

Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 2

The Book of Mark
Chapters 6-10

Suggested Weekly Memory Verse: Mark 10:45

January 9-15

Monday - Mark 6

Tuesday – Mark 7

Wednesday - Mark 8

Thursday - Mark 9

Friday - Mark 10

Saturday - Review

Sunday - Review

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

Mark 6-10

Week Two

Mark 6

1. Verses 1-6 Jesus went to his own home town, but his ministry was rejected there. Why? If Jesus were living in America today, do you believe he would experience the same rejection in our culture that he did in his own home town? Why or why not?
2. In verses 7- 12 Jesus sent his disciples out to minister. He was training leaders to fulfill the ministry which would be theirs when Jesus ascended into heaven. According to verse 12 their message was the same as John the Baptist (1:4) and Jesus (1:15). They called the people to repentance. Repentance meant to acknowledge their sin and change their minds to follow the will of God. Is this a message that is needed in the American culture today? Is it a message that is needed in the churches of American today? Why or Why not? How do you think a message calling for repentance would be received?
3. Reading verses 31, 34 and 35-44 what do you learn about the heart of Jesus? Was he self-centered, or other centered? How do you know?
4. In the feeding of the 5,000, who do you think benefited more, the disciples or the multitude? How? Why?
5. Contrast Mark 1:35 with Mark 6:46. I am sure Jesus was tired. He wanted to get away with the disciples for a rest, instead he ministered once again to the multitudes. What did Jesus do in these verses to prepare for his ongoing ministry, to restore his energy? What example does he give to us in these verses?
6. Well, here comes Jesus, see him walking on the water. (MK. 6:47-52)

It was between 3:00 and 6:00 in the morning, the fourth watch. The disciples were already tired from their previous ministries. And then ministering to the multitudes the day before and assisting in feeding the 5,000. (What an amazing experience that must have been.) Now they had been rowing through the night against the wind. The sea was rough. They were worn out. All of a sudden off to the stern of the boat they saw a vision of someone walking on the water. He was going to pass them by. Of course we know that it was Jesus. How did the disciples respond? How do you think you might have responded under similar circumstances?

Note verses 51-52. They had not learned much about Jesus from the feeding of the 5,000. How can we increase our faith when we observe God answering prayer in our lives or in the lives of our friends? How about starting a journal of answered prayers and the evidence of God's power.

7. Through events like calming the storm in chapter 4, feeding the 5,000 and walking on the water, Jesus was displaying his power to his disciples. In so doing, he was building their faith. They would need a strong faith to face the events to come. How has God ministered to you, displaying his power, to increase your faith?

Mark 7

1. In the first five verses, the Pharisees and scribes were concerned because Jesus disciples were eating without washing or cleansing their hands. They were not concerned that their hands might be dirty, but unclean ceremonially. This issue like so many that the Pharisees and scribes observed were not part of the law, but religious traditions which had become even more important than the law. They were concerned that unclean hands may have touched something a gentile or even worse, a Samaritan may have touched. They needed to be purified before they ate. It was tradition. It was legalism in its worst sense. So they condemned Jesus followers not for breaking Jewish law, but for breaking Jewish tradition. Can you think of any traditions in the church today by which a person's spirituality may be improperly judged?
2. Verses 8-13 tell of another tradition that the Pharisees kept thus negating the law of God. The Bible says honor your father and your mother, but the Pharisees found a way not to support their parents in their elder years. Corban means a gift. They claimed that their money was a gift or dedicated to God and thus not available to support their parents. Apparently, they found a way to dedicate their money to God without ever giving it to him or being responsible, in their own eyes, of using it to support their elderly parents. They were hypocrites, claiming to be spiritual, they failed to care and love even their own parents. Being a Christian does not negate our need to care for our families, but enhances it.
3. According to the Jews, there were strict dietary laws which must be kept. Certain foods were declared unclean and unfit for consumption by the law. In verses 14 – 23, Jesus declares all food clean. In Acts 10 God made this truth clear to Peter in a dream. The problem in our lives is not what we eat or drink, but what is in our hearts. It is what is in our hearts and minds that then proceeds out of our mouths and is displayed in our lifestyle that is unacceptable. It is easy to establish a list of dos and don'ts by which to judge others. The real issue is not judging how others live but evaluating our own lives to see if there is something hidden in my own heart which is affecting my relationship with God in a negative fashion. Ask God for forgiveness and ask him to help you to deal with the issue, whatever it might be. Also, evaluate whether you have a list of traditions by which you judge the spirituality of others. If you find that you do, Ask God to help you overcome a critical judgmental spirit based on traditions and not on real Christian love and the truths of the Word of God.
4. Jesus came first declaring himself as Messiah to the Jewish people before declaring Himself as the universal savior of the world.. The woman who came to Jesus in verses 24-30 was a gentile. Yet because of her great faith Jesus honored her request and cast the demon out of her daughter.

