

The Gospel of Mark

Mark 1

Introduction & The Ministry of John (1-8)

1. Who is the author of this book? What kind of book is this? Why did the author write it?
2. Why doesn't this book begin with a birth narrative as Matthew and Luke do? How does the author describe his primary character in vs. 1? Why is this important? (Psalm 2:7-12; 2 Samuel 7:13-14) When was the last you made the gospel sound like "good news" to your friends?
3. Who does the author quote in vs. 2-3? (See Exodus 23:20; Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3) Who is the messenger that God promised to send? (Malachi 4:5)
4. What message did John the Immerser preach? Why did people go out to see him? (2 Kings 1:8) What obstacles need to be removed from your life before your "paths" are "made straight"? What kind of message would make you want to leave your home and go out to a "desert region" or an unfamiliar place?

The Baptism & Temptation of Jesus (9-13)

1. Why did Jesus come to John? (Matthew 3:15; Hebrews 5:8-9) Compare this verse (10) with 15:38. What message is being sent to these Israelites? How is the Godhead displayed in these verses? What had Jesus done to deserve God's pronouncement? In studying this book, what would like to hear God say about you?
2. Mark spends little ink on Jesus' temptation. From the other synoptic gospels, what three temptations was Jesus faced with? (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13) Why would our author abbreviate this important struggle? (Hint: notice what details he does include)

The First Disciples (14-20)

1. What did "the kingdom of God" mean for first-century Jews? How did the Old Testament describe the "day of the Lord"? (e.g. Joel 1:13-15; Isaiah 1:24; Josel 2:28-32; Isaiah 61:1-9; 11:1-10; 12:4-6; 2:12-20; Malachi 4:5)
2. We know from John's gospel that this is not the first time they have been called (John 1:35-51; Luke 5:1-11). What do we know about these Galilean fisherman? (John 1:44; vs. 21, 29-30) Why had these men "left their nets and followed Him"? What would we need to hear or what prevents us from leaving all to follow Him? (1 Peter 2:21) (see also Jeremiah 16:15-16; Ezekial 29:4,5; 38:4; Amos 4:2)

The Kingdom Come (21-34)

1. What was the difference between Jesus' teaching and the other teachers of the Law? How has your study of the Bible advanced beyond knowing the word to knowing the WORD?
2. What had the evil spirit hoped to gain by calling Jesus by "name"? How did Jesus respond to this evil?

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3. How did Jesus heal Simon's mother-in-law? Whose home was it? Why did the people wait until after sunset? What message did Jesus send by healing sickness and casting out demons?

A Brief Respite (35-39)

1. Why did Jesus get out early to pray? What do you think he prayed for? What do you do when you need to get away alone with God?
2. Why was everyone looking for Jesus? What temptation faced Jesus at this point? How did Jesus defeat the temptation? Where did He go?

The Healing of the Leper (40-45)

1. What social taboo did the leper break in coming to Jesus? (Leviticus 13:45-46) What social taboo did Jesus break in healing the man? Why did Jesus want to heal the leper? What did Jesus restore to this man? (Hint: "clean" rather than "healed") What did Jesus instruct the man to do? (Leviticus 14)
2. Because of the man's disobedience, how was Jesus' ministry affected? "How often has some well-meaning thing we've done hindered the ministry of Jesus, driving His kingdom out to the edges of our lives?"

Suggested Resources:

- Black, Allen. *The College Press NIV Commentary: Mark*. (College Press, 1995.) [DDN 226.307]
- Garland, David E. *Mark: The NIV Application Commentary*. (Zondervan, 1996.) [DDN 226.3077]
- Green, Joel B. and Scot McKnight, Gen. Eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. (InterVarsity, 1992.) [DDN 226.03]
- Johnson B. W. and Don DeWelt. *The Gospel of Mark*. (College Press, 1989.) [DDN 226.3]
- Moore, Mark E. *The Chronological Life of Christ, Volume 1: From Glory to Galilee*. (College Press, 1996.) [DDN 226.1077]
- Peace, Richard, et. al. *Gospel: Jesus of Nazareth*. (Seredipity House, 1999.) [Study in the Book of Mark] [DDN 226.3]
- *Pinzon, Scott. *Mark: God's Word for the Biblically Inept Series*. (Starburst Publishers, 2001.) [DDN 226.3]

Pericopes - Four Questions

Mark 2

Question about Authority /Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26

1. To what familiar town does Jesus return after his preaching tour through Galilee? Whose house did he probably return to?
2. When times are tough, can you count on at least four friends who would help you out? How would you feel as the paralytic if your friends decided to take you to a "holy man"?
3. How is 1:15 and 2:5 connected? Why does Jesus address the sin problem first? (John 9:2)
4. Who are the scribes? What is at issue with the scribes' question? (Leviticus 24:16; Psalm 103:2,3; 130:4; Isaiah 43:25) Who did these scribes believe Jesus to be?
5. What does the paralytic's healing say about Jesus' ability to forgive sin?
6. What is the reaction of those who witnessed this event? How should this color our reaction to God's intervention?

Question about Company /Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-32

1. Who is Levi? What else do we know about him?
2. What kind of people would associate with Levi? How do Jesus' actions here harmonize with Paul's words? (1 Corinthians 5:11) What lesson should we learn from this?
3. Who are the Pharisees? What is at issue with the Pharisee's question? (Isaiah 1:16; 62:11)
4. In Jesus' response, who is well? Who is sick? Which are you?

