The proper course – Verse 52b. He followed Jesus in the way. Luke 18:43 “And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.” Those who are really saved will follow Jesus. John 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did James and John desire?
2. What is so incredible about the timing of their request?
3. How does one get to be great or chief?
4. Explain the seeming contradiction about Jericho by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
5. Explain how the blind beggar is a picture of the sinner.
6. What did he do after receiving his sight?
7. Recite the memory verse.

LESSON 18

THE SERVANT PRESENTED AS KING

Memory Verse: Mark 11:24

Lesson Mark 11:1-33

I. THE ENTRY OF THE KING – Verses 1-11

A. The Preparation Made – Verses 1-6

- a. They approach Jerusalem from the East – Verse 1. Bethphage (house of figs), Bethany (house of dates), and the Mount of Olives were all located just a short distance East of Jerusalem. From the Mount of Olives they could look down on the whole city with the temple area in the foreground. This is a breathtaking view.
- b. Two disciples are sent for a colt – Verse 2
 - i. By His omniscience He knew about the colt, and no prior arrangement would have been needed with the owner. This was considered to be an animal fit for a king. 1 Kings 1:33 “The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon.”
 - ii. It was an unbroken colt that had never been ridden.
- c. They are given a reason for taking the colt – Verse 3
- d. Their obedience – Verse 4
- e. They are challenged – Verse 5
- f. They answer according to the Lord’s instructions – Verse 6. How much trouble we bring upon ourselves when we do not go where He sends and speak what He says!

B. The Purpose Revealed – Verses 7-11

- a. The garments make a rough saddle – Verse 7. The unbroken colt makes no trouble, but like the wind and the waves obey the Lord, so did the colt.
- b. The honor bestowed on Him – Verse 8. 2 Kings 9:12-13 “...Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then they hastened, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king.”
- c. The acclaim given to Him – Verses 9-10
 - i. They are quoting from a messianic Psalm. Psalm 118 “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath

made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.”

- ii. Jesus made no objection to this, which indicates He approved.
- d. The meaning of this event.
 - i. He was in effect declaring Himself as Israel’s king, and He knew this would stir up the religious leaders against Him. This would prepare them to plan His death, which was the will of God.
 - ii. It was a fulfillment of prophecy. Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” Psalm 118:26 “Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.”
 - iii. This event marks the termination point of Daniel’s 69th week. Daniel 9:25 “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”
 - iv. He presented Himself to this vast multitude of Jews who were gathered for the Passover. There may have been over 2 million Jews present. Of course Christ was about to be the true Passover sacrifice. 1 Corinthians 5:7 “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”
 - v. While they openly honored Him, in their hearts they denied Him.
- e. Entering the city, He views the inside of the temple – Verse 11a
- f. He departs for Bethany to spend the night – Verse 11b. Remember that this is where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived.

II. THE JUDGMENTS OF THE KING – Verses 12-33

A. His Judgment Of A Fruitless Tree – Verses 12-14

- a. Early in the morning He was hungry as He journeyed from Bethany to Jerusalem – Verse 12. This reveals the human side of the eternal Son of God.
- b. A fruitless fig tree found – Verse 13
 - i. It had leaves which would indicate fruit.
 - ii. This tree is a type of Israel. Isaiah 5:1-7 “Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof,

and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.”

- c. This tree serves as a lesson for Christians today.
- d. His judgment on the tree pronounced – Verse 14
- e. To be fruitless is a sin, so we need to learn how to be fruitful. Psalm 1:1-3 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” John 15:16 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

B. His Judgment In The Filthy Temple – Verses 15-19

- a. This is His second cleansing of the temple – Verse 15. He cleansed the temple soon after He began His ministry (John 2:13-16), now He cleanses it at the end.
- b. The sin being conducted in the temple – Verse 15
 - i. Sacrificial animals and birds were sold to the Jews who came from great distances. Of course this turning of the temple into a sale barn was a profitable racket with inflated prices no doubt. It was being done in the court of the gentiles, and was not a good testimony.
 - ii. The half-shekel temple tax had to be paid in Jewish coin. The money changers exchanged these coins for a profit.
- c. Jesus cast them out – Verse 15, 16
- d. He taught the true use of His house – Verse 17
 - i. At the age of 12 He treats it as a place of teaching. Luke 2:46 “And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.”

- ii. He revealed it as a place for His Father’s business. Luke 2:49 “And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”
 - iii. He taught that it was a house of prayer for all nations – Verse 17. Isaiah 56:7 “...for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.” Jeremiah 7:11 “Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.” This unholy business was conducted in the court of the Gentiles. What a testimony for the Gentiles who might come there to pray!!
 - iv. Although the church is not the building, but the building is only the place where the Church meets; nevertheless it is bought and paid for with the Lord’s tithes and offerings. We believe that it is important to be careful what kinds of activities are carried on there.
 - e. His cleansing of the temple increased the hatred of the religious leaders – Verse 18
 - f. When evening came He left the city – Verse 19. His time had not yet come and He knew the evening would be the time they would seek Him.
- C. The Judgment Of The Fruitless Tree Explained – Verses 20-26
- a. The fig tree dried from the roots – Verse 20
 - b. Peter’s attention drawn to the fig tree – Verse 21
 - c. Lack of faith and obedience had brought Israel to a fruitless condition – Verse 22
 - d. Faith can move mountains – Verse 23
 - e. The great power of believing prayer – Verse 24
 - f. The necessity of a forgiving spirit – Verses 25-26. If Israel failed in these things and God judged them, then Christians and churches today should take heed that they fall not into that error.
- D. The Judge’s Authority Questioned – Verses 27-33
- a. He was in the temple at this time – Verse 27. Both Matthew 21:23 and Luke 20:1 reveal that He was teaching at the time.
 - b. The chief priests, scribes, and the elders want to know where He got His authority – Verse 28. No doubt “these things” involved both the teaching in the temple, and the cleansing of the temple
 - c. Jesus poses a question for them – Verse 29-30. This is an important question that cannot be ignored.
 - d. They are caught on the horns of a dilemma – Verses 31-32
 - e. They decline an answer – Verse 33. Of course the answer to both questions is “from heaven.” How can anyone deny the validity of John's baptism without denying the authority of Christ?