Mark 8

1. In Mark 6 Jesus fed 5,000 with five small loaves of bread, more like a small wheat roll, and a couple of small dried fish. Once again, he has a very hungry multitude before him. They are in need of food, but the disciples respond, where can we find sufficient food for this crowd out here in this desolate place. (v. 4) The disciples had already witnessed the feeding of the 5,000. Why didn't they simply tell Jesus

that they would hunt up a few loaves of bread and some fish and that he could provide for the crowd as he had done previously.

Faith is an allusive trait. God may take us through a difficult situation financially, or health wise, and when we face a similar situation we may we may experience the same anxiety and lack of faith that we did the time before. Why, when we have experienced God's goodness and his faithfulness, is it so hard for us to believe he will meet our needs again?

2. In verse 15, Jesus warned his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees. They of course did not understand. They thought he was speaking of real bread. Jesus chastised them saying he could produce bread if they needed it. Had he not already fed 5,000 and then 4,000. Surely he could feed them. What is leaven? What does it do to dough? How was Jesus using it symbolically in relationship to the Pharisees? Can you think of any way that the leaven of today's culture is or has crept into the American church?
3. The healing of the blind man in verses 22 through 26 is an interesting miracle. The physicians of that day were not able to restore sight. Again, the miracles declared the deity of Jesus. What is different about this miracle is that it was progressive and not immediate. He saw nothing, then he saw shadows and finally he saw clearly.
4. Verses 27-38 are an important transition passage in the book of Mark. The disciples declare him to be the Christ, the Messiah. Jesus had been demonstrating his deity through his teaching and his mighty miracles. Now he will begin to point toward the cross and prepare his followers for the ministry that awaits them in the future.

If someone asked you who Jesus is, what would you tell them? How would you define him theologically? (Just a short answer.) How would you define Jesus in relationship to you personally? (Who is Jesus to you?)

How are the two answers the same? How do they differ?

5. In verses 31 through 33 Jesus began to explain what was to take place. Peter rebuked Him. He said no way will that happen to you Lord. What was wrong with Peter's response? How would you have responded to Jesus had you been there?
How do you feel about Jesus response to Peter in verse 33?
6. Verses 34 through 38 make up one of the key passages of the book of Mark, In your own words, explain the meaning of each verse. What does this passage declare a disciple of Jesus should be like?

Mark 9

1. The transfiguration in verses 2 through 8 was an amazing event. It was the fulfillment of verse 1 for Peter, James and John. How might you have responded had you been there with Peter, James and John when they saw Jesus, Moses and Elijah together? What do you think of Peter's response?

It is important to note that they recognized Moses and Elijah. I believe that it is a verification of the fact that we will recognize and know one another in heaven. That is a comfort to me.

This is another great passage verifying the deity of Jesus.

2. In verses 14 through 29 Jesus casts a demon out of a boy. What did Jesus say was essential to casting out demons, such as the one who had taken up residence in the boy? How did the father of the boy respond in verse 24?

Have you ever asked God to increase your faith? Can you think of a specific occasion when you made that request?

Verses 28 through 29. Why did Jesus say the disciples had been unable to cast out the demon? How important is prayer to our lives? How do prayer and faith relate to each other? Can we have true prayer without faith? If we have faith will we fail to pray?

3. In verses 30 through 32 Jesus foretold his death and resurrection. Why do you think his disciples failed to be prepared when Jesus was arrested, tried and crucified? Jesus told them clearly what was to take place. Why didn't they understand? Can you think of a time when you failed to prepare even though you had a clear understanding of what would take place? Why weren't you prepared? What did you learn from that experience?
4. As you read verses 33 through 41, ask yourself how important is humility to the Christian life? How is that demonstrated in this passage?
5. Do you believe in hell? What does Jesus say about hell in verses 42 through 50?

