

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 1

THE INTRODUCTION

1. **Read** the Gospel of Mark through in less than an hour.
 - a. What general impressions do you have of the writing?
 - b. What general emphasis can you detect in the book?
2. **Read** the Gospel of Mark, chapter by chapter. Upon reading each chapter, summarize the content of each in seven words or less. Record your summary on the following table.
3. **Study** your summaries to see what information you can gather concerning the book as a whole.
4. **Scan** the Gospel of Mark looking for time designations. Record your findings, chapter by chapter. Study your findings. What did you learn?
5. **Scan** the Gospel of Mark looking for geographical locations. Record your findings chapter by chapter. Study these findings. What did you learn?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 2

THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY

MARK 1:1 – 45

1. In the best Greek manuscripts there are eleven paragraphs in this passage. Please read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, write a title, of seven words or less, for each of these paragraphs. The paragraphs are as follows:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mark 1:1-3 | |
| Mark 1:4-8 | |
| Mark 1:9-11 | |
| Mark 1:12, 13 | |
| Mark 1:14, 15 | |
| Mark 1:16-20 | |
| Mark 1:21-28 | |
| Mark 1:29-31 | |
| Mark 1:32-34 | |
| Mark 1:35-39 | |
| Mark 1:40-45 | |

2. Read Mark 1:1-3 carefully. Now read Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3. Now read Mark 1:1-3 again. What did you discover? Why would Mark find it necessary to quote from two Old Testament sources at this point?
3. In view of what you read in Malachi and Isaiah, what is the significance of the message about John the Baptist in Mark 1:4-8?
4. In Mark 1:9-13, there is a contrast between the way the Father and Satan view Jesus.
 - a. Record what you find.
 - b. Again, read Mark 1:9-13 in view of Mark's quotation from Malachi and Isaiah, as recorded in Mark 1:2,3. What did you discover?
5. In Mark 1:14,15 Mark summarizes Jesus' message as He began His ministry. How would **you** summarize this message?
6. Read Mark 1:16-20. What observations can you make from what you read? What does Mark tell you about these people?
7. There are two themes in Mark 1:21-28:
 - a. Jesus' teaching in the Synagogue.
 - b. The confrontation with the man possessed with a demon. What does each contribute to our understanding of the other theme?
8. In two paragraphs, Mark 1:29-31 and Mark 1:32-34, Mark talks about the healing ministry of Jesus. In Mark 1:29-31, Mark tells of the healing of Peter's mother-in-law. What facts can you find in this paragraph? In Mark 1:32-34, Mark tells of the multitude of the sick brought to Jesus. Why would Jesus command the demons not to speak?

Study Questions for Mark

9. Early the next morning, after these healing experiences, Jesus went to a desolate place to pray. There is a contrast between His thinking and that of the disciples' concerning the response to popularity. Write down what the paragraph indicates about both positions.
10. Chapters 13 and 14 of Leviticus deal with the dread disease of leprosy. Read these chapters and then study Mark 1:40-45. What did you learn about leprosy? What did you learn about the leper in this passage? What did you discover about Jesus in relation to leprosy and the leper?
11. Choose a verse, from this passage, that is most meaningful to you. Memorize the verse.
12. As you reflect upon this chapter, what specific things will you do to make your Christian life more like that of Jesus?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 3

JESUS CHANGES LIVES - HEALED PARALYTIC, CALL LEVI MARK 2:1 - 28

1. In our best Greek documents, there are five paragraphs in this segment. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table which follows, give each paragraph a title of seven words or less.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mark 2:1-12 | |
| Mark 2:13, 14 | |
| Mark 2:15-17 | |
| Mark 2:18-22 | |
| Mark 2:23-28 | |

2. In Mark 2:1-12, there is a story of astonishing faith. In this paragraph there is also a strong comparison between Jesus and the scribes. Record what you learned about both in terms of their attitudes and values.
3. Read Mark 2:13,14. Place yourself in the sandals of Levi. What would you feel? Meditate on Levi's (Matthew's) response to Jesus' invitation. What did you learn?
4. In Mark 2:15-17, there is a strong contrast between Jesus and the other guests. Give as much detail about this as you can. Notice also the contrast between Jesus' response to these guests and the response of the teachers of the law. What did you discover? Meditate on Jesus' reply to the challenge of the teachers of the law. What was He saying?
4. In Mark 2:18-22, study Jesus' answer to the question about fasting. In your own words, what is Jesus saying?
5. In Mark 2:23-28, Jesus is confronted concerning His disciples' use of the Sabbath. What is the difference between Jesus' outlook on this subject and that of the pharisees? What does Jesus' reminder about David have to do with the issue? What is Jesus saying in verses 27, 28?
6. Choose a verse, from this passage, which is most meaningful to you. Memorize the verse.
7. Think carefully about what you have learned about Jesus in this chapter. In what way will your life have to change in order to be more like Him?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 4

INTENSE OPPOSITION BEGINS

MARK 3:1 - 35

1. In our best Greek documents, there are five paragraphs in chapter three. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mark 3:1-6 | |
| Mark 3:7-12 | |
| Mark 3:13-19 | |
| Mark 3:20-30 | |
| Mark 3:31-35 | |

2. In Mark 3:1-6, Jesus was busy healing a man on the Sabbath. Notice the contrast between Jesus and the people who were watching for a way to accuse Jesus. List the differences between them. Write a list of the things Jesus did and said in this passage. What did you learn?
3. Mark 3:7-12 is a response to Mark 2:2-3:6. In the midst of great attention, why did Jesus order the evil spirits not to tell who He was?
4. Notice that in Mark 3:13-19, where Jesus calls His disciples, immediately follows a time when Jesus healed many and was challenged repeatedly because of His ministry and beliefs. Think about this fact. What does it suggest to you? Study the list of disciples carefully. What can you learn from the list?
5. In Mark 3:20-30, there are two themes present. First, His family is concerned about His emotional stability. Second, the teachers of the law came from Jerusalem to announce that He was possessed by Beelzebub. Study Jesus' response to the Teachers' charge. What did He say?
6. In Mark 3:31-35, there is a shocking encounter with Jesus' own family. Why did His family come? What was His real response to their presence?
7. Choose a verse, from this passage, which is most meaningful to you. Memorize the verse.
8. How do you account for the fact that Jesus and His disciples eventually encountered strong opposition and eventual persecution; yet we rarely if ever encounter suffering?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 5