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. State the location of Bethany, Bethphage, and the Mount of Olives?
2. How did Jesus know where the colt could be found?
3. What were they to tell anyone who asked why they were taking the colt?
4. What did the people spread in the way?
5. What was the meaning of His entry into Jerusalem?
6. Explain the meaning of the withered tree.
7. What evil was being practiced in the temple?
8. What lessons should we learn from this?
9. Why did they question His authority and what answer did He give them?

Notes

LESSON 19

SERVANT'S CONTROVERSY WITH FALSEHOOD

Memory Verse: Mark 12:10-11

Lesson: Mark 12:1-17

I. THE PARABLE OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY – Verses 1-12

A. The Nation Planted – Verse 1

- a. This parable aimed at “them.” See Mark 11:27-28. This was likely a delegation from the Sanhedrin.
- b. This vineyard was Israel. Psalm 80:8-16. Isaiah 5:1-7 “Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.”
- c. Notice how well the vineyard was cared for.
 - i. There was a hedge about it for protection. Isaiah 5:5, Psalm 80:12 “Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?”
 - ii. The place for the wine fat was to preserve her fruit.
 - iii. The tower was a lookout and dwelling place for the guard, so that beasts and thieves could not destroy her fruit.
 - iv. The husbandmen were the caretakers to prune, cultivate, and to care for the vineyard. Similar to the sharecroppers.

B. The Nation's Prophets – Verses 2-5

- a. God sends a servant (prophet) to collect His fruit – Verse 2

- b. The servant beaten and sent away empty – Verse 3
 - c. Another servant treated even worse – Verse 4
- C. Others sent and shamefully treated, and some killed – Verse 5. Notice the progressive violence shown to God's servants. All of the above illustrates what Israel did to the Lord's prophets. Jeremiah 7:25; 25:4-7; Matthew 23:34; Nehemiah 9:26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations." Acts 7:52 "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers." Hebrews 11:36-38 "And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."
 - a. The Jews of Jesus' day did not deny this – Matthew 23:30; Luke 11:48.
- D. The Nation's Last Prophet – Verses 6-12
 - a. The son was Jesus Christ – Verse 6. Notice that He is the last prophet sent to Israel. Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken."
 - b. They plot to kill the Son – Verse 7
 - i. Not because of mistaken identity, but because they knew who he was.
 - ii. Thought they would receive the inheritance.
 - iii. Even then the Jews were plotting to kill Christ – John 11:47-53
 - c. The terrible deed is done – Verse 8
 - d. The question asked – Verse 9a
 - e. The question answered – Verse 9b
 - i. The husbandmen destroyed.
 - ii. The vineyard given to others. The covenant was made at Sinai and accepted by Israel. Exodus 19:5-8 "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD." Note the "if" and "then" in verse 5.

- f. Christ was the rejected stone – Verses 10-11; Psalm 118:22-23 “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.”
 - i. The stone was a symbol of the Messiah. Exodus 17:6 “Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.” 1 Corinthians 10:4 “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” Daniel 2:34 “Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.” Romans 9:32-33;
 - ii. The Servant-Judge announced a double verdict. They had rejected the Son and had refused the Stone. The result would be judgment.
- g. The reaction to the parable – Verse 12
 - i. They sought to lay hold on Him, but did not do so out of fear of the people.
 - ii. They knew that the parable was against them.
 - iii. They went their way but their evil purpose was unchanged. **NOTE:** This whole parable may also have an application to the Church. This is not the interpretation of course, but there is an application without a doubt.

II. THE PROBLEM OF ISRAEL’S TAXES – Verses 13-17

A. The Trap Planned – Verses 13-15a

- a. The Pharisees and Herodians were enemies, but they united to trap Jesus – Verse 13. Matthew 22:15-16
- b. The trap baited with flattery – Verse 14a. Job 32:21 “Let me not, I pray you, accept any man’s person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man.” Psalm 12:3 “The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things.” Proverbs 20:19; 24:24; 28:23; 29:5.
- c. The trap cunningly devised – Verse 14b. The tribute was a poll tax or people tax.
 - i. If He said yes, the Pharisees and the people would turn on Him
 - ii. If He said no, the Herodians and Romans would turn on Him. The Pharisees were a strict religious sect that opposed all Roman rulership and taxes. The Herodians were a political group that favored that which would appease the Romans and increase the power of the Herods.
 - iii. He claimed to be the Messiah with a kingdom of His own. The Jews believed the Messiah would pay taxes to no one. If He condoned tribute to Caesar, He would be denying His Messiahship, so they thought.

- d. The Truth Presented – Verses 15b-17
- e. The request made – Verse 15. The penny was the very money used to pay this tax. If they used such a coin, this was evidence that they were subject to Rome.
- f. The question asked, and the answer given – Verse 16
- g. The proposition presented – Verse 17
 - i. Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's. "Render" means to pay a debt or wages.
 - ii. Render to God the things that are God's. That which bears the image of God should be rendered to Him. All they could do was marvel at Him. He laid the groundwork for the separation of Church and State. One is not to control or invade the realm of the other.
 - iii. God has established government for our good. If we cannot respect the man in office, we still should respect the office. Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; 1 Peter 2:13-17.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who or what is the vineyard? Give proof.
2. Who are the "them" of verse 1?
3. Who planted the vineyard?
4. Who are the husbandmen and who do they represent?
5. Who do the servants represent?
6. What happened to the servants?
7. Who was sent last of all, and what did they do to him?
8. Who does this last one represent?
9. What did they ask about tribute?
10. How did Jesus answer them?
11. What does this teach us about separation of Church and State?

LESSON 20

SERVANT'S CONFLICT WITH FALSE TEACHERS

Memory Verse: Mark 12:24

Lesson: Mark 12:18-44

I. THE QUESTION OF THE RESURRECTION – Verses 18-27

A. The Question Asked – Verses 18-23

- a. Their unbelief concerning the resurrection – Verse 18. They believed that there is no resurrection, no rewards nor punishments in another life. They denied the immortality of the soul, and the resurrection of the body, and angels and spirits. They rejected traditions, and owned no Scriptures but the five books of Moses. Acts 23:8 “For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.”
- b. They quote from Moses – Verse 19. Deuteronomy 25:5-6 “If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband’s brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband’s brother unto her. And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.”
- c. The hypothetical case – Verses 20-22. They probably made up this story, as it would be very unlikely that this extreme case really happened.
- d. Their question presented – Verse 23. No doubt that this question or a similar one had already been presented to the Pharisees. Since they had been unable to answer it, the scribes assumed that Christ would have the same problem.

