

Mark

The Servant Messiah

<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Outline</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Passage</i>	
Galilee	1	Prepared in the Desert (1:1–1:13)	Jesus' Forerunner Jesus' Baptism Jesus' Temptation	John the Baptist John baptizes Jesus Jesus is tempted in the desert	1:2-8 1:9-11 1:12-13
	2	The Good News (1:14–3:6)	Preaching the Kingdom Trouble Brewing	Calling disciples & preaching Jesus heals a leper Healing a paralyzed man Matthew's banquet; fasting Activities on the Sabbath	1:14-45 1:40-45 2:1-12 2:13-22 2:23-3:6
	3	Responses to Jesus (3:7–4:41)	Seekers Skeptics Sprouts Shaken	Large crowds; 12 selected Satan's power & Jesus' family Parables: 4 soils, 2 seeds Jesus calms the storm	3:7-19 3:20-35 4:1-34 4:35-41
	4	Trusting Jesus (5:1–6:6)	Spiritual Helplessness Spiritual Surrender Spiritual Blindness	Casting demons into pigs Healing a woman & raising a child Nazareth refuses to believe	5:1-20 5:21-43 6:1-6
Beyond	5	Jesus' Presence (6:6–6:56)	Sent Suffering Satisfied Safe	Jesus sends out the 12 disciples Herod kills John the Baptist Jesus feeds 5,000 Jesus walks on water Jesus heals all who touch him	6:6-13 6:14-29 6:30-44 6:45-52 6:53-56
	6	Barriers to Faith (7:1–8:26)	Tradition Culture Entertainment Influence	Jesus teaches about inner purity Tyre & Sidon: a demon exorcised Decapolis: Amazing healings Jesus feeds 4,000 Warning about the Pharisees Jesus heals a blind man	7:1-23 7:24-30 7:31-37 8:1-10 8:11-21 8:22-26
	7	True Discipleship (8:27–9:29)	Confession Attention Conviction	Peter's confession; Jesus' prediction Jesus' transfiguration Healing a demon-possessed boy	8:27-9:1 9:2-13 9:14-29
	8	Childlike Commitment (9:30–10:52)	Service Faithfulness Devotion Suffering Mercy	Jesus' prediction; disciples' debate Consequences of acceptance & rejection Teaching about marriage & divorce Jesus blesses little children A rich man seeks eternal life Jesus' prediction; Serving others Jesus heals a blind beggar	9:30-37 9:38-50 10:1-12 10:13-16 10:17-31 10:32-45 10:46-52
Jerusalem	9	The Coming Kingdom (11:1–12:44)	King Judge Messiah Son Prophet Covenant-Maker Lord	Jesus' entry into Jerusalem The fig tree & the temple Jesus' authority is challenged Parable of the wicked tenants What about taxes & resurrection The greatest commandment Jesus' question & warning A poor widow gives all she has	11:1-11 11:12-26 11:27-33 12:1-12 12:13-27 12:28-34 12:35-40 12:41-44
	10	Great Expectations (13:1–14:42)	Watch your World Watch your Lord Watch your Heart Watch your Devotion Watch your Faith	Jesus tells about the future Jesus tells about his return Judas' plot & a woman's gift The Last Supper Prayer in the garden	13:1-23 13:24-37 14:1-11 14:12-31 14:32-42
	11	Universal Betrayal (14:43–15:20)	Betrayed by Disciples Betrayed by Jews Betrayed by Gentiles	Jesus is arrested Jesus is tried Jesus is denied Jesus is condemned Jesus is mocked	14:43-52 14:53-65 14:66-72 15:1-15 15:16-20
	12	Victorious Fulfillment (15:21–16:20)	Crucified Buried Risen	Jesus is crucified Jesus is buried Jesus is risen	15:21-41 15:42-47 16:1-20