Question about Fasting /Matthew 9:14-17; Luke 5:33-39

3. Who are the disciples of John? Of the Pharisees? What is at issue with their question?
4. Who is the bridegroom? (Isaiah 54:5; John 3:29; Revelation 19:7) Why does Jesus indirectly refer to himself as that bridegroom? What does Jesus call those who are the bridegroom?
5. What is the principle at issue with the old cloth/ wineskin and new cloth/ wineskin?
6. Have you surrendered your filthy rags completely to God? Do you depend on your own good works or upon the free grace of God to see you into Heaven?

Question about the Sabbath /Matthew 12:1-8; Luke 6:1-5

1. Was it wrong to take heads of grain like that? (Deuteronomy 23:25)
2. What "law" were these disciples breaking, according to the Pharisees? (Exodus 34:21)
3. What had David done? (1 Samuel 21:1-6) What precedent did David set by this act?
4. What does Jesus mean by his statement "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath"? (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; John 7:21-24)

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5. What can you do to make this church more concerned about people than about rules and regulations?

Pericopes - Resistance Grows

Mark 3

Work on the Sabbath (1-6) /Matthew 12:9-14; Luke 6:6-11

1. Who and why did the group want to accuse Jesus? How have their goals changed from their inception to the time of this story?
2. What was Jesus' question to the Pharisees? How would you answer it? How could the Pharisees object? What grounds did they have to object to Jesus' activities? Why should that warn us about our judgment of others? (Romans 14:13)
3. What was Jesus' reason for healing the man? Why was Jesus' angry? When do we see Jesus angry? How did Jesus handle His anger? (Ephesians 4:26)
4. What is characteristic of Jesus' healings that we do not see in today's medical practice?
5. With what rival did the Pharisees plot against Jesus? Why were they rivals? How do the two groups agree in their purpose against Jesus? Was their plotting permissible on the Sabbath?

Continuing Ministry (7-12) /Matthew 12:15-21

1. Why would Jesus need to "withdraw with His disciples"? Where did they go?
2. From where did the crowd come from? Why did they come?
3. What one fact are the people blind to yet demons proclaim?
4. What kinds of healings did Jesus do? In what way do these verses act as a summary of Jesus' ministry thus far? Why would Mark put a summary here?
5. Up to this point, what has Mark presented to us? Is it strictly chronological? Why or why not? How has Jesus presented the gospel?

Choosing the 12 (13-19) /Luke 6:12-16

1. What new phase in Jesus' ministry is introduced by this passage?
2. Why go up on the mountain to choose disciples? (Genesis 8:4, 20; 22:2-14; Exodus 19:1-6; Mark 6:46; 9:2; 13:3) What message was being sent to Israel by the number 12? What historical event(s) are alluded to with Jesus + 12?
3. What is unusual about these 12? Are there any with prior teaching or training? If they started with nothing, what does that mean for us? (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)
4. Where did they go after they left the mountain?

His Family - His Enemies (20-35) /Matthew 12:22-37

1. Who are Jesus' "own people"? How do they excuse Jesus' behavior?
2. Why would scribes "come down" from Jerusalem?
3. Who is "Beelzebub"? Why do scribes ascribe the name to Jesus? Why does Mark put these two stories together?
4. How does Jesus refute this lapse in logic? Who are the characters in this parable? (Isaiah 49:24-25; 53:11-12; 1 John 4:4) Where and how was this "strong man" bound? (Judges 16:22; Revelation 20:2)

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5. What is this "unpardonable" sin? How is it different from "all sins" that "will be forgiven"?
6. Who are Jesus' natural family members? Why are they looking for Him?
7. Who does Jesus say is His family? How is this counter to all the attitudes of His day?
(Psalm 27:10)

Pericopes - The Mystery of the Kingdom

Mark 4

The Parable of the Four Soils (1-9) / Matthew 13:1-9; Luke 8:4-8

1. How does Mark change gears with this chapter?
2. Where did Jesus go to teach? What advantage did this give him?
3. What is the parable about? What symbols does Jesus use?
4. What kind of people would be able to hear?

Jesus Draws a Line (10-12) / Matthew 13:10-17; Luke 8:9-10

1. Why does Jesus speak in parables? Matthew 13:10-13;
2. To whom are the mysteries reserved about Jesus? John 3:17-19;
3. Who are the "outsiders"? How does Isaiah 6:9-10 figure into this? John 9: 39-41; Acts 28:26, 27; Matthew 7:6; Revelation 22:11; John 12:39-41.
4. What are they guilty of? Romans 1:18, 24, 26; 11:8
5. How can we hope to understand what Jesus says in Parables? 1 Peter 1:10-12; Hebrews 11:39-40; and Luke 10:23-24

The Parable of the Four Soils Explained (13-20) / Matthew 13:18-23; Luke 8:11-18

1. How does Jesus explain the hard-packed soil? the rocky soil? the weedy soil? the fertile soil?
2. How does Jesus explain the sower and the seed?
3. What is Jesus talking about? How does this speak to you?

Parables of Lamp and Measure (21-25) /

1. What is a lamp and what is its purpose? What is the lamp a symbol of? When will hidden things be revealed and secrets found out?
2. What is the measure, and what is He measuring? What might we have which will be added to or taken away?