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

MARK 4:1 - 41

1. There are seven paragraphs in this segment of the book. Read each paragraph carefully. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mark 4:1-9 | |
| Mark 4:10-20 | |
| Mark 4:21-25 | |
| Mark 4:26-29 | |
| Mark 4:30-32 | |
| Mark 4:33, 34 | |
| Mark 4:35-41 | |

2. In Mark 4:1-9, Jesus told a parable. Make a list of the facts Jesus offered in the parable. Study the list and record what you discover.
3. Mark 4:10-20 is an explanation of the parable in Mark 4:1-9. Identify the participants in this story, i.e., the farmer, the birds, the seed, the soil, etc. Now read the story again. Record each piece of information you discover about them.
4. If you were one of the crowd by the lake, in Mark 4:21-25, what would you understand Jesus to be saying to you?
5. In Mark 4:26-29, Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to the way a seed grows. What is Jesus saying about the Kingdom of God?
6. Jesus said the Kingdom of God was like a mustard seed. Read the parable, Mark 4:30-32, and record what Jesus said about it. Now reflect on these facts to see what you have learned.
7. Mark 4:33, 34 form a summary of the way Jesus taught. What do these verses tell you?
8. Mark 4:35-41 tell of Jesus stilling the storm. Make a list of the events in this story. Study this list. Record what you learn. Put yourself in the place of one of the disciples. How would you feel in this experience? What would have happened to you?
9. How does what you have learned in this section apply to your own life. What difference should it make? How has it helped you?
10. Choose one verse, from this section, that is most meaningful to you and memorize it.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 6

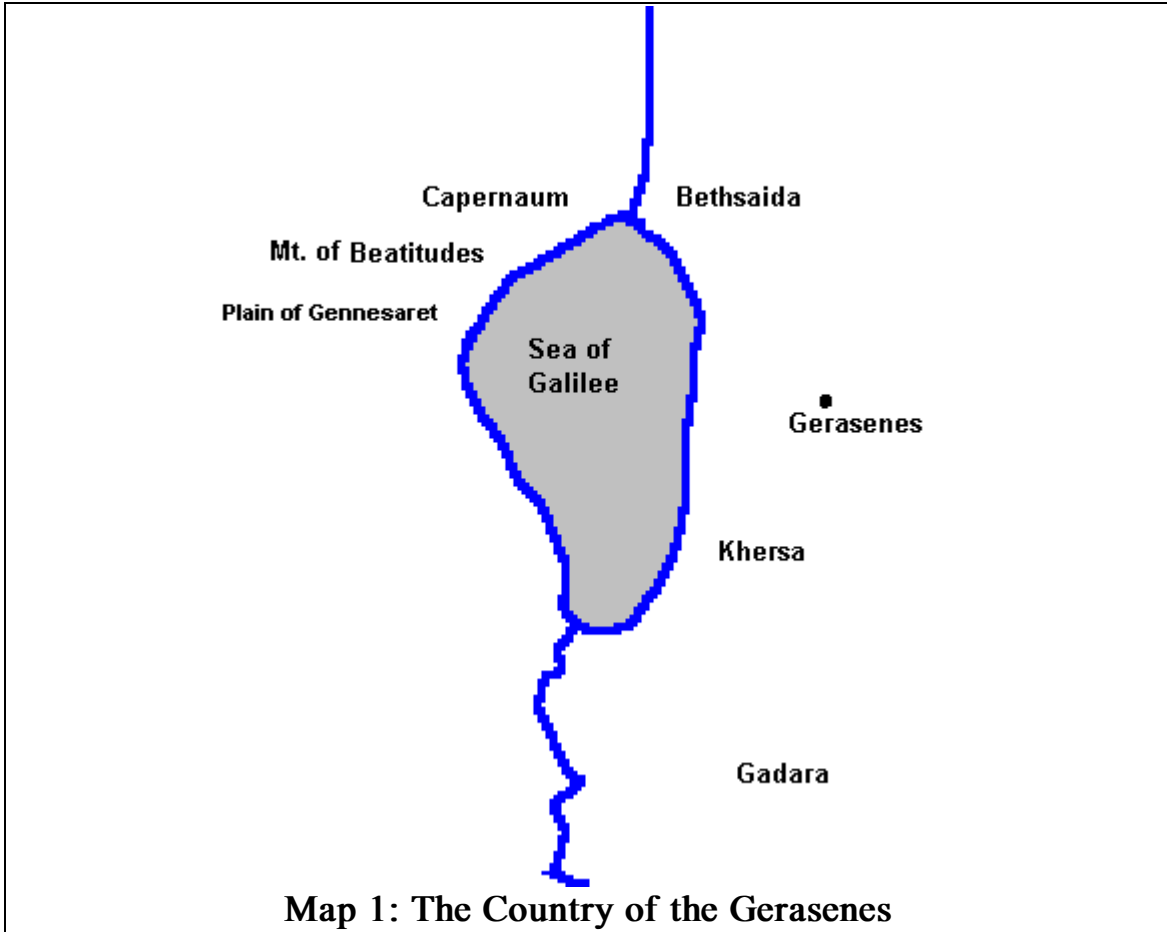
JESUS HEALED THREE - DEMONIAIC, WOMAN-ISSUE, JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

MARK 5:1 - 43

1. In Mark chapter five, there are four paragraphs. Read each paragraph carefully and write, on the following table, a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mark 5:1-20 | |
| Mark 5:21-24 | |
| Mark 5:25-34 | |
| Mark 5:35-43 | |