B. The Question Answered – Verses 24-27

- a. Ignorance of the Scripture produces false doctrine – Verse 24a
- b. Ignorance of the power of God produces all kinds of doubt – Verse 24b; Romans 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” Philippians 3:21 “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”
- c. They were ignorant of the state and need of the resurrected – Verse 25a. The Sadducees assumed that if there was a resurrection that things would go on in

heaven just as they had done on earth. Since there won't be any deaths, there will be no need of births. Relationships in heaven will be different. 1 Corinthians 15:38-39 "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds."

- d. They were ignorant of the existence of angels – Verse 25b
- e. They were ignorant of the fact that God's children are higher than angels. John 17:22-24 "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." 1 John 3:1-2 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."
- f. They were ignorant of what Moses had said – Verses 26-27
- g. They were ignorant of the fact that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were alive – Verses 26-27. Exodus 3:6 "Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God." Exodus 3:15 "And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

II. THE QUESTION ABOUT THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT – Verses 28-34

A. The Question Asked – Verse 28

- a. The scribe had noticed the wise answers of Jesus – Verse 28a
- b. He asked which is the first or greatest commandment. – Verse 28b
- c. This scribe was also a Pharisee – Matthew 22:34-35
- d. The scribes taught that the Jews were to keep 613 precepts of the Law, 365 negative and 248 positive.

B. The Question Answered – Verses 29-31

- a. He refers them to Scripture – Verses 29-30. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." This in reality is a summary of

the first 4 commandments. Exodus 20:1-11. The person who loves God as Jesus taught, will not have another God, nor will he make a graven image, etc.

- b. The second most important commandment is a summary of the last six commandments – Verse 31. Exodus 20:12-17; Matthew 19:18-19; Romans 13:8-10
- c. There was more to Jewish religion than keeping laws and offering sacrifices. Psalm 51:16-17; 141:1-2; Jeremiah 7:22-23 “For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.” Hosea 6:6 “For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” Micah 6:6-8 “Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

C. The Answer Affirmed – Verses 32-34

- a. There is but one true God – Verse 32
- b. Man's duty to love – Verse 33a
- c. Obedience is better than burnt offerings and sacrifices – Verse 33b. 1 Samuel 15:22 “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”
- d. The scribe appraised by the Saviour – Verse 34a
- e. The questioning of Jesus ceased – Verse 34b

III. THE QUESTION ABOUT THE SON OF DAVID – Verses 35-40

A. Christ's Relationship To David – Verses 35-37

- a. Why did the Scribes say that Christ was David's son? – Verse 35. Of course He was David's Son after the flesh. Matthew 1:1 “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” Matthew 22:42-46 “Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.”

- b. From the eternal, spiritual standpoint He was David's Lord – Verse 36-37; Psalm 110:1 "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." John 7:40-42 "Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"
- c. His miraculous conception and birth makes this possible – Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

B. Christ's Relationship To The Scribes – Verses 38-40

- a. His relationship to them was as an adversary. He is here warning the common people of verse 37.
- b. What the scribes liked – Verses 38-39
- c. What the scribes did – Verse 40a
- d. What the scribes will receive – Verse 40b
- e. If a person is wrong about Jesus, he is wrong about salvation. He condemns his own soul. John 3:16-21; 1 John 2:18-23, John 8:24 "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

IV. THE QUESTION OF GIVING – Verses 41-44

A. His Observation Of Giving – Verses 41-42

- a. The Lord watches our giving – Verse 41a
- b. He observed the rich casting in much – Verse 41b. The rich made a big show of their giving – Matthew 6:1-4
- c. He observed the poor giving little – Verse 42

B. His Evaluation Of Giving – Verses 43-44

- a. In the eyes of the Lord the poor widow gave more – Verse 43
- b. God measures differently than man – Verse 44. It is not the portion, but the proportion that is so important in our giving.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Describe the beliefs of the Sadducees.
2. What was their question about the resurrection?
3. In verse 24 Jesus states their ignorance concerning two things that led to their false doctrine. What were those two things?

4. Why do you suppose that Jesus referred to the writings of Moses to prove the resurrection rather than some other O.T. writings?
5. Name the first and second commandments as given by Jesus, and state the O.T. source for them.
6. What is the relationship of Christ to David, according to the flesh and according to the Spirit?
7. What did Jesus say that the scribes liked, and what did he say that they did?
8. How does the Lord evaluate our giving?
9. Recite the memory verse.

Notes

LESSON 21

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Memory Verse: Mark 13:31.

Lesson: Mark 13:1-37

The Olivet Discourse, as it is called, is found in Mark 13; Matthew 24; and Luke 21. It has been called by some, the most difficult prophetic portion of the Word of God. It need not be, if we keep in mind that it was given in answer to a question. A question that is Jewish in content, therefore the answer is Jewish. Prophecy is progressive in its revelation to man. (1) The rapture is only dimly in view (if at all), in this passage. (2) The rapture is sharply in focus in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, with details given. (3) The time of the rapture is revealed in Revelation 4:1. The Olivet Discourse is Jewish in application and refers a great deal to the tribulation.

I. THE OCCASION OF THE PROPHECY – Verses 1-4

A. The Destruction Of The Temple Foretold – Verses 1-2

- a. The disciples greatly admired the temple & called Christ's attention to it – Verse 1
- b. Jesus predicted its complete destruction – Verse 2. Imagine their surprise!

B. The Discreet Question Of The Apostles – Verses 3-4

- a. The four apostles ask Him privately – Verse 3. They are on the Mount of Olives which overlooks the temple and Jerusalem.
- b. Their question contains several parts – Verse 4
 - i. When shall the destruction of the temple be? – Verse 4a. They seemed to think that it would happen at the end of the age.
 - ii. They want a sign as to when these things will come to pass – Verse 4b
 - iii. They wanted to know the sign of His second coming and the end of the world. Matthew 24:3. They were not asking about the rapture, for they probably knew nothing of it.