The Parables of the Growing Seed and the Mustard Seed (26-34) / Matthew 13:31-32

1. How does Jesus introduce this parable?
2. How is this seed similar to the seed of the first parable? What does this say about the "seed"?
3. How does Jesus introduce the mustard seed parable? What is significant about the mustard seed? Is there any importance to the birds?
4. Why did Jesus wait until He was alone with His disciples to explain the meaning of the parables? Why aren't the parables explained in the text?

Crossing the Galilee (35-41) / Matthew 8:23-27; Luke 8:22-25

1. What lake did Jesus and the disciples plan to cross? Are storms typical of this area?
2. Was Jesus really tired? How could He be? How can we be? Jeremiah 15:6; Isaiah 7:13; Isaiah 40:28, 31; Galatians 6:9
3. How did the disciples lack faith? What did they wake Jesus up for? Psalm 33:8,9; 65:5-7; 89:8-9; 104:5-9

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4. What impresses you the most about this miracle?

Pericopes - Jesus' Power Illustrated

Mark 5

Jesus Sends the Demons into a Herd of Pigs (1-20)

/ Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-39

4. Where did Jesus and the disciples land?
5. How does Mark describe the man possessed by demons? What did he do when he saw Jesus? What is peculiar about the title given to Jesus (*el elyown* or *hupsistos theos*) by the demons? (See Genesis 14:18; Daniel 3:26; Acts 16:17; Psalm 78:55, 56)
6. What was the name of the demons? What were the demons afraid of? (Matthew 12:43; Revelation 20:10)
7. How do these demons get a favor from Jesus? At least how many demons were there?
8. What happened to the herd of swine?
9. Why would the townspeople be afraid? (Hint: What had they lost?)
10. Why then ask Jesus to depart?
11. Why did Jesus tell the man he couldn't follow him? And then tell him to tell his story throughout the Decapolis? (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

Jesus Heals a Bleeding Woman and Restores a Girl to Life (21-43)

/ Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56

1. What obstacles did the synagogue ruler overcome in coming to Jesus? Why does he come? What does he want Jesus to do?
2. What lesson do we learn from Jesus here about priorities and interruptions?
3. How does Mark describe this woman who wanted to touch Jesus? (Leviticus 15:25-31)
4. What had she heard about Jesus? How much of Jesus did she need to touch to be healed? Did Jesus know who had touched him? Was this healing "accidental"? (John 15:9; Philippians 2:5-11)
5. Who among the disciples spoke up? Why was it difficult to see who touched Jesus?
6. What did the woman receive for her confession? What did Jesus mean by "go in peace"? See Judges 18:6; 1 Samuel 1:17; 2 Samuel 15:9; Acts 16:36
7. Whom did Jesus take with him from the crowd to go toward Jairus' house? What is it about Jesus' statement here ("Do not be afraid, only believe") that should reassure us as 21st-century Christians?
8. Why would Jesus deliberately mislead the crowd of mourners as to the girl's condition?
9. Why does Mark include the Aramaic words of Jesus here? What kind of healing do we see here?
10. What was Jesus' next command concerning the girl?
11. What are the differences and similarities between the healing of the bleeding woman and the raising of Jairus' daughter? Why does Mark sandwich the two stories together? What larger point is he trying to make?
12. What role does faith play in these healings and in our desire of God to answer our prayers? How important is faith in miracles?

Pericopes - A Transition to Our Mission

Mark 6

The End of the First Phase of Jesus' Mission

The People of Nazareth Refuse to Believe (1-6a) / Matthew 13:53-58

1. What has characterized Jesus' ministry up to this point?
2. In what ways could Jesus' return to Nazareth be considered the end of His first missionary journey?
3. What kind of response did Jesus get from his hometown? Why?
4. How did their response affect his ministry in Nazareth?
5. What did Jesus mean by "a prophet is without honor in his own country"? How do we see evidence of that today?

Mark's Third Sandwich

Jesus Send out the Twelve Disciples (6b-12) / Matthew 10:1-15; Luke 9:1-6

1. How does Mark preface this next phase of Jesus' ministry? (See Mark 1:14, 39) How would these villages' response be different from Nazareth?
2. What other prophets in Israel's history passed their power on to their disciples? (2 Kings 2:10) What specific power does Jesus give to His disciples? How long had the disciples been with Him? Were they ready?
3. How were the disciples to travel? Since Jesus had been through many of these villages already, what was he expecting of these villages when the disciples arrived?
4. What was significant about "shake the dust off your feet"?
5. How did the disciples express the same power as Jesus?

Herod Kills John the Baptist (14-29) / Matthew 14:1-12; Luke 9:7-9

1. Why does Mark call Herod a "King" when in fact he was only a Tetrarch?
2. Why did Herod fear the ministry of Jesus?
3. Did John (the Immerser) ever perform miracles? Why believe this of him now?
4. What moved Herod to kill John (the Immerser)? How does John's fate reflect on the work and mission of the disciples? On Jesus' future?

The Disciples Return (30-32) / Matthew 14:12, 13; Luke 9:10; John 6:1

1. In Mark's Gospel, what seems to be Jesus' overriding purpose in retreat? How do the other gospels interpret this event?