2. In Mark 5:1-20, he tells the story of a miracle. Look at the map on page 8 to see where this took place. Think about this location. Why is it important? What information does Mark give you about the demoniac? Study Jesus' response to this man. What does Mark say about Jesus? What is the significance of the herd of swine? Of the swine drowning themselves? Notice the contrast between the man in Mark 5:1-7 and the same man in Mark 5:15. What change has taken place? How did the local people respond? Read the conversation between the man and Jesus in Mark 5:18-20. What was the man trying to do? What was Jesus trying to do?
3. Read Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43 carefully. Where did this episode take place? What do these paragraphs say about the man? Study Jesus' response to Jairus. How did Jesus treat Jairus? Notice the contrast between Jesus and the other people in the story. What does it tell you about them? About Jesus? In Mark 5:41, Mark inserts a translation of Jesus' instruction to the dead girl. What does this tell you? Mark includes a parenthesis which indicates that the girl was twelve years of age. How does this information help us? Again, Jesus insists that no one be told. What would this accomplish?
4. Mark 5:25-34 is sometimes called a miracle on the way to a miracle. Verse 26 is a medical commentary. Can you see any reason for this condition? Why would the woman say, "If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed"? Study the encounter between Jesus and the woman. List the things the text says about Jesus and the woman. What do you learn from these lists?
5. Choose a verse from this chapter that is most meaningful to you. Memorize the verse.
6. In view of your study of Mark chapter five, what impact will the healing of these people have on the way you live your life and trust in Jesus?



QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 7
JESUS' REJECTION AND MIRACLES

MARK 6:1 - 56

1. There are six paragraphs in our best manuscripts of Mark chapter six. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mark 6:1-6 | |
| Mark 6:7-13 | |
| Mark 6:14-29 | |
| Mark 6:30-44 | |
| Mark 6:45-52 | |
| Mark 6:53-56 | |

2. In Mark 6:1-6, Jesus was rejected in His home town. What was the basis of this rejection? What was the result of this encounter?
3. In Mark 6:7-13, Jesus sent His disciples out to preach. Study carefully the instructions Jesus gave. There are a number of very specific instructions. What difference would these make? What was the result of their evangelistic effort?
4. The author shifts the spotlight in Mark 6:14-29. Read this story carefully. What purpose can this story serve at this point? What does this story tell you about Herod? About John the Baptist? About Jesus?
5. The well known feeding of the five thousand is described in Mark 6:30-44. What is the immediate context of this miracle? Both Jesus and the disciples recognized the problem in verse 36. They suggested different solutions. Study the disciples' solution, in view of Mark 6:30,31. Study Jesus' solution. Compare and contrast the two.
6. In Mark 6:45-52, the disciples were in another storm on the Sea of Galilee (see Mark 4:35-41). Study these experiences carefully. What did you learn? Why did they cry out in Mark 6:49?
7. In Mark 6:53-56, they landed at Genesaret rather than Bethsaida as planned. Reflect upon and think carefully about the people's response when they recognized Jesus getting out of the boat. What did they discover?
8. Reflect upon Mark chapter six. Specifically, how does this passage give direction to your daily discipleship in your community?
9. Choose a verse, from this passage, that is most meaningful to you. Memorize the verse.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 8

HEALING IN TYRE

MARK 7:1 - 37

1. There are three paragraphs in this segment of the Gospel of Mark. Read each paragraph carefully. Write a title of not more than seven words for each paragraph.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mark 7:1-23 | |
| Mark 7:24-30 | |
| Mark 7:31-37 | |

2. In Mark 7:1-23, Jesus is engaged in a lengthy debate with the scribes (teachers of the law) and the pharisees. What was the subject of the debate? What was the position of the scribes? What was the position of Jesus? What do you see? What was the final result? What does this tell you?
3. In Mark 7:24-30, Jesus performed a miracle. Where did the woman live? What was the problem? Jesus' conversation with her tend to sound harsh and uncaring. Study the verbal exchanges between Jesus and the woman. What do you see? What was the final result? What does this tell you?
4. In Mark 7:31-37, Jesus performed a miracle. Trace Jesus' journey in this passage. What did you learn? Why did Jesus take the man away from the crowd? What is the significance of the "spittle" and "He touched the man's tongue" and "He placed His fingers in the man's ears"? Why did Mark need to translate Mark 7:34? What happened? How did the people react?
5. Reflect on the miracles of Jesus in chapter seven. In what way will your expectations be different because of this study and awareness?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 9

MARK 8:1 - 9:1

MIRACLES POINTING TO THE MESSIAH

1. There are six paragraphs in this segment of the Gospel of Mark. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table which follows, write a title of not more than seven words for each paragraph.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mark 8:1 - 10 | |
| Mark 8:11 - 13 | |
| Mark 8:14 - 21 | |
| Mark 8:22 - 26 | |
| Mark 8:27 - 30 | |
| Mark 8:31 - 9:1 | |

2. In Mark 8:1-10, the author tells of the feeding of the four thousand. How do we know that this is not the same event as the feeding of the five thousand recorded in Mark 6:30-44? What was the basis of the disciples' advice to Jesus? What is the significance of the seven baskets full of leftovers?
3. In Mark 8:11-13, the pharisees sought a sign. How would you describe Jesus' emotions at this time? Is the location of this encounter significant? How did Jesus respond?
4. Jesus warned His disciples, in Mark 8:14-21, concerning the pharisees. Mark tells us the disciples had forgotten to bring bread. What does this mean? Jesus used this occasion to warn them to watch out for the leaven of the pharisees and Herod. Jesus explains this. What did He say?
5. In Mark 8:21-26, Jesus performed another miracle. What did the "spitting" on the man's eyes accomplish that touching them or just praying over them could not accomplish?
6. In Mark 8:27-30, Jesus spent some time with His disciples. As they traveled toward Caesarea Philippi, a city of many idols, Jesus asked the disciples who people said He was. Study their answer. What did you find? Jesus changed His question to a personal one. What was the difference between Peter's answer and that of the other people?
7. In Mark 8:31-9:1, Jesus was teaching the disciples concerning His coming death. Compare and contrast Jesus' announcement and Peter's rebuke. What information do you discover?
8. As you reflect upon the miracles of this passage, what does this portion of Scripture have to say concerning your discipleship as you face the struggles of daily life?
9. Choose a verse, in this passage, that has particular meaning for you. Memorize the verse.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 10