II. THE CONTENT OF THE PROPHECY – Verses 5-27

A. The First Half of the 7 Year Tribulation – Verses 5-13

- a. The deception of false christs – Verses 5-6. People are deceived by false teachers.
- b. Wars and rumors of wars have continued to increase – Verses 7-8a

- c. The disasters of this age are as birth pangs – Verse 8b. “Sorrows” in this verse refers to the birth pangs of child birth. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” Jeremiah 4:31 “For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, and the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, that bewaileth herself, that spreadeth her hands, saying, Woe is me now! for my soul is wearied because of murderers.”
- d. The persecution of God’s people – Verse 9
- e. The gospel to be preached among all nations during the Tribulation – Verse 10. We are told how this will happen.
 - i. The 144,000 converted of Israel – Revelation 7:4 “And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”
 - ii. Great multitudes redeemed from all nation – Revelation 7:9 “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” Revelation 7:14 “And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”
 - iii. The two witnesses – Revelation 11:3 “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”
 - iv. The angel with the everlasting gospel – Revelation 14:6 “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”
- f. The Holy Spirit to help and guide the Lord’s people – Verse 11. This is not to be used as an excuse for not studying.
- g. The great betrayal in time of persecution – Verse 12. Under Hitler and Stalin, neighbors and even family members became informers.
- h. Saints hated for Christ’s sake – Verse 13a. John 15:20 “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”
- i. The tribulation saints who endure to the end of the tribulation shall be saved physically from death – Verse 13b. This is not to say that the Church will go through the tribulation. The rapture is not revealed in this section. These are tribulation saints here in view.

B. The Last Half of Tribulation, Known as Great Tribulation – Verses 14-23

- a. The abomination of desolation – Verse 14a. Daniel 9:27 “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” Daniel 12:11 “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” 2 Thessalonians 2:4 “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”
 - i. This marks the beginning of the last 3 ½ years.
 - ii. The covenant that Israel made with the antichrist will be broken at this point – Daniel 9:27
 - b. Believing Jews instructed to flee from Jerusalem – Verses 14a-18
 - c. The greatness of this tribulation – Verse 19. It is called the:
 - i. The time of Jacob’s trouble – Jeremiah 30:7 “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”
 - ii. A time of wrath – Zephaniah 1:15 “That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.”
 - iii. A time of indignation – Isaiah 26:20-21 “Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.”
 - iv. Overspreading abominations – Daniel 9:27
 - d. The days shortened for the elects sake – Verse 20
 - e. False christs seduce many, but not the elect – Verses 21-23. These signs and wonders come from Satan. People are easily deceived by so-called signs and wonders today.
- C. The Triumph Of Christ – Verses 24-27
- a. His return to the earth will be after the tribulation – Verse 24a
 - b. The unusual happenings in the heavens – Verses 24b-25
 - c. Christ coming back in great power – Verses 26; Revelation 19:11-16; Zechariah 14:4-5 “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great

valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south... and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.”
2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- d. The gathering of the elect remnant of the Jews – Verse 27. This is not the rapture of the saints. They will see their Messiah and be saved – Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.” Zechariah 13:1 “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.” Zechariah 14:4 “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives....”

III. THE LESSONS OF THE PROPHECY – Verses 28-37

A. Waiting Until He Comes – Verses 28-33

- a. The budding trees reveal the coming of summer – Verse 28
- b. In like manner the signs given point to His coming – Verse 29
- c. The generation that will see these things, will not pass until all these things are completed – Verse 30
- d. God’s Word, including His prophecies, will remain – Verse 31
- e. The day and hour of His coming not known – Verse 32
 - i. Saints today do not know the time of the rapture, or the time of His revelation. Beware of those that set dates.
 - ii. Tribulation saints may well know the time of His revelation. They may count from the beginning of the tribulation.
- f. The exhortation for all saints to watch and pray at all times – Verse 33. We should all be looking for His Coming every day. For us it will be the rapture.

B. Working Until He Comes – Verses 34-37

- a. A message for saints today – Verse 34
 - a. The son of man is Christ.
 - i. The far journey was His ascension back to heaven.
 - ii. The house He left is His Church.
 - iii. The authority is to His servants in the Church – Matthew 28:16-20
 - iv. Every man in that house (church) has his work.

- v. The porter may be the minister and/or the Holy Spirit.
- b. We must be ready for His coming all the time – Verse 35
- c. We should not be caught in spiritual slumber – Verse 36
- d. The final warning to watch – Verse 37

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why is this called the Olivet Discourse?
2. When was the temple destroyed?
3. Which of the disciples asked Him a question?
4. What did they ask?
5. What did Christ say about the course of this age?
6. Explain enduring to the end in verse 13.
7. How long is the great tribulation?
8. What is the abomination of desolation?
9. How does this chapter describe the coming of Christ?
10. What is meant by the budding of the fig tree?
11. What are we to be doing until He comes?
12. Recite the memory verse.

LESSON 22

THE PREPARATION FOR HIS DEATH

Memory Verse: Mark 14:24

Lesson: Mark 14:1-26

I. THE PREPARATIONS FOR HIS DEATH – Verses 1-11

A. The Lord's Death Decided – Verses 1-2

- a. The purpose of God decided this long ago. Revelation 13:8 “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Luke 9:51 “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.” Philippians 2:8 “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
- b. They decided to take Him by deceit and kill Him – Verse 1
- c. He was not to be killed on the feast day – Verse 2a
- d. They were afraid of the pilgrims – Verse 2b. The providence of God overruled. Psalm 76:10 “Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.” Psalm 2:4-6 “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.”

B. The Lord's Body Anointed – Verses 3-9

- a. This is not to be confused with the anointing in Luke 7:36-40. Note the difference.
- b. The other accounts of our lesson are in Matthew 26:6-13; and John 12:3-8
- c. The place was Bethany in the house of Simon the Leper – Verse 3a. It would seem likely that Jesus had healed him.
- d. The person was Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus, according to John 12:3. Three times in the gospels we see Mary, and each time she is at the feet of Jesus. Luke 10:38-42; John 11:31-32; and John 12:1-8; Mark 14.
- e. The precious ointment was very costly – Verse 3b
- f. Judas was the ringleader, but other disciples also complained – Verses 4-5. Matthew 26:7-8 “There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat. But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?” It was valued at about \$50.00, and some say that it was a year's wages.

- g. The concern for the poor was hypocrisy – Verse 5. John 12:5-6 “Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”
- h. Jesus said she had done a good work – Verse 6. He commended her because He knew her heart. Acts 15:8 “And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us.”
- i. The Lord was going away, but the poor would always be around – Verse 7
- j. Her anointing was for His burial – Verse 8
- k. The memory of her deed would live on – Verse 9. Were it not for this woman, Bethany may have been forgotten.
- l. If a person devotes their time, money, and talent in the service of the Lord, many think it is a waste. When money is given for missions, many think it is a waste, and that it should be given to the poor.