If salt is a preservative, and it is, what does verse 50 say about our lives?

Mark 10

1. Jesus teaches on Marriage and Divorce Verses 1-12

Listed below are some principles on marriage and divorce taken from this passage.

- God created marriage
- Marriage was intended to be between a man and a woman
- Marriage is to be permanent. What God has joined together, let no one separate.
- Divorce is never the desired will of God

Jesus gave an exception concerning the permanency of marriage in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9. In the case where one of the marriage partners has been unfaithful, the offended or faithful partner has the right to divorce the offending partner and then the one who had been the faithful partner is free to remarry.

In I Corinthians 7:12-16 it says if a believer marries a non-believer, then he or she must remain married to the non-believer. If, on the other hand, the non-believer desires a divorce, the believer is to let him or her go. Then the believer is free to remarry.

Divorce is not God's desired will for any of us. He only allows divorce for the sake of those whose partner has been unfaithful and has broken the marriage vows of faithfulness. Even then, divorce is not

required if the partner who was faithful can forgive and is willing to work to restore the relationship. However, when trust has been broken by unfaithfulness, it can be very difficult to restore the relationship.

If God feels this way about divorce, He detests it, why is it so prevalent within the evangelical church?

If your marriage is in trouble, please do not perceive divorce as an option. Get help if necessary and allow God to give you a strong and God honoring relationship.

2. God's Kids Verses 13-16

God loves your kids more than you do! Isn't that amazing! These verses alone should cause us to develop our nursery and children's ministries to be the best and most effective they can be at bringing our children into a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ.

What does it mean that we must receive the Kingdom of God like a child or we will not enter it at all?

3. In verses 17 through 27, the man who came to Jesus was most likely a very upright individual. He prided himself on keeping the law. It says Jesus felt love for him. However, Jesus said that there was one thing he lacked. Jesus instructed him to go and give all his money away and come and follow him. The man could not do it for it says he was very rich.

Is it wrong for a Christian to have money? (Yes or No)

If it is not wrong to have money, then what was the problem for this man? Could his problem be a spiritual problem for people today? (Why or Why not)

Are you getting the idea that Jesus required a high commitment from his disciples? Does He expect that kind of commitment today? Describe what such a committed individual might appear to look like!

4. What was Jesus teaching in verses 28-31?

What does it mean in the context of the passage that "Many who are first will be last, and the last first?" (v. 31)

5. Compare verses 33-34 with 9:31. Jesus understood clearly what awaited him when he would arrive at Jerusalem. Yet he travelled to Jerusalem with determination. He did not hesitate on his journey. He was willing to go to sacrifice his life for you and me. What Love!!!

His death was not a mistake. It was part of a well-designed plan by the heavenly Father to make salvation available to you and me.

6. Verses 41 through 45 is again one of the key passages found in the Book of Mark.

What did Jesus say was his purpose for coming to earth? What was Jesus' understanding of his relationship to those who would follow him? What example did Jesus set for Christian leadership: whether in the home, on the job, in the church, in the political arena? What should be the understanding and attitude of those in leadership toward their followers? If you followed Jesus example, what would this look like in area where you are a leader? What would it look like in your home?

7. The healing of Blind Bart! Vs. 46-52

After reading the account of the restoration of the sight of Blind Bartimaeus, how was the attitude of the crowd similar to that of the disciples in vs. 13-16 when the parents were bringing their children to Jesus? How did Jesus attitude differ from that of the crowd?

In verse 51 Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted Jesus to do for him. Couldn't Jesus see his need? Why did Bartimaeus have to tell him he was blind and that he wanted to see? Why did he have to verbalize it?

How important is it for us to verbalize our needs when we bring them to God in prayer?

v. 52 – Was it Bartimaeus' faith that brought his healing or was it the power of God? What part did Bart's faith actually play in the restoration of his sight?

How does our faith impact our prayers?

Notice, Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He was purposeful on his journey. He had an appointment with the cross. It was his destiny. It was what he had come to earth to do. Yet as he travelled he still had time to stop and minister to those in need. People were and are Jesus ministry! Should that not be our ministry as well!

For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45