THE TRANSFIGURATION AND THE HEALING OF EPILEPTIC

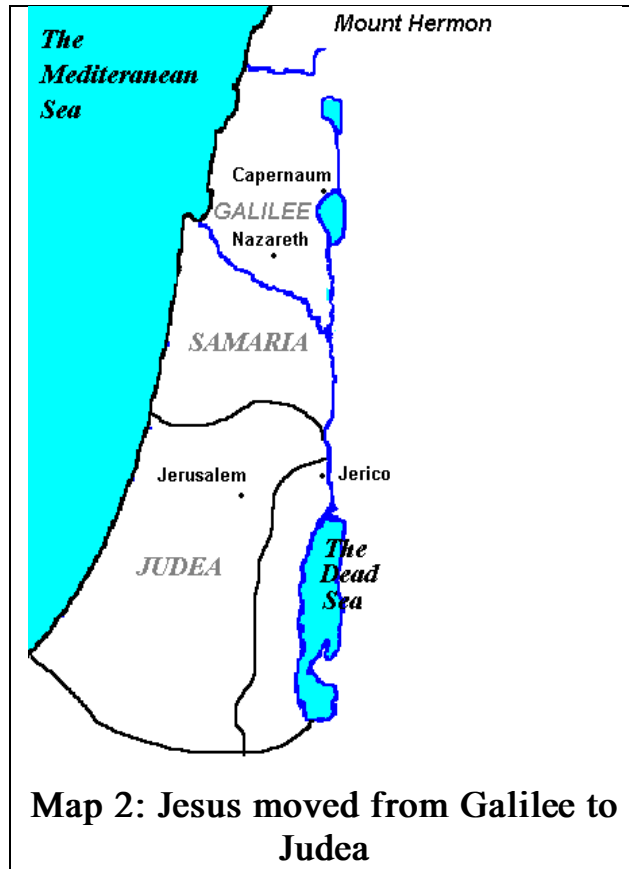
MARK 9:2 - 50

1. Mark chapter nine contains six paragraphs. Read each paragraph very carefully. On the table which follows, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mark 9:2-8 | |
| Mark 9:9-13 | |
| Mark 9:14-29 | |
| Mark 9:30-32 | |
| Mark 9:33-37 | |
| Mark 9:38-50 | |

2. Make a list of the events in Mark 9:2-8. What was Peter's response? Mark gives insight into Peter's response. What was that? We understand the voice in the cloud to be God. What did He say? Why did He say that?
3. In Mark 9:9-13, the disciples question Jesus about the role of Elijah. What was Jesus' reply? Imagine yourself in the place of one of the disciples. What would Jesus' words mean to you?
4. Jesus, in Mark 9:14-29, healed a boy who had an evil spirit. Mark describes several instances where religious leaders were busy arguing with people rather than meeting human need around them. Describe Jesus' attitude in verse 19. What is He saying? How did the evil spirit react to the sight of Jesus? What was Jesus' response? How did the man respond to Jesus? Study Jesus' reply in verse 23. What did He say? The father's response, in verse 24, sounds like a contradiction. Describe what he meant. What was the outcome? Reflect on Jesus' statement in verse 29. What did He mean?
5. In Mark 9:29-32, Jesus clearly taught His disciples concerning His impending death. List the facts Jesus told them. After studying the list, reflect on how they could not understand.
6. In Mark 9:33-37, Mark clearly identifies Jesus' omniscience (to know all things). List the principle of greatness which Jesus gives to the disciples. In verse 37 Jesus uses a child to illustrate a point. If you were one of the disciples to whom Jesus was directing this message, how would you feel?
7. In Mark 9:38-50, Jesus and His disciples hold different ideas about who is able to perform miracles. What did the disciples believe? What was Jesus' attitude? Jesus' warnings were extremely severe in this instance. Why were His words so severe?
8. Jesus' passion and resurrection are very important teachings of the Christian faith. In view of the message of this chapter, what effect will this study have on the way you live your Christian life?
9. Choose one verse from this chapter and commit it to memory.

Study Questions for Mark



QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 11

THE PERILS OF RICHES AND POWER

MARK 10:1 - 52

1. In Mark chapter ten, there are eight paragraphs. On the following table write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mark 10:1 | |
| Mark 10:2-12 | |
| Mark 10:13-16 | |
| Mark 10:17-22 | |
| Mark 10:23-31 | |
| Mark 10:32-34 | |
| Mark 10:35-45 | |
| Mark 10:46-52 | |

- In Mark 10:1, Jesus leaves Galilee and moves south. On the map on page 13, trace Jesus' journey. What does this verse tell us?
- In Mark 10:2-12, Jesus is questioned about divorce. What did Jesus say about divorce? What does this mean in our culture?
- In Mark 10:13-16, Jesus and His disciples take opposite positions about the children. What was the disciples' attitude? What was Jesus' attitude? What did it mean when Jesus took the children in His arms?
- The rich young man comes to Jesus in Mark 10:17-22. Jesus engaged him in conversation concerning obedience to the law. What does this exchange teach us concerning the law? What does Jesus' statement, in verse 21, say about riches? What does the man's sadness, in verse 22, tell us about him?
- In Mark 10:23-31, Jesus talks about the effect of wealth upon faith. What does Jesus say about the wealthy and the Kingdom of God? How did the disciples respond to Jesus' teaching? Peter was quick to affirm his devotion to Jesus. What did Jesus say in response to Peter?
- Jesus once again announces His impending death in Mark 10:32-34. What facts did Jesus share with His disciples? What should they have gathered from Jesus' message?
- Mark 10:35-45 was a dark moment in the trek to Jerusalem. What did James and John really request? What was Jesus' response?
- In Mark 10:46-52, Jesus and His disciples came to Jericho. This is where Bartimaeus received his sight. Bartimaeus affirmed the identity of Jesus as he pleaded for help. What did Bartimaeus say? What does this say about him? In verse 52, Jesus said, "Your faith has healed you." What does this mean?
- As you review this passage, how does it give direction to the way we live our discipleship in our culture? In view of the preoccupation of our culture with riches and power, what does this say to you? What does it say to the church?
- Choose one verse from this passage which is particularly meaningful to you. Memorize the verse.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 12