Two Miracles - One Purpose

Jesus Feeds the 5000 (30-42) / Matthew 14:13-21; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

1. When the disciples first approached Jesus, how did He instruct them regarding this problem?
2. How did He feed 5000 men (not counting women and children) with 5 loaves (pita bread) and 2 fish (sardines)?
3. Where did this miracle take place? Who was being fed? What OT images does this miracle remind you of? (See Exodus 16:13-15; 2 Kings 4:42-44; Isaiah 25:6-9; Ezekiel 34:23-24) In light of these passages, what message was Jesus trying to get across to these people?

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Jesus Walks on Water (45-52) / Matthew 14:22-33; John 6:16-21

1. How soon after the feeding did Jesus send off the disciples? What did Jesus proceed to do?
2. Why hadn't the disciples made any progress? What time was it?
3. What did the disciples believe Jesus to be when they saw Him?
4. What was He doing? (Job 9:8, 10-11) Why was Jesus planning on "passing by"? (Exodus 33:18-23)
5. How did Jesus respond to their fear? (Exodus 3:14)
6. Why didn't the disciples understand what was going on? (Exodus 11:10)
7. What Main Point was Jesus trying to get across to his disciples through the feeding and the walking? What two miracles was Jesus referring to with these two miracles? Who is the only one who can do any of them?

Transition

Jesus Heals All Who Touch Him (53-56) / Matthew 14:34-36

1. When did the disciples last sleep?
2. What did the sick beg to do? Who were the only ones made well? What does this say about the faith of Gennesaret?
How do we know Mark is ready to start a new section?

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Mark 7

Jesus Teaches about Inner Purity / Matthew 15:1-20

1. Where did the Pharisees and scribes come from? With what did the Pharisees find fault? Why did they have a problem with this? (Exodus 30:17-21)
2. How were Isaiah's words an appropriate response? (Isaiah 29:13) What did the Pharisees "lay aside" and what did they favor instead?
3. How does Jesus illustrate their problem? What is "Corban"? Is this the only example Jesus could have brought up? How do we see this kind of thing today?
4. What kinds of thing "defile" a man? What point is Jesus making here? (Romans 14:17-18)
5. How does Jesus explain this "parable" to the disciples? What is "eliminated" from the body that could make you "unclean"? If foods do not make one unclean, then what could we take in to produce the evil thoughts listed by Jesus?
6. As Christians, what kinds of sins do we tolerate, while ardently opposing others? (Luke 12:15; Romans 1:29; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5) How is this like the Pharisees? Would Jesus ask us, "are you so dull?"

Jesus sends a Demon out of a Girl / Matthew 15:21-28

1. Who lives in Tyre and Sidon? What or who was Jesus trying to avoid while going there? (See Matthew 11:21-22; 15:24)
2. What was "unclean" about the spirit in this woman's daughter? Why did the woman seek Jesus' help?
3. How did the woman's response to Jesus' "insult" warrant her daughter's healing? (See Matthew 15:28) In what way did the woman address Jesus?

The Crowd marvels at Jesus' Healings / Matthew 15:29-31

1. Where did Jesus go after he left Sidon? What race of people would have brought the deaf and mute man? What did they ask for? (Isaiah 35:4-6)
2. How did Jesus conduct this healing? What did He command immediately following?
3. Instead, what does the crowd proclaim?

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Mark 8

Jesus Feeds Four Thousand (1-10) / Matthew 15:32-39

1. What is similar/ different between this miracle and Mark 6:33-43? (Psalm 111:4, 5)
Given the similarities, how is it that the disciples question the ability to feed the crowd? (Numbers 11:21-23; 2 Kings 4:43) How are these baskets different from the earlier miracle? (Acts 9:25)
2. If the miracle of 5000 was directed at Jews (John 6:32), who is the miracle of the 4000 directed at?
3. Where is Dalmanutha? (Matthew 15:39)

Religious Leaders Ask for a Sign in the Sky (11-12) / Matthew 16:1-4

1. Why did the Pharisees come to Jesus? What did they want? (Matthew 12:38, 39; Luke 11:16; John 6:30; 1 Corinthians 1:22) Why did Jesus refuse to grant their request? (Mark 3:22; Deuteronomy 13:1-6)

Jesus warns against Wrong Teaching (13-21) / Matthew 16:5-12

1. In this mini-parable, what does Jesus describe when referring to "leaven"? What did the Pharisees and Herod believe about Jesus? (See Mark 8:28)
2. How do the disciples understand "leaven"? Why? In what way was the disciples lack of understanding like the Pharisees and Herod? (Isaiah 63:17; Jeremiah 5:21)
3. How were the numbers 12 and 7 intended to help the disciples to understand the miracles? (Genesis 1; 35:22-26)

Jesus Restores Sight to a Blind Man (22-26)

1. Where is Bethsaida? (John 1:44) Who might "they" be?
2. How did Jesus treat this "blind" man? How is this healing similar/ different to Mark 7:33-36?
3. What did Jesus illustrate through this man's illness and healing the vision of the Jews and of the disciples?

Peter Says Jesus is the Messiah (27-30) / Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 9:18-20

1. Where is Caesarea Philippi? Why ask these questions here?
2. What do the disciples' first answers reflect among Jewish belief and practice? (Matthew 14:2; John 1:25)
3. How does Peter's answer to Jesus' second question reflect his spiritual insight? (Matthew 16:27; John 6:69; 11:27)
4. Why would Jesus tell the disciples to be silent on this issue?