Parallel
Gospels

God became a human being			John 1:1-18
The ancestors of Jesus	Matt 1:1-17		Luke 3:23-38
Angelic promises to Zechariah and Mary			Luke 1:5-38
Mary visits Elizabeth			Luke 1:39-56
John the Baptist is born			Luke 1:57-80
An angel appears to Joseph	Matt 1:18-25		
Jesus is born in Bethlehem			Luke 2:1-7
Shepherds visit Jesus			Luke 2:8-20
Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple			Luke 2:21-40
Visitors arrive from eastern lands	Matt 2:1-12		
The escape to Egypt	Matt 2:13-18		
The return to Nazareth	Matt 2:19-23		
Jesus speaks with the religious teachers			Luke 2:41-52
John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus	Matt 3:1-12	Mark 1:1-8	Luke 3:1-18
John baptizes Jesus	Matt 3:13-17	Mark 1:9-11	Luke 3:21,22
Satan tempts Jesus in the desert	Matt 4:1-11	Mark 1:12,13	Luke 4:1-13
John the Baptist declares his mission			John 1:19-28
John the Baptist proclaims Jesus as the Messiah			John 1:29-34
The first disciples follow Jesus			John 1:35-51
Jesus turns water into wine			John 2:1-12

Discussion

Mark 1:2-8

Jesus' Forerunner

- How does Mark describe John the Baptist's ministry? What did John proclaim?
- Why was the *desert* an appropriate location for John's ministry?
- Has there ever been a "desert" where you have spent time with God? How would you describe it?

Mark 1:9-11

Jesus' Baptism

- Why do you suppose Jesus was baptized?
- What does the voice from heaven indicate that this event is all about? (compare Isa 42:1 and Psa 2:7)



Jesus Commands Satan to Depart,
Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld,
engraving, 1851-60