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

MARK 11:1 - 33

1. There are seven paragraphs in Mark, chapter 11. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table which follows, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mark 11:1-10 | |
| Mark 11:11 | |
| Mark 11:12-14 | |
| Mark 11:15-18 | |
| Mark 11:19 | |
| Mark 11:20-26 | |
| Mark 11:27-32 | |

2. In Mark 11:1-10, Jesus made His courageous, triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On this Sabbath day, can you find any reason why this procession began at Bethphage? Does the fact that it was the Sabbath have any bearing on the meaning of this entry? The cheering crowds participate in a very symbolic celebration. What was it? In verses 9 and 10, the people quoted from the Old Testament. Check your Bible to see the origin of these words. Put yourself in the place of the Roman governor. What would you think when you heard these cries? Put yourself in the place of Jesus. What do you think He was thinking? Feeling? What do you think was going through the mind of the crowd as they cried "Hosanna!"?
3. In Mark 11:11, Jesus went into the temple late in the day. Why is this significant? Put yourself in Jesus' place as He looked through the temple courts. What would you be thinking?
4. The story of the fig tree is in two parts: Mark 11:12-14 and 11:20-26. Read these verses carefully. Look at what happened to the tree and then look at Jesus' teaching in the latter paragraph. What did you learn? What does Jesus teach concerning prayer in verses 22-25? What is the relationship between lack of forgiveness and answered prayer?
5. In Mark 11:15-18, Jesus cleansed the temple. Why was this necessary? What is the relationship between the triumphal entry and the cleansing of the temple? What was the basis of Jesus' actions? Study the response of the religious leaders to Jesus' cleansing of the temple. What did you learn?
6. In Mark 11:19, there is one short sentence. Jesus and His disciples went out of the city for the night, as was their custom. Meditate on this for a while. What did you learn?
7. In Mark 11:27-32, the Chief Priests, teachers of the law and Elders came to confront Jesus concerning the authority by which He did the forceful things He did. Their deception was not well concealed. They were the only ones who could give authority concerning the temple. Study Jesus' answer to their question. Did Jesus really answer their question? What effect did Jesus' question have on these leaders? Jesus answered their question by asking a question. Study their response. What did they say and why? Study Jesus' response. What did He say? How forceful were His words?

Study Questions for Mark

8. Review this passage. What direction can you find to help you live your discipleship in this culture?
9. Choose a verse that is most meaningful to you. Memorize the verse.

Study Questions for Mark

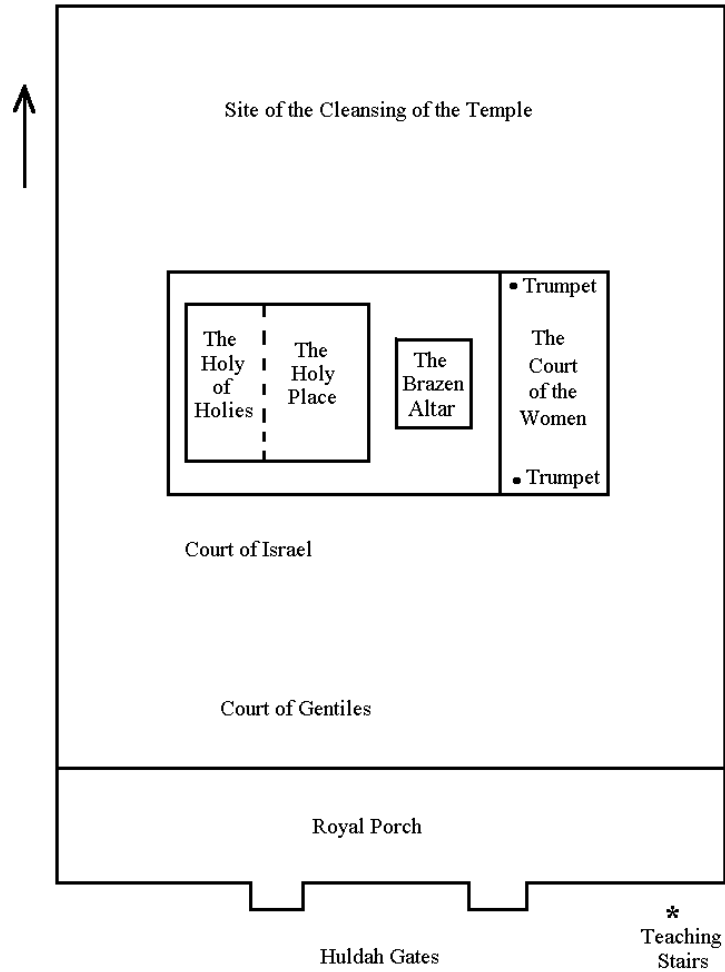


Diagram 1: The Temple as it was in Jesus' Day

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 13

RELIGIOUS ENEMIES ATTACK JESUS

MARK 12:1 - 44

1. There are seven paragraphs in this chapter. Read each paragraph carefully. On the following table, give each paragraph an appropriate title, in seven words or less.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mark 12:1 - 12 | |
| Mark 12:13 - 17 | |
| Mark 12:18 - 27 | |
| Mark 12:28 - 34 | |
| Mark 12:35 - 37 | |
| Mark 12:38 - 40 | |
| Mark 12:41 - 44 | |