Jesus Predicts His Death the First Time (31-38) / Matthew 16:21-28; Luke 9:21-27

1. When Jesus predicts his future, what parties specifically will reject him? What will they do to him? What will happen after three days? (For "Son of Man" see Daniel 7:13-14)
2. What does Mark mean by "He spoke this word openly"?
3. How does Peter's rebuke demonstrate his understanding of "CHRIST"? Why does Jesus address him as "Satan"? (Romans 8:7)
4. How does Jesus handle this rebuke with the other disciples?

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5. How does Jesus describe the nature of discipleship? (Luke 14:27)
6. Of what value is a "soul"? (Revelation 12:11) What is the value of our confession/
shame? (Matthew 10:33; Romans 1:16; 1 Timothy 1:8; 2:12)

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Mark 9

Jesus' Mysterious Prediction (1) / Matthew 16:28; Luke 9:27

1. What does "the kingdom of God present with power" refer to?

Jesus is Transfigured on the Mountain (2-13) / Matthew 17:1-13; Luke 9:28-36

1. Who did Jesus take with Him to the mountain? What time does Luke set this event?
2. How is Jesus' described? (See Daniel 7:9; Exodus 24) What do Elijah and Moses represent? (See also Deut. 18:15-19; Malachi 4:5-6) Why is Elijah mentioned first?
3. What did Peter intend to do with these "tabernacles"? (Exodus 33:7)
4. What directive is revealed by God Himself? (2 Peter 1:16-18) What message are we intended to listen to? (8:31) How does the disciples' response help us believe?
5. Why bring up Elijah? In what way was Elijah to "restore all things"? (Malachi 4:5,6) What was the penalty if the people failed to hear him?
6. How does Jesus' question carry on the theme of 8:31 in this context?
7. Whom did Jesus refer to as "Elijah"? How does this teach us, in some ways, to interpret prophecy?

Jesus heals a Demon-Possessed Boy (14-29) / Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-43

1. What two "enemies" are the other disciples being faced with when Jesus comes back?
2. Why are the people amazed at Jesus' return? (See Exodus 34:29-35)
3. Why couldn't the disciples now cast out this demon? (See Mark 6:13) (vs. 28, 29) What does Jesus mean by "prayer"?
4. How does this demon respond differently than previous demons?
5. Who experienced healing here?

Jesus Predicts His Death the Second Time (30-32) / Matthew 17:22, 23; Luke 9:44, 45

1. What fresh prediction(s) does Jesus add to the circumstances of his own death? (8:31)
2. Why would the disciples be afraid to ask about it?

The Disciples Argue about the Greatest (33-37) / Mt 18:1-7; Lk 9:46-48)

1. How does one qualify for leadership in according to Jesus' words?
2. How does Jesus' introduction of the child help the disciples answer their question?

The Disciples Forbid Another to Use Jesus' Name (36-41) / Luke 9:49-50

1. Why would anyone want to cast out demons in Jesus' name? (Acts 19:13-16)
2. What lesson can we learn here about other "Christians"? What is their "reward"?

Jesus Warns Against Temptation (42-50) / Matthew 18:8, 9

1. How could anyone cause a "little one to stumble"? What is this stumbling?
2. How could I "enter life" maimed? How would having two hands, feet, or eyes send you to Hell? (Deut. 14:1, 2; See also Pp 2:12)
3. Are there immortal worms in Hell?
4. What are "fire" and "salt" symbols of? (See Leviticus 2:13; Ezek 43:24)
5. How does salt lose its flavor? How do we lose our saltiness? How difficult is it to make salt salty again?

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6. How does "having salt in yourselves" help you have "peace with one another"? (See 1 Peter 3:8-12; 1 John 2:9-10; 3:14)

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Mark 10

Jesus Teaches about Marriage and Divorce (1-12) / Matthew 19:1-12

1. Where is Jesus heading? What does He know will happen there?
2. Why did these Pharisees come to Jesus? Did they answer Jesus' question exactly? (Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Malachi 2:16; Genesis 1:27; 2:23-4)
3. How does Jesus equalize men and women with His private teaching?

Jesus Blesses Little Children (13-16) / Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17

1. Why would the disciples "rebuke" children?
2. Why does the Kingdom of God belong to children? (9:36-37)

Jesus Speaks to the Rich Young Man (17-31) / Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30

1. What does this man assume about himself? How does he address Jesus?
2. What must one *do* to inherit eternal life? What did Jesus do?
3. Why do you think Jesus emphasized God's goodness?
4. Why did the man leave sadly? How do you think his practice of faith differed from Jesus'?
5. In what way are all things possible with God?
6. How are we to understand God's rewards (and persecutions) in this age and the coming age?

Jesus Predicts His Death the Third Time (32-34) / Matthew 20:17-19; Luke 18:31-34

1. What new details does Jesus reveal in this third prediction?
2. How does this reinforce the lessons of rich men and children?

Jesus Teaches about Serving Others (35-45) / Matthew 20:20-28

1. What do James and John believe is going to happen in Jerusalem? Why do they believe they could ask for such special positions?
2. In Jesus' repeated use of "baptism" in this text, how does Jesus foresee the experience of the next few days? Were these disciples prepared for it? (Psalm 75:6-8; Isaiah 51:17-22; Jeremiah 25:15-28; Ezekiel 23:31-34)
3. How will they also drink? (See Acts 12:1,2; 1 John 3:16) And for whom might these places be prepared?
4. How does Jesus qualify leadership for these disciples?