C. The Lord’s Betrayal Appointed – Verses 10-11

- a. Judas was prophesied to be the betrayer – Verse 10. John 6:70-71 “Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.” Mary gave her best in love, while Judas gave his worst in hatred.
- b. We have no record of Judas ever calling Jesus Lord – Matthew 26:22, 25, 49
- c. Judas was never saved – 1 Corinthians 12:3 “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” John 13:18 “I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.” Acts 1:25 “That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.”
- d. The immediate reason for his betrayal is found in John 12:5-6. See 1 Timothy 6:6-10. He sold Christ for the price of a slave. Exodus 21:32 “If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.”
- e. The glad priests promise money – Verse 11. Matthew 26:15 “And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.” Zechariah 11:12 “And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.”

II. THE MEMORIALS OF HIS DEATH – Verses 12-26

A. The Passover Supper Prepared – Verses 12-16

- a. Jesus ate the Passover Supper one day early – Verse 12. The next day the Jews had not yet ate the Passover. John 18:28; 19:14
- b. Two disciples sent to find the place – Verses 13-14. Men do not usually carry water, this was considered a woman’s job.
- c. They were told that the place would be ready and furnished – Verse 15
- d. They found it as the Lord had said – Verse 16. His providence and foreknowledge are involved in all of this.
- e. The original Passover consisted three things:
 - i. The roasted lamb reminded them of the blood applied.
 - ii. The unleavened bread reminded them of His sinless life, and their haste in leaving Egypt.
 - iii. The bitter herbs reminded them of their years of bondage.

B. The Passover Supper Observed – Verses 17-21

- a. It was observed in the evening – Verse 17
- b. They ate it together – Verse 18a. The Passover looked back to their deliverance from Egypt, but it also looked forward to the death of Christ. He was the lamb without blemish and without spot – Exodus 12. John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” 1 Corinthians 5:7 “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.” 1 Peter 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

C. The betrayal predicted – Verse 18b. John 6:70 “Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?” Psalm 41:9 “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”

- a. They were surprised and sorrowful – Verses 19-20
- b. Woe to the betrayer – Verse 21. At this point, according to John 13:22-30, Judas was identified and left. Then the Lord’s Supper was instituted without him. They did not at this time know who the betrayer was. John 13:27-30

D. The Lord’s Supper Instituted – Verses 22-26

- a. As the Passover Supper looked forward to the cross, the Lord's Supper would look back to the cross.

- b. Only the disciples who were saved, baptized and in the Church were present (Judas had already left). 1 Corinthians 12:28. Only saved, scripturally baptized members of the local church where it is being observed, have any right to partake of it.
- c. The unleavened bread typified His sinless body – Verse 22. Jesus did not turn these elements into His actual body and blood. They only symbolized it.
- d. The fruit of the vine typified His sinless blood – Verse 23. 1 Corinthians 11:23-34. Notice it is the “cup,” and “fruit of the vine” (verse 25) that is used. The word wine is never mentioned in regard to the Lord’s Supper.
- e. The Lord’s Supper also points forward to His Second Coming – Verse 25
- f. They ended the service with a song – Verse 26

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How did they plan to take and kill Jesus?
2. When did they purpose not to kill Him, and how was this changed?
3. What were the chief priests afraid of?
4. Where was Jesus when he was anointed with ointment?
5. Who did the anointing?
6. How do we know that this is not the same anointing as is recorded in Luke 7:36-40?
7. Who did Judas approach about betraying Jesus?
8. What does the Passover Supper look back to, and look forward to?
9. When did Jesus observe the Passover, and how do we know this?
10. When did Judas leave the place where they observed the Passover?
11. To whom are we to serve the Lord’s Supper?
12. What does it look back to, and what does it look forward to?

LESSON 23

THE SAVIOUR IN GETHSEMANE

Memory Verse: Mark 14:38

Lesson: Mark 14:27-52

I. JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL – Verses 27-31

A. The Warning Given – Verses 27-28

- a. All the disciples would be offended and stumble – Verse 27a. Zechariah 13:7 “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.” God warns His own today.
- b. The Shepherd (Christ) to be smitten and to die – Verse 27b
- c. It appears that they forgot these words, and had to be reminded by the angel, so they missed the comfort – Verse 28. Mark 16:6-7

B. The Response Given – Verses 29-31

- a. Peter believed that others would stumble, but that he would not – Verse 29. Luke 22:31-32 “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”
- b. The Lord specifically warns Peter – Verse 30
- c. Peter's boastful promise – Verse 31. Self confidence is a very dangerous thing and we should take warning. 1 Corinthians 10:11-13 “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

II. JESUS' SORROW IN GETHSEMANE – Verses 32-42

A. The Disciples Distributed – Verses 32-34

- a. Eight were left at the entrance with a stern warning – Verse 32. Luke 22:39-40. How far will you go? Gethsemane means “oil press.” It was located at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

- b. Three are taken further into the garden – Verse 33a. These same three men were with the Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration – Mark 9:2
- c. The sorrow of our Saviour – Verses 33b-34a. Psalm 42:11 “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” We can only stand in awe and wonder as we see the agony of our Saviour in Gethsemane. It is beyond our human comprehension.
- d. The instruction given to watch – Verse 34b

B. The Prayers Offered – Verses 35-42

- a. He went a little farther – Verse 35a. This He did in all things.
- b. His prayer and agony – Verses 35b-36. Christ was not trying to escape the cross, for this is why He came into the world. Hebrews 5:7-9 “Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Could it have involved an attempt on the part of Satan to kill Him before He went to the cross? The cup involved our awful sin. This scene should give us a fresh view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Psalm 75:8-9 “For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them. But I will declare for ever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.”
 - i. He was made sin for us and bore our sin in His own body. 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 1 Peter 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
 - ii. He would bear the curse of the law. Galatians 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”
 - iii. He would be forsaken by the Father – Mark 15:34
 - iv. This is the cup He would drink. John 18:11 “Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”
- c. The disciples asleep and Peter rebuked – Verse 37

- d. Watch and pray, is the answer to temptation – Verse 38. 1 Corinthians 9:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” Ephesians 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” Colossians 4:2 “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”
- e. The second prayer of Christ was the same – Verse 39
- f. The condition of the disciples was the same – Verse 40
- g. The third time He returned they were asleep – Verse 41a
- h. He announced His soon betrayal – Verse 41b-42. How sad that the disciples failed Him in His greatest hour of need. Today when His enemies now speak out against Him, it is also sad that 20th Century disciples also are asleep. May the Lord help us to wake up in this crucial hour!