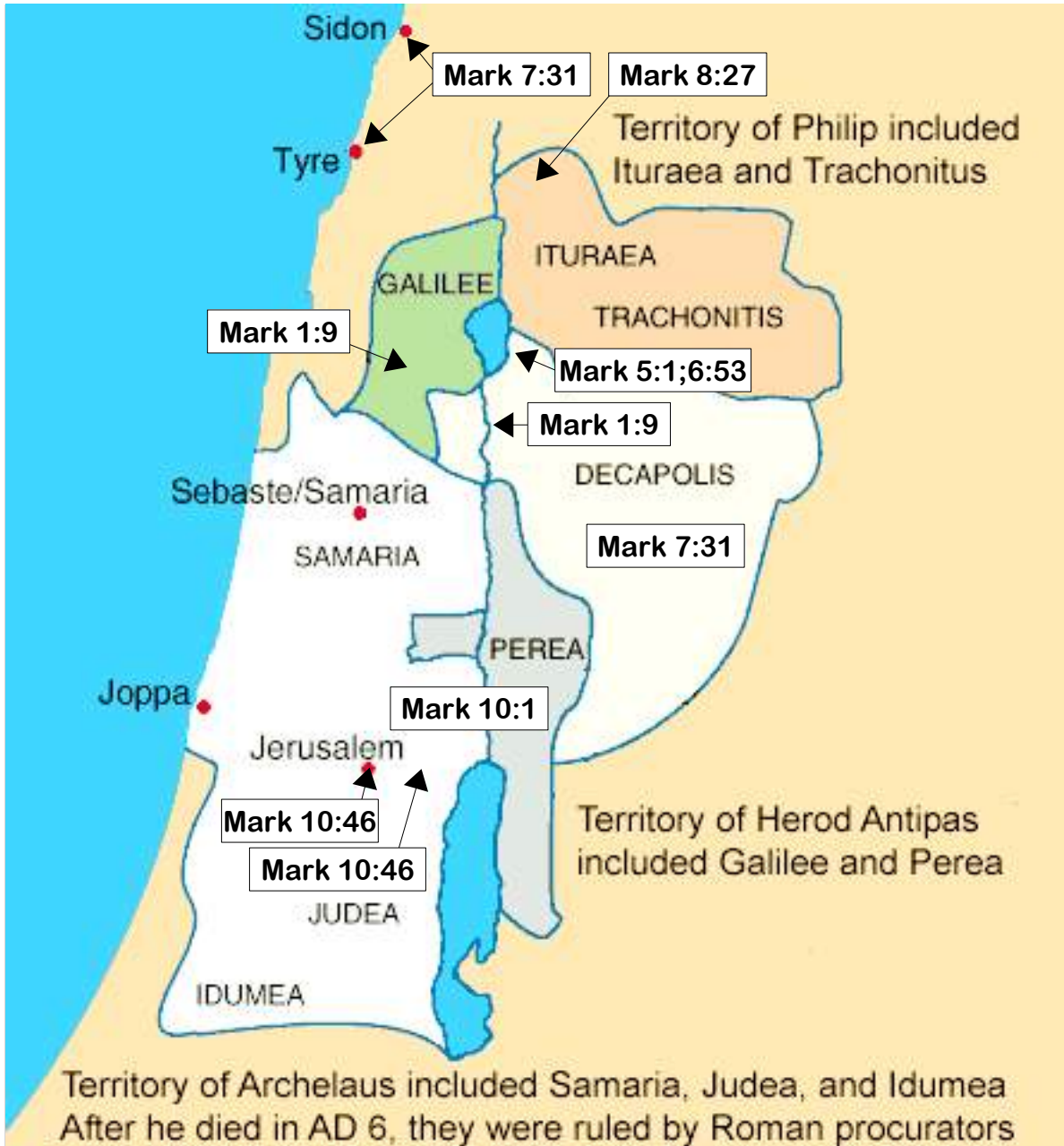
Mark 1:12-13

Jesus' Temptation

- Shortly after the Spirit came upon Jesus, He drove Jesus out into the desert to be tempted by Satan. What can we learn from this about our own discipleship?

The Good News

When King Herod the Great died, the territory assigned to him by the Roman government was divided between his sons Archelaus, Philip, and Herod Antipas. The map below shows these regions along with Mark's references to Jesus' travels.



The Good News

Parallel
Gospels

Jesus clears the temple				John 2:12-25
Nicodemus visits Jesus at night				John 3:1-21
John the Baptist tells more about Jesus				John 3:22-36
Herod puts John in prison			Luke 3:19,20	
Jesus talks to a woman at the well				John 4:1-26
Jesus tells about the spiritual harvest				John 4:27-38
Many Samaritans believe in Jesus				John 4:39-42
Jesus preaches in Galilee	Matt 4:12-17	Mark 1:14,15	Luke 4:14,15	John 4:43-45
Jesus heals a government official's son				John 4:46-54
Jesus is rejected at Nazareth			Luke 4:16-30	
Four fishermen follow Jesus	Matt 4:18-22	Mark 1:16-20		
Jesus teaches with great authority		Mark 1:21-28	Luke 4:31-37	
Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law and others	Matt 8:14-17	Mark 1:29-34	Luke 4:38-41	
Jesus preaches throughout Galilee	Matt 4:23-25	Mark 1:35-39	Luke 4:42-44	
Jesus provides a miraculous catch of fish			Luke 5:1-11	
Jesus heals a man with leprosy	Matt 8:1-4	Mark 1:40-45	Luke 5:12-16	
Jesus heals a paralyzed man	Matt 9:1-8	Mark 2:1-12	Luke 5:17-26	
Jesus eats with sinners at Matthew's house	Matt 9:9-13	Mark 2:13-17	Luke 5:27-32	
Religious leaders ask Jesus about fasting	Matt 9:14-17	Mark 2:18-22	Luke 5:33-39	
Jesus heals a lame man by the pool				John 5:1-18
Jesus claims to be God's Son				John 5:19-47
The disciples pick wheat on the Sabbath	Matt 12:1-8	Mark 2:23-28	Luke 6:1-5	
Jesus heals a man's hand on the Sabbath	Matt 12:9-14	Mark 3:1-6	Luke 6:6-11	

Discussion

*Mark 1:14-45*Preaching the
Kingdom

- 1** What is the good news that Jesus proclaimed? What is its significance?
- 2** What does it mean to *believe* in something? How does one “believe in good news”?
- 3** How is the conflict between God's kingdom and the powers of darkness (1:23) manifested in the world today?