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar (46-52) / Matthew 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43

1. What did the Blind Beggar want? How does he address Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus heal the man?

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Mark 11

Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a Donkey

(1-11) / Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

2. Where is Jesus at this point? What did Jesus ask the disciples to do?
3. How were the disciples to respond to questions? What did this indicate of Jesus' status? (1 Samuel 8:16)
4. What Old Testament images did Jesus allude to and fulfill when he rode into Jerusalem? (See Genesis 49:10, 11; 1 Samuel 6:7; 2 Kings 9:6-13; Zechariah 9:9)
5. What did Jesus do when he came in to Jerusalem?

Jesus Clears the Temple Again

(12-19) / Matthew 21:12-17; Luke 19:45-48

1. What two elements does Jesus sandwich together in these verses? How does one subject comment on or enhance the other?
2. Why a fig tree? Look at Isaiah 34:4; Hosea 2:12; 9:10, 16; Joel 1:7; Jeremiah 8:11-13
3. What two OT Prophets does Jesus quote when pronouncing judgment on the Temple? (See Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11) Why quote these statements? (See also Psalm 69:9)

Jesus Says the Disciples Can Pray for Anything

(20-26) / Matthew 21:18-22

1. How do Jesus' statements here apply in this context? What mountain is Jesus referring to?
2. How do faith, prayer, and forgiveness characterize a world without Mount Zion?

Religious Leaders Challenge Jesus' Authority

(27-33) / Matthew 21:23-27; Luke 20:1-8

1. Why didn't the religious leaders attack and kill Jesus outright? What then is their tactic here with the question?
2. What is the basis for this question to Jesus? What answers could Jesus have given? Why would all those answers be the wrong ones? (Proverbs 18:2; 23:9)
3. How does Jesus counter their question? What can't they answer Him? What then has Jesus proven about the religious leaders?

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Mark 12

The Parable of the Tenants (1-12)

1. Given the symbols of this parable, what is Jesus really talking about? (Isaiah 5:7; Jeremiah 7:25; 25:4; Amos 3:7; Zechariah 1:6)
2. Why are the tenants the only ones to come under judgment? Why not the Vineyard as well? (See 2 Peter 2:1-3)
3. Why did the landlord feel that a son would be respected more than mere servants?
4. What does Psalm 118:22, 23 add to our understanding here of Jesus' parable? Why would the "builders" reject the "capstone"? (see Ezra 6:16 and Nehemiah 12:27-43)
5. At the conclusion of this pericope, how do the chief priest and teachers of the law act exactly like the tenants, thus fulfilling prophecy?

Paying Taxes to Caesar (13-17)

1. Who are the Pharisees? Who are the Herodians? Why is it unusual for these two groups to arrive together?
2. In their attempt at flattery, what do these two groups say, though they don't actually believe them?
3. What is the purpose of this question regarding taxes?
4. How does Jesus score points with pious Jews in asking for a denarius?
5. What belongs to Caesar? What belongs to God?

Marriage at the Resurrection (18-27)

1. Who are the Sadducees? What do they believe?
2. What assumption here are made about the resurrection? How does Jesus first refute that assumption?
3. How does Jesus turn Exodus 3:6 into a positive statement regarding the resurrection?
4. What statement does Jesus make to the Sadducees twice?

The Greatest Commandment (28-34)

1. What is the purpose of this teacher's question?
2. In our service to God, how do we satisfy this command? (See Deuteronomy 6:4,5) Why is this command greater than "love thy neighbor"? (Leviticus 19:18) How are these two commandments connected?
3. What are "burnt offerings and sacrifices" worth when the first commandments and second commandments are ignored? What are our "burnt offerings and sacrifices"?
4. What more did this teacher need to step into the Kingdom of God?

Whose Son is the Christ? (35-40)

1. What common assumption was Jesus countering with His question about the Christ?
2. How does Psalm 110:1 indicate that Jesus is Lord? (Read the whole Psalm)
3. Why was everyone so "delight"ed to listen to Him? (See Mark 6:20)
4. Who two sins does Jesus accuse the teachers of the Law of?

The Widow's Offering (41-44)

1. How was the crowds' offering and the rich people's offering different?
2. Why does Jesus praise this widow's offering, especially when He has already

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pronounced judgment and destruction upon the corrupt and hypocritical Temple cult?

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Mark 13

The Question of the Disciples (1-4) / Matthew 24:1-3; Luke 21:5-7

1. Why were the disciples so amazed at what they saw? What did Jesus predict would happen to these stones?
2. Who came to Jesus later? What two questions did they ask?