III. JESUS’ BETRAYAL AND ARREST – Verses 43-52

A. Judas Betrays With A Kiss – Verses 43-46

- a. Judas knew the place to find Jesus, and kissed Him. What a hypocrite – Verse 43a. John 18:2 “And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.”
- b. The multitude that accompanied Judas – Verse 44. Those with swords may have been Roman soldiers. Those with staves may have been temple police, and other recruits for the arrest.
- c. The prearranged signal was a kiss – Verse 44a
- d. The plan was to take Him safely and securely – Verse 44b. How little they knew about Jesus, when they thought He would escape. John 18:37 “Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”
- e. Judas called Him Master (Rabbi), for He never called Him Lord – Verse 45. This was no doubt Judas’ real evaluation of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 12:3 “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”
- f. The Saviour roughly arrested – Verse 46. John 18:12 “Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him.”

B. Peter Smites With A Sword – Verses 47-52

- a. Peter cut off the ear of Malchus – Verse 47. John 18:10 “Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear.” Luke the physician tells us of the healing of this ear. Luke 22:51 “And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.” We do not fight with physical weapons. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh,

we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

- b. Peter told to put up his sword – Matthew 26:52 “Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Jesus was not a pacifist, but He did not want them to fight for Him in the Garden. Luke 22:36 “Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.”
- c. The Saviour’s gentle but stinging rebuke – Verses 48-49
- d. They all forsook Him and fled – Verse 50. Thus the beginning of the fulfillment of verse 27. It is also deplorable that when many are preaching another Jesus, that many Christians are forsaking the Lord Jesus. 2 Corinthians 11:4 “For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”
- e. The embarrassed, young man – Verses 51-52. It has been suggested that this young man was John Mark, but there is no real proof of this.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus mean when He said that all would be offended?
2. How did Simon Peter respond to the warning?
3. How many of the disciples were left, and what were they told to do?
4. Where were the other 3 disciples?
5. Explain to the best of your ability what Christ prayed for in Gethsemane.
6. How did the disciples fail Him in the garden?

LESSON 24

THE TRIAL OF JESUS CHRIST

Memory Verse: Mark 14:72

Lesson: Mark 14:53-15:15

I. JESUS ON TRIAL BEFORE THE JEWS – Verses 53-65

A. Jesus Taken Before The High Priest – Verses 53-54

- a. He was first taken before Annas the former high priest. John 18:24 “Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.”
- b. Then He is taken before Caiaphas the high priest – Verse 53a
- c. The chief priests were also there – Verse 53b. This would include the Sanhedrin, the highest official body among the Jews. Evidently they were hastily assembled. If Joseph of Arimathaea was present he did not consent unto His death – Verse 64. Luke 23:50-51 “And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.”
- d. Peter followed Him afar off – Verse 54a. This shows the further decline of Peter.
- e. Another disciple, possibly John, went into the palace of the high priest with Jesus. John 18:15 “And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.”
- f. Where Peter sat shows his further backsliding – Verse 54b. His physical coldness reminds us of his spiritual coldness. This is widely practiced today.

B. The Search For Witnesses Against Jesus – Verses 55-59

- a. In haste they failed to have found proper witnesses – Verse 55a. To put Him to death they must have two or three witnesses. Deuteronomy 17:6 “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.” 2 Corinthians 13:1 “This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” Hebrews 10:28 “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.” 1 Timothy 5:19 “Against an elder (pastor) receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”
- b. There was no fair trial, they had already decided to kill Him – Verse 55b
- c. The witnesses they found perjured themselves – Verse 56

- d. Other false witnesses were found, but they also could not agree – Verses 57-59. John 2:19 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Of course Jesus was talking about His own physical body and not the temple.”

C. The High Priest’s Interrogation of Jesus – Verses 60-65

- a. They have no real case, but he tries to bluff the Saviour – Verse 60
- b. Christ makes no answer – Verse 61a. Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”
- c. He is asked if He is the Christ – Verse 61b
- d. He answers with “I Am” which is a divine name – Verse 62a. Exodus 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” John 10:33 “The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.” John 18:6 “As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.” John 6:35 “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”
- e. His exaltation and His coming in judgment announced – Verse 62b. They thought they had Him on trial, but it was the other way around.
- f. What Jesus said was true, but the high priest called it blasphemy – Verse 63-64a
- g. They passed the death sentence – Verse 64b
- h. Illegal mob violence – Verse 65. It was illegal to hold such a trial at night.

II. PETER ON TRIAL BEFORE THE WORLD – Verses 66-72

Of course this was not a real trial, but a testing before the world.

A. The First Denial By Peter – Verses 66-68

- a. Peter was in the courtyard by the fire – Verse 66a
- b. The accusation of the maid – Verses 66b-67
- c. The denial of Peter and the rooster crowing – Verse 68
- d. The things that led to his fall.
 - i. He failed to heed the warning – Verses 27, 30
 - ii. His self-confidence – Verse 29
 - iii. He failed to watch and pray in the garden – Verse 37
 - iv. His fight against the will of God – Verse 47

- v. His cowardly flight – Verse 50
- vi. He followed afar off – Verse 54
- vii. He associated with the enemies of Christ – Verse 54

B. The Second Denial By Peter – Verses 69-70a

- a. A maid said of Peter, this is one of them – Verse 69. She is not speaking to Peter, but to those around him, and this was even more serious.
- b. He denied what she said – Verse 70a

C. The Third Denial By Peter – Verses 70b-72

- a. Those around him began to accuse him – Verse 70b
- b. His Galilean accent betrayed him – Verse 70c
- c. The reaction of Peter – Verse 71
 - i. The “curse” is not here taking God’s name in vain, but rather putting himself under a curse if he is not telling the truth. In Galatians 1:8-9, the same word (anathematizo) is used. Galatians 1:8-9 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
 - ii. To “swear” meant that he put himself under oath as is used in Hebrews 3:11 “So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.” Peter was not using profanity. His sin was denial of the Lord and not telling the truth.
- d. The rooster’s sermon and Peter’s repentance – Verse 72. Mark 14:30

III. JESUS ON TRIAL BEFORE THE GENTILES – Verses 15:1-15

A. Jesus Before Pilate – Verses 1-5

- a. Jesus sent to Pilate – Verse 1. Pilate lived at Caesarea, but he usually came to Jerusalem for the feast day.
- b. The question of Pilate and His answer – Verse 2
- c. The accusations of the chief priests and His silence – Verse 3
- d. Pilate questions Him concerning His silence – Verse 4-5. 1 Peter 2:21-24 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

- e. Pilate repeatedly stated that he found no fault with Jesus. John 18:38; John 19:4; Luke 23:14, 22. Matthew 27:24 “When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.”