Mark 2:1-3:6

Trouble Brewing

- 4** Why did Jesus make time in His busy schedule to pray? How did He manage to pray without distractions?
- 5** Jesus could have healed the leper simply by speaking to him. Why do you think Jesus reached out and touched him?
- 6** Who are the people today that no one wants to make contact with? How can we help “touch” them?
- 7** Why were the scribes upset when Jesus forgave the paralytic's sins?

Who or what are demons?

- Satan is called the ruler of the demons (Matt 9:34), as well as the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2). The title of ruler or prince implies followers who do his bidding.
- Demons are probably Satan's angels (Matt 25:41; Rev 12:7-9), part of his organized kingdom of darkness.

What are some effects of demons in the New Testament?

- Demons attempt to destroy *health* (Luke 13:16)
- Demons attempt to destroy *holiness* or *moral cleanliness* (Mark 5:2-15; Luke 8:27-35)
- Demons attempt to destroy *order and stability* (Rev 16:13-14)

What about today?

Paul says that even in “later times” people will be drawn away (1Tim 4:1-5), so it would be prudent to assume that Satan's army is campaigning even today (Rom 8:38-39; Eph 6:12). Jesus said that those who believe will have power through their Lord to cast out demons (Mark 16:15-18). Our greatest resources are available by clinging to Jesus (Heb 4:14-16), praying (Mark 9:29; James 5:15), and loving truth (2Thes 2:9-12).

Psalm 18:4-6, 16-19

(NIV)

The cords of death entangled me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.
The cords of the grave coiled around me;
the snares of death confronted me.
In my distress I called to the LORD;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears.
He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters.
He rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from my foes, who were too strong for me.
They confronted me in the day of my disaster,
but the LORD was my support.
He brought me out into a spacious place;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.



Christ in the Storm on the Lake of Galilee,
Rembrandt van Rijn, 1633, oil on canvas

Responses to Jesus

Parallel
Gospels

Large crowds follow Jesus	Matt 12:15-21	Mark 3:7-12	
Jesus selects the twelve disciples		Mark 3:13-19	Luke 6:12-16
The Sermon on the Mount	Matt 5:1-7:29		Luke 6:17-42
A Roman centurion demonstrates faith	Matt 8:5-13		Luke 7:1-10
Jesus raises a widow's son from the dead			Luke 7:11-17
Jesus eases John's doubt	Matt 11:1-19		Luke 7:18-35
Jesus promises rest for the soul	Matt 11:20-30		
A sinful woman anoints Jesus' feet			Luke 7:36-50
Women accompany Jesus and the disciples			Luke 8:1-3
Leaders accuse Jesus of having Satan's power	Matt 12:22-37	Mark 3:20-30	
Religious leaders ask Jesus for a miracle	Matt 12:38-45		
Jesus describes his true family	Matt 12:46-50	Mark 3:31-35	Luke 8:19-21
Jesus tells the parable of the four soils	Matt 13:1-9	Mark 4:1-9	Luke 8:4-8
Jesus explains the parable of the four soils	Matt 13:10-23	Mark 4:10-25	Luke 8:9-18
Jesus tells the parable of the growing seed		Mark 4:26-29	
Jesus tells the parable of the weeds	Matt 13:24-30		
Jesus tells the parable of the mustard seed	Matt 13:31,32	Mark 4:30-34	
Jesus tells the parable of the yeast	Matt 13:33-35		
Jesus explains the parable of the weeds	Matt 13:36-43		
Jesus tells the parable of hidden treasure	Matt 13:44		
Jesus tells the parable of the pearl merchant	Matt 13:45,46		
Jesus tells the parable of the fishing net	Matt 13:47-52		
Jesus calms the storm	Matt 8:23-27	Mark 4:35-41	Luke 8:22-25

Discussion

Mark 3:7-19
Seekers

1 Does Jesus choose us or do we choose Him (3:13)?

Mark 3:20-35
Skeptics

2 What was Jesus telling the people in 3:23-27?
Does this tell you why Jesus spent so much time casting out demons?

Mark 4:1-34
Sprouts

3 What is a “parable”? Why did Jesus use this teaching method?

4 What does each type of soil in the story represent?

5 At different times in our lives our “soil type” may change. Which soil types have represented *your* responses to God and his Word?