2. Now look at the list of titles. Remember Jesus is intentionally moving toward the cross. Indicate how you feel each paragraph contributes toward that goal.
3. Read Mark 12:1-12 carefully. Jesus is apparently speaking, in a parable, to the religious leaders. If you were one of these leaders and Jesus told you this parable, what would you think? How would you feel? What is Jesus saying to them?
4. In Mark 12:13-17, the religious leaders question Jesus about paying tribute. Why would tribute be an issue for them? What was their question? How did Jesus answer the question? What emotions would this answer naturally arouse?
5. In Mark 12:18-27, Jesus was questioned by the Sadducees about the resurrection. The Sadducees traced the idea of levirate marriage to Genesis 38. A levirate marriage is one in which the husband dies and his next oldest brother takes his brother's wife to raise up an heir to his dead brother. Why would this group question Jesus about the resurrection? If you were a Sadducee, how would you feel when you heard Jesus' answer? What was Jesus saying to them? What impact would this encounter have on those who listened?
6. In Mark 12:28-34, Jesus was questioned by a scribe concerning the first or greatest commandment. How did Jesus treat His challenger? Study Deuteronomy 6:4,5 and Leviticus 19:18. What help do they offer? Put yourself in the place of the scribe. How would you feel if Jesus spoke to you as He did to the scribe? Notice Jesus' final response, in 34. What do you think Jesus felt at this point?
7. Compare and contrast Mark 12:1-34 and Mark 12:35-37. To whom is Jesus speaking in each paragraph? What comparisons and contrasts can you find in the paragraphs? Why is it important for Jesus to point out the statement that David made in Psalm 110:1? At the close of verse 37, Mark adds an observation about the crowd. What does it tell you?
8. In Mark 12:38-40, Jesus is talking to the people about the scribes. If you were one of the scribes, how would you feel about what Jesus said? What could you charge Jesus with libel for saying?

Study Questions for Mark

9. In Mark 12:41-44, Jesus draws a sharp contrast between the poor widow and the rich. What does Jesus say about the rich? What does Jesus say about the poor widow? What principle can you find in this passage?
10. As you reflect on this passage, where have you found direction for your life in the cultural situation in which you live?
11. Choose one verse, from this passage, that has great meaning for you. Memorize the verse.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 14

JESUS TEACHES DISCIPLES ABOUT END TIMES

MARK 13:1 - 37

1. There are seven paragraphs in this chapter. Please read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, give each paragraph a title of seven words or less.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mark 13:1, 2 | |
| Mark 13:3 - 8 | |
| Mark 13:9 - 13 | |
| Mark 13:14 - 23 | |
| Mark 13:24 - 27 | |
| Mark 13:28 - 31 | |
| Mark 13:32 - 37 | |

2. Read Mark 13:1, 2. It appears that the disciples were talking about one thing and Jesus responded to their statement by talking about something different. What can we say to this situation?
3. In Mark 13:3-8, Jesus is talking to them about what He had previously said. What had Jesus said?
4. List the things that Jesus said in Mark 13:9-13. Study this list and make some observations about the list. What encouragement does Jesus give?
5. List the illustrations Jesus used in Mark 13:14-23, which describe just how bad things will be when the end comes. What do you learn from this list?
6. Compare and contrast Mark 13:14-23 with Mark 13:24-27. What do you learn from this study?
7. In Mark 13:28-31, Jesus uses the fig tree to teach the disciples something about future events. What is it that He is teaching? What one thing is Jesus stressing?
8. In Mark 13:32-37, Jesus gives some background and instructions about the end times. What is the most important exhortation that Jesus gives in this passage?
9. In Mark 13:32-37, Jesus uses a common, everyday experience to illustrate a specific teaching. What is the picture which He draws for them? What message is He trying to teach through this picture?
10. Reflect upon Mark 13:1-37. In what way does it give direction to your daily life as a disciple of Jesus?
11. Choose one verse, from this passage, which is most meaningful to you. Memorize the verse.

Study Questions for Mark

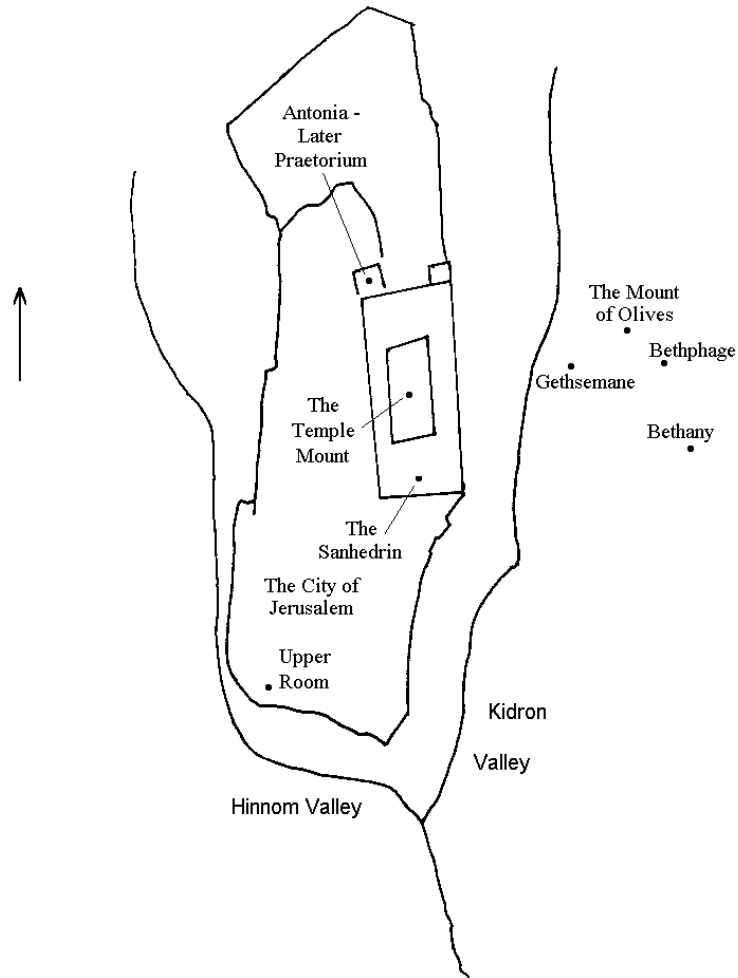


Diagram 2: Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 15

BETRAYAL, DENIAL AND TRIAL OF JESUS

MARK 14:1 - 72

1. Mark chapter 14 has 13 paragraphs. Please read each paragraph carefully. On the table below write a title, of seven words or less, for each paragraph.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mark 14:1, 2 | |
| Mark 14:3 - 9 | |
| Mark 14:10, 11 | |
| Mark 14:12 - 16 | |
| Mark 14:17 - 21 | |
| Mark 14:22 - 25 | |
| Mark 14:26 | |
| Mark 14:27 - 31 | |
| Mark 14:32 - 42 | |
| Mark 14:43 - 50 | |
| Mark 14:51, 52 | |
| Mark 14:53 - 65 | |
| Mark 14:66 - 72 | |