B. Barabbas Set Free – Verses 6-15

- a. This was done to curry favor with the Jews – Verse 6
- b. Barabbas was a hardened criminal – Verse 7
- c. The crowd demands that a prisoner be released – Verse 8
- d. Pilate offers to release Jesus – Verses 9-10
- e. The chief priests stirred the people to demand the release of Barabbas – Verse 11
- f. Pilate asked what he should do with Jesus – Verse 12
- g. They demand that He be crucified – Verse 13
- h. Pilate’s question and the Jew's response – Verse 14
- i. Barabbas the guilty sinner released – Verse 15a. Pilate the politician did this to appease the people.
- j. Jesus the sinless one scourged to be crucified – Verse 15b. Barabbas was a type of the guilty sinner. Like Barabbas we were set free, because Jesus Christ took our place and died for us.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Where was Jesus first taken after His arrest? Then where was He taken?
2. Who were the Sanhedrin?
3. What kind of witnesses testified against Jesus?
4. How did Jesus answer when asked if He was the Christ?
5. Give the 7 steps of backsliding taken by Peter.
6. What is meant by Peter’s cursing and swearing?
7. Who was Barabbas?
8. Who is he a type of and how?

LESSON 25

JESUS AS THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Memory Verse: Mark 15:39

Lesson: Mark 15:16-47

I. THE SERVANT MOCKED – Verses 16-23

A. Jesus Mocked As King – Verses 16-19

- a. His kingdom mocked and He is given a purple, robe and a crown – Verses 16-17
- b. The King is smitten and in mockery worshiped – Verses 18-19. Isaiah 50:6 “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.” One day at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD
- c. The Jews claimed they had no king, but Caesar, and this was not really true for they did not accept Caesar. John 19:12-15 “And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar’s friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.”

B. Jesus Led As A Criminal – Verses 20-23

- a. Jesus Christ was led away by the hands of Roman soldiers as a criminal condemned to death – Verse 20
- b. Simon compelled to bear His Cross – Verse 21. Loyal servants of Christ must take up the cross & follow after Him. Luke 9:23 “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
- c. There is a hill outside of Jerusalem which is shaped like a skull, and we believe that is where He was crucified – Verse 22
- d. Christ is offered a drink – Verse 23. This drink was given to numb the pain of the crucifixion, but Jesus wanted to endure it in His full senses.

II. THE SERVANT'S DEATH – Verses 24-41

A. The Events of the Third Hour – Verses 24-28 (9 a.m.)

- a. The parting of His garments was prophesied – Verse 24. This certainly shows the evil of gambling. Matthew 27:35 “And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.” Psalm 22:18 “They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”
- b. The third hour of the day was 9 a.m. – Verse 25
- c. The title over His head. Some imagine that there is discrepancy in the Bible since each one of the four gospels gives a slightly different title. This is solved by reading the account in Luke. Since it was written in three different languages, it would vary. If you put them altogether you have the total message.
 - i. Mark 15:26 “THE KING OF THE JEWS.”
 - ii. Matt. 27:37 “THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”
 - iii. John 19:19 “JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.”
 - iv. Luke 23:38 “And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”
- d. Being crucified between two thieves also fulfilled prophecy – Verse 27-28. Isaiah 53:12 “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”
- e. These religious people came to mock Him – Psalm 22:6-8 “But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.” Isaiah 53:3 “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”
- f. Why He could not come down off the Cross – Verse 29-30. Galatians 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 1 Peter 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
- g. He could not save Himself – Verses 31-32. It was because of His love for us, and not any lack of power on His part. Matthew 26:53-54 “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of

angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." John. 12:47 "And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." 1 Timothy 1:15 "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." John 13:1 "Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end."

B. The Events of the Sixth Hour – Verse 33. (12 noon)

- a. The three hours of darkness mercifully covered the shame of the cross. We can only imagine the events in these three hours. This could not be an eclipse of the sun because the Passover was always held at full moon.

C. The Events of the Ninth Hour – Verses 34-41 (3 p.m.)

- a. Why the Father forsook Him – Verse 34. He was bearing our vile sins in His own body. No wonder the Father could not look on Him. Psalm 22:1 "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?" See 1 Peter 2:24 and 2 Corinthians 5:21 quoted above.
- b. It was midnight when the firstborn died in Egypt. Exodus 12:29 "And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle."
- c. God made the sixth to the ninth hours seem as midnight when God's firstborn died for our sins, that we might be delivered.
- d. There was darkness in the hearts of the people. 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 12:35-36 "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them."
- e. They thought he was calling for Elijah – Verse 35.

- f. They mocked him with words and the bitter drink – Verse 36. Psalm 69:21 “They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”
- g. He gave up the ghost – Verse 37. John 10:15, 17-18 “As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”
- h. The temple veil was rent – Verse 38. This gave us direct access to God. Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-22 “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
- i. The testimony of the centurion – Verse 39. Luke 23:47 “Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.”
- j. The faithful women – Verses 40-41. They were the last at the cross and first at the tomb. Heaven will reveal all that Godly women have done for Christ.

III. THE SERVANT’S BURIAL – Verses 42-47

A. The Men that Buried Him – Verses 42-45

- a. The day of His burial. He died in the afternoon on Wednesday and was buried just before sundown, and was resurrected three days and three nights later. This was not the regular seventh day Sabbath, but a special Sabbath – John 19:31
- b. Joseph was a rich man and a secret disciple of Jesus – Verse 43. John 19:38-39 “And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.”
- c. Notice his faith, character, and courage – “went in boldly” – Verse 43. It seems likely that they had been preparing for the burial.