The Beginnings of Sorrows (5-13) / Matthew 24:4-14; Luke 21:8-19

1. In what name would deceivers come? What will be their purpose?
2. What is a "rumor of war"? How might we be comforted that these wars and crises occur? To what does Jesus compare these national and natural crises? (See Isaiah 66:7-11; Hosea 13:9-13)
3. According to Jesus' description of the persecution, how did he and the disciples fulfill it? What does Jesus mean by "the gospel must first be preached to all nations"? How do we see this fulfilled in the first century? (Romans 1:8; 10:18; 15:18-24; Colossians 1:6)
4. What does the Holy Spirit provide in the hour of trial?
5. How will families be broken up in this time of persecution? (Micah 7:5-7)

The Abomination of Desolation (14-20) THE SIGN Matthew 24:15-28; Luke 21:20-24

1. What is Jesus referring to in Daniel? How is the "reader" to understand this? (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11) Why should the understanding reader take "flight" when they see this "abomination"?
2. Why did God choose to shorten "those days"? Who are the elect? (See Isaiah 42:1; 45:4; 65:9, 22; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:2) Who will be coming to deceive the elect? Why does Jesus warn the elect beforehand? (Acts 5:34-37)

The Return of the Son of Man (24-27) Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28

1. What types of astronomical phenomena does Jesus describe accompanying His return? (Isaiah 13:10; 24:23; 34:4; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:30-31; See also Micah 1:1-5; Jeremiah 30:4-7; Joel 2:2 on similar language)
2. How will Jesus be arriving? (See Mark 14:61-62; Revelation 1:7) Whom does he send to gather the elect? How are the elect in the heavens?

The Parable of the Fig Tree (28-31) THE WHEN Matthew 24:32-51; Luke 21:29-36

1. How does the fig tree help us understand the description of events preceding Jesus' return?
2. How long is a generation? What events did Jesus exclude from "all these things"?
3. How does Jesus cement the meaning of His words?
4. Which day is Jesus referring to when He says, "that day"? Who knows what day it is? Why do the disciples not know?
5. How does the parable of the Master help us understand the need to be watchful?
6. What would be the danger of the Master finding the servant "sleeping"?
7. At what point in this chapter does Jesus command us to worry about and spend our precious time calculating end-times chronology, rather than getting out and bringing souls into the Kingdom?

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Mark 14

Mark's Betrayal Sandwich (1-11)/ Matthew 26:1-16; Luke 22:1-6; John 12:1-11

1. What problems do the religious leaders face in capturing Jesus? What do they intend to do with Jesus?
2. Why does Mary (John) give such a great offering to Jesus? Why does Judas (John) and the other disciples (Matthew) have a problem with it? (Deuteronomy 15:7-11)
3. How does Jesus defend Mary's action? What has she actually done to Him?
4. How does this sandwich help to explain Judas' actions in vs. 10? How did this solve the leaders' problems?

Preparation and Passover (12-26)/ Matthew 26:17-30; Luke 22:7-30; John 13:21-30

1. How does vs. 12 cast a shadow over the events to follow? Why was it important to the disciples that Jesus eat the Passover? How was "go into the city" a bold move for Jesus?
2. What was unusual about a man carrying water? Why would this man's house have a room furnished and prepared? What else do we know about this household? (Acts 1:13, 14; 12:12)
3. Why would Jesus warn all the disciples when only one would betray Him? Why would every disciple to the man ask, "Is it I?" How does Jesus' further description implicate a close friend? (Psalm 41:9) How would it have been better for "that man" not to have been born?
4. How is the "bread" Jesus' body? What does eating it suggest of the disciples? How is the cup of wine His "blood?" How does this blood form a new covenant? (Zechariah 9:11) A covenant between whom? Why did Jesus avoid the fourth cup? (Kingdom, Zechariah 14:4, 9)
5. How would the following hymns have encouraged Jesus in this night? (Psalm 116:8-9; 118:6-8, 22-25)

In the Garden (27-52)/ Matthew 26:31-56; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-11

1. How does vs. 27 reinforce vs. 19? (Zechariah 13:7-9) Why does Jesus tell the disciples about plans after resurrection?
2. Why would Peter be so adamant about confessing his love for Jesus? How does this agree with his past behavior? (Mark 8:31-33; 9:5)
3. What kind of place is "Gethsemane"? Why was there a division between Peter, James, and John and the other disciples? What different instructions were given to each group? What was Jesus feeling?
4. Why would Jesus pray to avoid the trials ahead? Was not this hour ahead the purpose of His life? (Hebrews 5:7, 8; Philippians 2:5-8; John 3:14-17)
5. What "cup" is Jesus referring to? How is this different from the cup in vs. 23? (Mark 10:38; Isaiah 51:17-23; Jeremiah 25:15; Revelation 14:19)
6. Why did Jesus stop to go check on the disciples? What did He find the disciples doing? What were they to watch for? In what ways might they be tempted, that they needing to be praying about? Where would the flesh be weak, whereas the spirit is willing?
7. On Jesus' second return, what were the disciples doing? How did they explain it? Was Jesus being kind on his third return to the disciples?

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8. Despite his earlier reluctance, how can we explain Jesus' willingness to go and meet His betrayer?
9. What kind of resistance is this "great multitude" prepared to meet? How does Judas point out Jesus? Why would he need to?
10. How does Peter try to back up his word? (John 18:10)
11. How do these events fulfill Scriptures? (Isaiah 53:7-9; Psalm 22:6-18; Daniel 9:26)
12. Why did the disciples flee? Who was this naked young man? (Amos 2:16)

Jesus Trial before Caiaphas (53-72)/ Matthew 26:57-75; Luke 22:54-65; John 18:25-27