2. In Mark 14:1,2, the Chief Priests and scribes were searching for some way to kill Jesus. Put yourself in their situation. How would you feel? What would be your options?
3. Mark 14:3-9 tells the story of the anointing in Simon's house. What are the facts of the story? Some were disturbed by this woman's worship of Jesus. What was their basis of complaint? Study Jesus' response to this complaint. Put yourself in the position of the complainers. What did Jesus say? How would you feel? Put yourself into the place of the woman. How would you feel?
4. Notice the contrast between the woman, in Mark 14:3-9, and Judas, in Mark 14:10,11. Today we would call Judas' action a "contract." As you read Mark 14:10,11, what impression do you get of time? What does that tell you?
5. In Mark 14:12-16, Jesus sent two of His disciples to make preparation for them to celebrate the Passover. Read Jesus' instructions carefully. What unusual thing do you notice? What does it mean?
6. In Mark 14:17-21, Jesus used the Passover gathering to announce His betrayal. Reflect on these verses. Why did Jesus announce the betrayal, but partially conceal the one who betrayed Him? Put yourself in Judas' situation. What would you feel? Put yourself in the situation of any other disciple, what would you feel?
7. In Mark 14:22-25, Mark tells the story of the Last Supper. As usual, Mark gives only the essential details. What happened? Reflect on Jesus' explanation. What did He say? What did Jesus mean by His statement in verse 25?
8. Mark 14:26 is a transitional verse. Why was it significant that they sing a hymn? Look in the margin of your Bible for an indication of the hymn they sang. Look it up and read it. What does this tell you?

Study Questions for Mark

9. In Mark 14:27-31, Jesus announced, on the Mount of Olives, that all the disciples would fall away. In verse 27, Jesus said,

"You will all fall away because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and all the sheep shall be scattered.'" Mark 14:27

What does Jesus mean by this? Notice the contrast between the words of Jesus and Peter in verses 30 and 31. Study what each one said. What did you learn?

10. In Mark 14:32-42, Mark tells of Jesus' experience in Gethsemane. How would you describe Jesus' emotions in this passage? Study Jesus' prayer. What observations can you make? Mark tells of Jesus finding His disciples asleep three times. What does this add to our understanding of this passage?
11. In Mark 14:43-50, Mark tells of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. Put yourself in Judas' position. What did you learn? Put yourself in Jesus' situation. What did you discover about Jesus?
12. In Mark 14:51, 52, Mark tells his own story. No other Gospel writer tells this story. Why did Mark feel it was important for him to do so? What does it add to your understanding?
13. In Mark 14:53-65, Mark describes the trial of Jesus. In this passage, the religious leadership was party to some illegal actions. What does this say about them? Put yourself in Jesus' place as they accused Him falsely. How would you feel? Read the passage again. Notice the kinds of abuse which Jesus experienced. What can you learn from these?
14. In Mark 14:66-72, Mark tells of Peter's denial. What does the phrase, "before the rooster crows twice" mean? Put yourself in Peter's place. What would you discover from this experience? What did Peter experience when the rooster began to crow? What significance, if any, is there to the fact that it was a servant girl and a soldier who challenged Peter concerning his identity?
15. Review this description of the Last Supper, the arrest and trial of Jesus. What does this passage say that gives direction to your daily discipleship in our culture?
16. Select one verse from this passage and memorize it.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 16

TRIAL, DEATH AND BURIAL OF JESUS

MARK 15:1 - 47

1. Mark 15 contains seven paragraphs. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, write a title, of seven words or less, for each paragraph.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mark 15:1 - 5 | |
| Mark 15:6 - 15 | |
| Mark 15:16 - 20 | |
| Mark 15:21 | |
| Mark 15:22 - 32 | |
| Mark 15:33 - 41 | |
| Mark 15:42 - 47 | |

2. In Mark 15:1-5, Mark describes Jesus' trial before Caiaphas. What is the significance of the fact that in Mark 14:55 ff., Jesus was taken before "the whole Sanhedrin" and in Mark 15:1 He was again taken before "the whole Sanhedrin"? Pilate asked Jesus one question, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Why would Jesus answer the question the way He did? What is the significance of Jesus' surprising silence? If you were Pilate, how would you feel about the conduct of the Chief Priests? About the conduct of Jesus?
3. Mark 15:6-15 is a contrast between Jesus and Barabbas. Write down what Mark tells about both men. Study the lists and record your findings. Pilate stoops to a discussion with the crowd rather than rendering a verdict. Study this discussion. What happened? Ultimately, what verdict did Pilate render about Jesus? Identify Pilate's motives as Mark describes them.
4. In Mark 15:16-20, Mark describes the mockery and abuse of Jesus by the temple guard. Why does Mark identify the Praetorium as the location of this abuse? What is the significance of each mockery which these soldiers made of Jesus?
5. In Mark 15:21, Mark tells the story of Simon of Cyrene. Mark gives a lot of information about Simon in one sentence. What is it? What is the significance of each piece of information?
6. Mark tells the story of the crucifixion in Mark 15:22-32. Why does he, in verse 22, take time to translate the name Golgotha. Identify the abuse of Jesus described by Mark in this brief paragraph. What is the significance of the inscription which Pilate ordered to be posted above the head of Jesus? What was Mark saying when he recorded the fact that Jesus was crucified along with two robbers. Mark carefully identifies the source of each mockery in verses 28-32. In each case, write down the source of the mockery and the nature of the mockery. Study the list and identify what you learned from it.
7. In Mark 15:33-41, Mark tells the story of Jesus' death. Again, notice, in verse 34, that Mark translates Jesus' prayer. What is the importance of this fact. Why would bystanders think He was calling on Elijah, when Jesus specifically said "My God"? In verses 38 and 39, there are two facts mentioned together. What are these facts? What is the significance of each one? What is added to the story by Mark's mention of the women in verses 40, 41?