B. The Mode of His Burial – Verses 46-47

- a. The body is wrapped and laid in a new tomb – Verse 46. He who could not see corruption, could not lie in a tomb which corruption had defiled. Luke 23:53 “And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.”
- b. The faithful women watched where He was buried – Verse 47. These women were held to this spot by bonds of love.

LESSON 26

THE SERVANT'S RESURRECTION

Memory Verse: Mark 16:6

Lesson: Mark 16:1-20

A dead Saviour could not save, so He had to rise, or there would have been no gospel to preach. Romans 4:25 "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. In the book of Acts we find that they continually preached His resurrection. Acts 1:22; 4:2, 33. The resurrection testifies that Jesus Christ was who He claimed to be. Mark 9:9-10, 31; 10:34. Romans 1:4 "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

I. THE TESTIMONY OF THE EMPTY TOMB – Verses 1-8

A. The Women Arrive at The Empty Tomb – Verses 1-4

a. The events after the Sabbath – Verse 1

- i. The 7th day Sabbath ended Saturday at sundown.
- ii. After the Sabbath had ended, they bought spices to anoint His body.
- iii. After the Lord finished His work of creation, He rested on the 7th day. After Christ had finished His work of redemption, He rested in the grave on the Sabbath day.

b. The events early Sunday morning – Verse 2

- i. They left their homes before daylight to arrive at sunrise. According to Scripture, they arrived while it was still dark. John 20:1 "The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre." Great love must have overcome fear for them to go to a grave at such a time of day.
- ii. There is no proof that Christ arose at sunrise. The tomb was already empty. After spending 3 days and 3 nights in the earth, He arose Saturday night. Matthew 12:40. He was crucified on Wednesday and placed in the tomb just before the day ended. He spent Wednesday night, Thursday night, and Friday night in the tomb. He spent the day portion of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the tomb. So He must have risen after the Sabbath ended at sundown Saturday. Thus he was resurrected after sundown, which would have made it on Sunday the first day of the week. He then appeared to Mary at the rising of the sun.

- c. A great difficulty proposed – Verse 3. How often we fear difficulties that God has already taken care of.
 - d. A great difficulty disposed – Verse 4; Matthew 28:2-4. The stone was not removed to let Jesus out, but to let the women in the tomb. John 20:19
- B. The Messenger Speaks From The Empty Tomb – Verses 5-8
- a. The women enter the tomb – Verse 5a. Imagine their thoughts.
 - b. The young man seated on the right side – Verse 5b. I have seen this place on the right, where the body of Christ had been placed in Gordon’s Tomb.
 - c. The long white garment identifies him as an angel – Verse 5c. Matthew 28:5
 - d. Their fears banished – Verse 6a. Christians have nothing to fear from angels, as they are God’s messengers.
 - e. The resurrection of Christ should banish all our fears of death and the grave – Verse 6b. I Corinthians 15:20 “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”
 - f. They are told to tell His disciples and Peter – Verse 7
 - i. This shows His kindness for a backslider. Micah 7:18-19 “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”
 - ii. This shows His concern for seeing them all in Galilee.
 - g. The frightened women flee – Verse 8
 - i. They did not stop to tell men along the way.
 - ii. They did tell the disciples – Luke 24:9-11

II. THE TESTIMONY OF THE RISEN CHRIST – Verses 9-20

- A. He Appeared First to Mary Magdalene – Verses 9-11
- a. He appeared on the first day of the week – Verse 9a. This sets a pattern for the church observing His resurrection on Sunday.
 - b. He appeared first to one who was a trophy of grace – Verse 9b
 - c. She went to tell those who mourned and wept – Verse 10
 - d. Their unbelief – Verse 11; Luke 24:9-11
- B. He Appeared to Two on The Road – Verses 12-13

- a. This happened on the road to Emmaus – Verse 12; Luke 24:13-32
 - b. They also were not believed – Verse 13
- C. He Appeared to His Disciples – Verses 14-18
- a. This was still on the first day of the week.
 - b. He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart – Verse 14b. Matthew 17:20 “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”
 - c. They are told where to go and what to preach – Verse 15.
 - d. They are told the results that would follow – Verse 16. This does not teach that baptism saves. It does NOT say, “he that is baptized not shall be damned.”
 - e. The signs that would follow – Verse 17-18. These verses do not mean that these signs would continue in the church down to this present day. They were fulfilled in the N.T. period before the Bible was completed. These signs were used as credentials of the Apostles. Hebrews 2:1-4 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” The signs were in operation during the ministry of Jesus Christ – John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” Romans 15:19 “Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.” Only a select few people were used of God in these signs after the death of Christ. These were signs of the Apostles – 2 Corinthians 12:12 “Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.” Note the examples of these signs.
 - i. The casting out of devils – Acts 16:18 “And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.”
 - ii. Speaking in tongues – Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
 - iii. The taking up of serpents. We know of only one time when this happened. Acts 28:3-5 “And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them

on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.”

- iv. The drinking of poison. We find no record of this, but no doubt it did happen. It is foolish for people in our day, to think that they can do this. Some have tried, and as a result they died.
- v. The laying of hands on the sick – Acts 28:7-8 “In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.”
- vi. In 1 Corinthians 13:8-13, we find that tongues were to be done away with when the Scriptures were completed. (See tract # A-319, TONGUES, by E. L. Bynum). These and the other signs did cease. Of course we pray for the sick, and sometimes God heals them, but this is not the same.

D. He Ascends to Heaven to Appear For Us – Verses 19-20

- a. In triumph He ascends back to heaven – Verse 19a
 - i. He had satisfied Divine justice.
 - ii. He had fully paid the sin debt.
 - iii. He had been resurrected from the grave.
 - iv. He had been fully tested by appearing among believers for forty days.
- b. He sat down on the right hand of God – Verse 19b. This is the place of intercession. Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 8:1
- c. The obedient disciples – Verse 20

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who were the first ones to arrive at the empty tomb?
2. What had they come to do?
3. What day and what time of day was He raised?
4. How was the stone removed from the tomb?

5. Who did they find inside the tomb?
6. What were they told there at the tomb?
7. How did they react to what they saw and heard?
8. Who did Christ first appear to?
9. According to our lesson, who did he appear to next?
10. How did the disciples react to the message of His rising?
11. To whom did He appear on the third occasion?
12. What did He tell this group to do?
13. Explain Mark 16:16.
14. Recite the memory verse.

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