1. What crowd was Jesus up against? What crowd was Peter up against?
2. Why could the priests not find a charge against Jesus? What commandment were these witnesses breaking? (Exodus 20:16)
3. Why is Jesus silent for one question and vocal for another? What did Jesus predict the high priest would see? (See Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:3; Isaiah 52:8) How could this be construed as blasphemy? Why was death recommended for it? (Leviticus 24:13-16) Why did Jesus accept the beating of the those around Him? (See Isaiah 11:2-4)
4. In contrast with the false witnesses, what did the servant girls truly say of Peter? Why did Peter deny the girl's statement?
5. How did Peter's "speech" belie his origins and his denial? (Matthew 26:73)
How did remembering Jesus' word affect Peter's thinking? (2 Corinthians 7:10)

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Mark 15

Jesus before Pilate (1-15)

1. What parties are responsible for Jesus conviction? How does this fulfill Jesus' predictions? (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33)
2. On what charge is He presented before Pilate? How does this compare with the Sanhedrin's verdict? Does Pilate see through their duplicity? (vs. 10)
3. Why was Pilate amazed? How does Jesus' silence fulfill Scripture? (Is 53:7; Ps 39:1,2)
4. What was the Passover custom the Jews asked Pilate about? Who else was eligible for release?
5. Does the crowd agree with Pilate or do they charge Jesus with an accusation of their own? What penalty does the crowd demand? On what grounds does Pilate have to flog and hand Jesus over?

The Soldiers Mock Jesus (16-20)

1. Did it require a whole company to satisfy Pilate's orders? How do the soldiers "honor" Jesus' royal status? In what ways was Jesus abused? Why would the soldiers feel this was necessary?

The Crucifixion (21-32)

1. How does Simon fit into this story? Where is he from? Who are his children? (See Romans 16:13) Why does Mark alone record these two sons?
2. Why did Jesus refuse the wine? How many words does Mark use to describe the hammering and hoisting of Jesus? How do even these verses fulfill Scripture? (Psalm 22:18)
3. At what time was Jesus crucified? What was the written charge against Him? Was He alone? (Psalm 22:7; 109:25)
4. How were those passing by actually predicting what would happen in three days? (See John 2:19) How are they also Satan in disguise? (Matthew 4:6)

The Death of Jesus (33-41)

1. To what purpose does Mark quote Jesus' exact words? At what time was this cry made? How is the darkness significant? (Exodus 10:21-23; John 1:3-5)
2. What do you make of the comment of the bystanders in vs. 35? What did they expect to see? How would this have affected their understanding of Jesus?
3. How is Jesus' loud cry unusual for someone being crucified? Which Temple curtain was torn and how was it torn? What does this say to the Temple cult?
4. Was this centurion one of those who mocked Jesus? How would Jesus' cry and death move such a man to state the obvious?
5. Who does Mark introduce into this story at this point? How long had they been with Jesus? Were they among the disciples?

The Burial of Jesus (42-47)

1. Who does Mark introduce at 43? How is this man distinguished? What does he ask from Pilate? Why should Mark describe it as "boldly"?
2. Why was Pilate surprised at the news? Who did he ask about Jesus' corpse?

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3. Where did Joseph bury Jesus? How did Joseph ensure that the body would not be disturbed? Who witnessed the burial?

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Mark 16

The Resurrection (1-8)

1. What three women are described in verse 1? What do we know about them? (Mark 15:40; Luke 8:2) When did they buy the spices?
2. When did the women decide to go to the tomb? What day of the week was it? What did they wonder about on the way? What did they notice that made this a moot point? How is the stone described?
3. Did the women go into the tomb? What did they see? On what side was the "young man" in white sitting? (Isaiah 1:18; Daniel 7:9; Mark 9:3) Why would the women be alarmed?
4. How does the young man explain the disappearance of Jesus' body? (Daniel 10:12; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:13, 30) Who specifically were the women to tell about the resurrection? Where was Jesus going? (Mark 14:28; See also Mark 1:9, 14, 16, 28, 39)
5. How would you describe the emotional condition of the three women?

The Markan Problem (9-20)

1. Why does the NIV and other translations section off verses 9-20? If Mark did not write these verses, why are they in the Bible?
2. What do we know about these final verses? Is there anything significant in these verses that adds to our understanding of the Resurrection and Commissioning of the Disciples?
3. Are these verse worth studying? Are they "canonical"?

Resurrection Appearances (9-14)

1. To whom does Jesus appear first? (John 20:11-18) What is Mary's claim to fame? (Luke 8:2) Who did she tell about Jesus? Why didn't they believe it?
2. Where did Jesus appear to "two of them"? (Luke 24:13-35) Why were they not believed?
3. What were the "Eleven" doing when Jesus appeared to them? (Luke 24:36-23) For what things did Jesus rebuke them? (Luke 24:37-39)

Commissioning the Disciples (15-18)

1. Where were the disciples to go and preach? (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
2. What conditions were laid upon converts for salvation? (Acts 2:38; 16:31; Ephesians 4:5; 1 John 5:1) What would condemn a person? (John 3:18; Jude 5)
3. What signs would accompany the preaching to confirm it? (1. Acts 16:16-18; 2. Acts 2:4; Joel 2:28-29; Isaiah 28:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 14:18-22; 3. Acts 28:3-5; 4., 5. Acts 3:7; 5:12-14) Which of these do we practice today? Why or why not? (1 Corinthians 13:9-10)

The Exaltation of King and Kingdom (19-20)

1. Where was the Lord Jesus taken and where is He now? (Acts 1:9; 7:55)
2. Where did the disciples preach? What two things did the Lord do to help them?