Parable of the Sower,
Albrecht Dürer, 1503, woodcut

Mark 4:35-41
Shaken

6 How have you reacted to the “life storms” you’ve experienced?



Jesus healing the possessed, Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, engraving, 1851-60

Decapolis

Decapolis (which in Greek simply means “10 cities”) was primarily on the Golan Heights and on the east side of the Jordan River in the area that is now part of the Kingdom of Jordan. It was populated by Gentiles in the time of our Lord, and was largely pagan in religious practice. They were cities of Greco-Roman culture.

Source: *Thomas S. McCall, Th.D.*,
<http://www.levitt.com/essays/feeding4000.html>

Jesus' Home Town, Nazareth

Nazareth was a small and insignificant village during the period of Jesus. While the site was settled during the period 600-900 BC, it was too small to be included in the list of settlements of the tribe of Zebulun (Joshua 19:10-16), which mentions twelve towns and six villages. Nazareth is not included among the 45 cities of the Galilee that were mentioned by Josephus, and its name is missing from the 63 towns in Galilee mentioned in the Talmud. It seems that the words of Nathanel of Cana, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:47) characterized the site's seeming insignificance.

Source: <http://www.inisrael.com/tour/nazareth/history.htm>

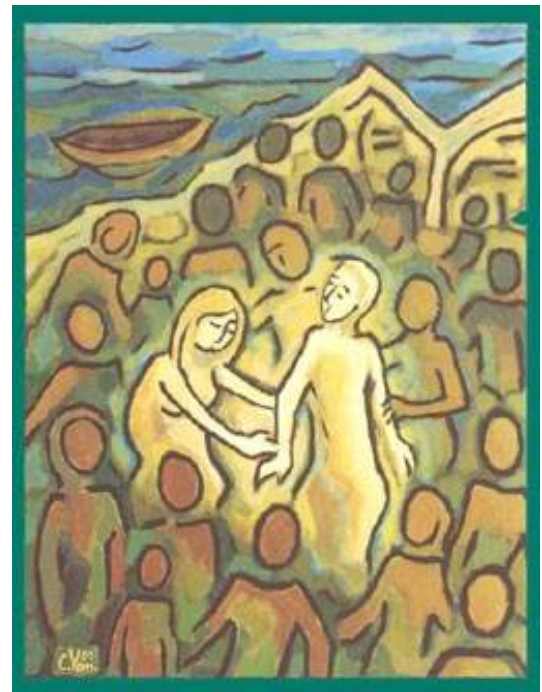
Synagogue Leadership

As “one of the synagogue rulers,” Jairus was on a board of Jewish elders who had charge of the synagogue. The president of the board (as in Luke 13:14) was elected by the board of elders to oversee the worship services and the upkeep of the building. He chose the men to read the Scriptures, to offer prayer, and to preach or explain the Scripture for each meeting.

This body of synagogue rulers was responsible for the maintenance of good order in the synagogue and the orthodoxy of its members. They had disciplinary power and were authorized to reprimand, and even to excommunicate, the guilty ones.

Other synagogue rulers mentioned by name in the New Testament are *Crispus* (Acts 18:8), and *Sosthenes* (Acts 18:17).