Study Questions for Mark

8. In Mark 15:42-47, the writer gives some interesting details. Why did Mark explain, in verse 42, the meaning of "The preparation day." What does Mark tell about Joseph? Why is this information crucial to our understanding? What was the nature of Pilate's surprise? Is there any significance to the fact that Pilate gave the body of Jesus to Joseph of Arimathea? Mark, in this sketchy account, gives some detail about the tomb. What is the significance of this detail? At the end of the paragraph, Mark suddenly gives information involving two women. What does Mark say? Why is that important?
9. Reflect upon the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. What do you find that will enable you to draw closer to a life of obedient discipleship?
10. Choose a verse from this passage which has the greatest meaning for you. Memorize the verse.

Study Questions for Mark

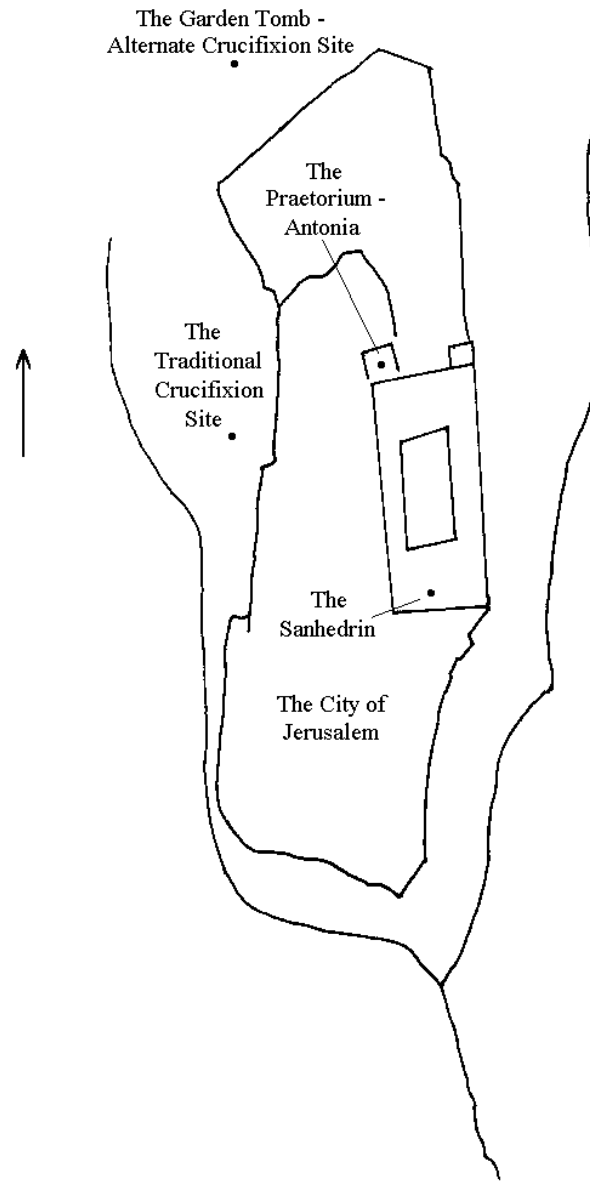


Diagram 3: The Locations of the Sanhedrin and the Praetorium

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 17

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

MARK 16:1 - 20

Some scholars believe that the Gospel of Mark ends with verse 20 of chapter 16, some with verse eight. That leaves us with important questions about the closing verses of this chapter. We will deal with this by studying all 20 verses. Then each student may decide for him/herself about where the book should end.

1. In the 20 verses, there are five paragraphs. Please read each paragraph carefully. On the table which follows, give each paragraph a title of seven words or less.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mark 16:1 - 8 | |
| Mark 16:9 - 11 | |
| Mark 16:12, 13 | |
| Mark 16:14 - 18 | |
| Mark 16:19, 20 | |

2. In Mark 16:1-8, the author deals with the resurrection. The three women were coming to complete the preparation of the body of Jesus. Why was this necessary?
The women knew that there was a huge stone over the entrance of the tomb. In view of this awareness, what does verse three say about them? Put yourself in the place of the three women. How would you feel if you found the stone moved, the tomb empty and an angel sitting in the tomb?
In verse six, the angel carefully identifies Jesus. List the ways he identifies Him. Why was this necessary? The angel asked the three women to convey a message to the disciples. Study the message carefully. What do you find? Look carefully at verse eight. Describe the emotional condition of the three women.
3. In Mark 16:9-11, Jesus spoke to Mary Magdalene. Mark gives almost no detail. He stressed the fact that the disciples did not believe what Mary had told them. Why would they not believe her?
4. In Mark 16:12,13, Jesus appeared to two people. Apparently, they are the two followers of Jesus, who had been in the upper room, now going to Emmaus. Again, the stress was on the fact that the disciples did not believe. Note, in verses 9-11 they disbelieve the report of **one** witness. In verses 12,13 they disbelieve the report of **two** witnesses. What is the significance of Mark's approach?
5. In Mark 16:14-18, Jesus later revealed Himself to all 11 disciples. Put yourself in the place of one of the disciples. What would you feel when Jesus upbraided you, as He does in verse 14?

Having done this, Jesus exhorts the disciples in verses 15-18. What did Jesus urge them to do? Verses 7 and 18 make several promises. Study the list. What do you discover?

Study Questions for Mark

6. In Mark 16:19, 20 is a picture of the ascension. There is a contrast here. Verse 19 talks about the ascension of Jesus. Verse 20 talks about the disciples' attempt to carry out Jesus' command. Write down what Mark says about Jesus' ascension and what the disciples have to say. Study the list and record your observations from these lists.
7. Reflect upon what this passage has to say about the resurrection, the commissioning of the disciples and the ascension. What difference will this make in the way **you** live your life now?
8. Now, reflect on the content of verses nine and twenty. In your view, what would you identify as the conclusion of the book? What reasons do you have for this choice?
9. At the beginning of our study, we said that there is a single idea in the Gospel of Mark. What is that idea? What are the main things that Mark said about that idea?
10. Select a verse of Scripture, from this passage, which seems most important to you. Memorize this verse and recall it and all the other verses you have memorized from the Gospel of Mark often.

Study Questions for Mark