Sources: *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*,
International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia



The Woman Touching Christ (Femme Touchant Jésus), Corinne Vonaesch, 2001

Parallel Gospels

Jesus sends the demons into a herd of pigs	Matt 8:28-34	Mark 5:1-20	Luke 8:26-39
Jesus heals a woman and restores a girl to life	Matt 9:18-26	Mark 5:21-43	Luke 8:40-56
Jesus heals the blind and mute	Matt 9:27-34		
The people of Nazareth refuse to believe	Matt 13:53-58	Mark 6:1-6	
Jesus urges the disciples to pray for workers	Matt 9:35-38		

Discussion

Mark 5:1-20
 Spiritual
 Helplessness

- 1** What are some clues in this story that indicate how strong the enemy was that Jesus had to deal with?
- 2** What could the healed man have learned from this experience that Jesus' own disciples had not yet grasped?

Mark 5:21-43
 Spiritual Surrender

- 3** Mark purposely weaved together the stories of Jairus and the woman. What did they have in common?
- 4** What was it about this woman's faith that Jesus' own disciples still lacked?
- 5** How do you think Jairus felt when Jesus stopped to heal the woman? Have you ever felt this way? How did it affect your faith?



Two Healing Miracles, woodcut, 1557, artist unknown. Published in the "Holding Catholic Catechism," by Michael Helling, 1557.

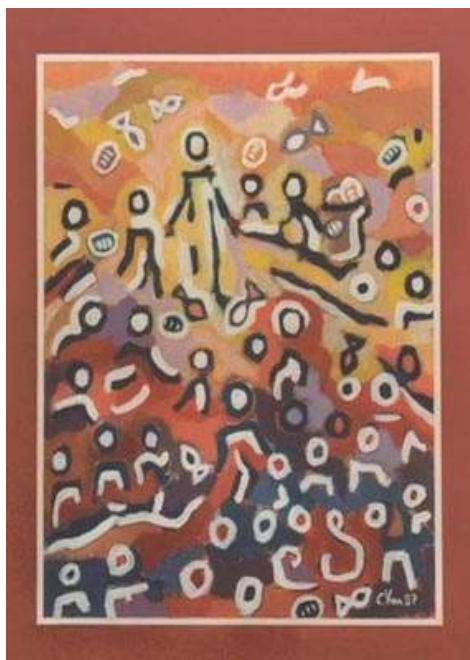
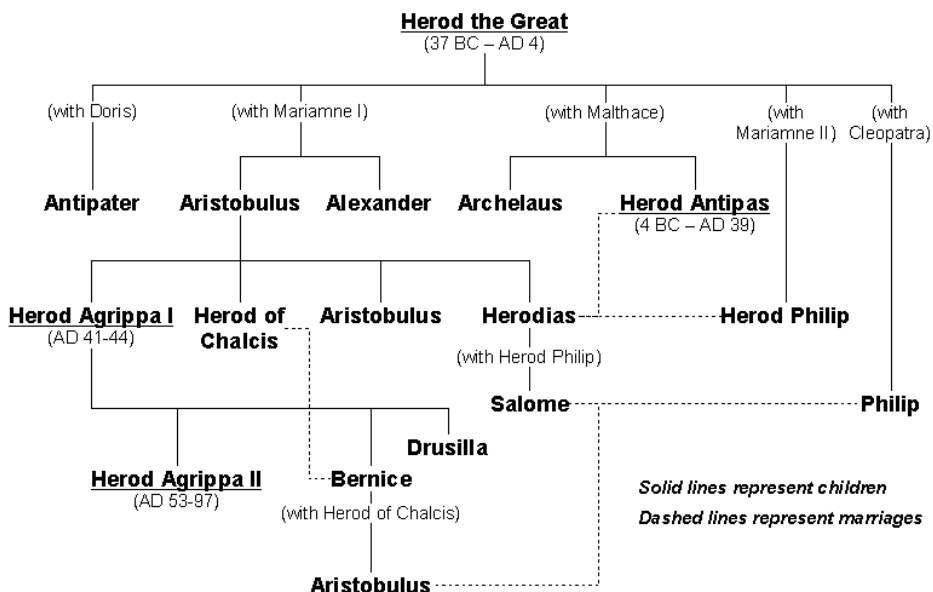
- 6** What are some things that make it difficult to step out in faith?

Mark 6:1-6
 Spiritual Blindness

- 7** How would you describe the relationship between Jesus and those of his home town?
- 8** How do we limit Jesus' activity today? What should we do differently?

Herod's Family Tree

Source: <http://www.ancientroute.com/Trees/herod.htm>



The Multiplying of the Loaves
(La Multiplication des Pains),
Corinne Vonaesch, 2001



"The Loaves and the Fishes," Matthaeus Merian the Elder,
book illustration in *Icones Biblicae*, 1625-30



Jesus Walking on the Sea, Gustave Doré, engraving, 1865

Jesus' Presence

Parallel Gospels

Jesus sends out the twelve disciples	Matt 10:1-16	Mark 6:7-13	Luke 9:1-6	
Jesus prepares the disciples for persecution	Matt 10:17-42			
Herod kills John the Baptist	Matt 14:1-12	Mark 6:14-29	Luke 9:7-9	
Jesus feeds five thousand	Matt 14:13-21	Mark 6:30-44	Luke 9:10-17	John 6:1-15
Jesus walks on water	Matt 14:22-33	Mark 6:45-52		John 6:16-21
Jesus heals all who touch him	Matt 14:34-36	Mark 6:53-56		
Jesus is the true bread from heaven				John 6:22-40
The Jews disagree that Jesus is from heaven				John 6:41-59
Many disciples desert Jesus				John 6:60-71

Discussion

Mark 6:7-13
Sent

1 What is the significance of the resources that the disciples took (or didn't take) with them?

2 In what ways have you been "sent" by Jesus? What are some ways that you try to avoid the risk of being "sent"?

Mark 6:14-29
Suffering

3 Why do you suppose Mark gives us details about the death of John the Baptist?

Mark 6:30-44
Satisfied

4 Jesus' original intent had been to find solitude and rest (6:31), but He began teaching them as soon as they arrived (6:34). What advice do you think Jesus would have for handling changes or interruptions?



Salome with the Head of John the Baptist,
Cornelis Engebrectsz., (Dutch) c.1490,
brush and ink on paper.

Mark 6:45-56
Safe

5 What prevented the disciples from recognizing Jesus? What prevents us from always recognizing Jesus?

6 Why does God test our faith?

7 Why do some people "run" after Jesus but never truly commit to be His disciple? Recall our discussion on Mark 4:16-17.

8 What are some ways that we can bring others to Jesus for healing?

De terra sancta.



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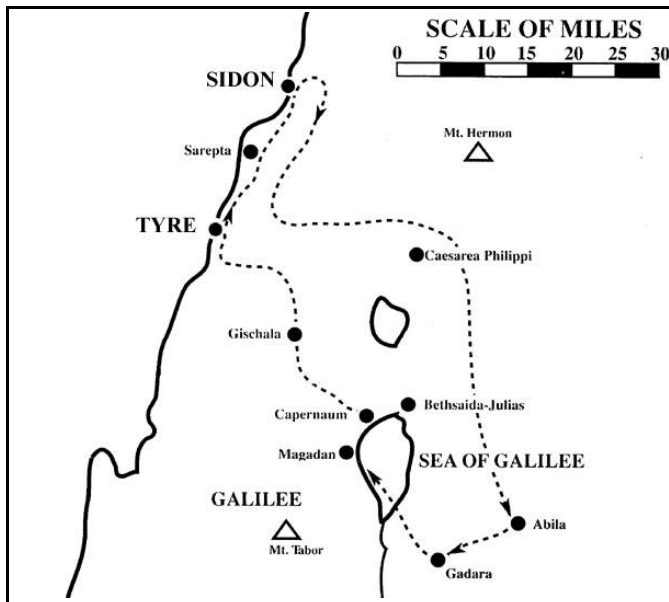
Image of Tyre, created by Sebastian Munster for the *Cosmographiae Universalis*, 1550



Jesus and the Canaanite Woman,
Rembrandt van Rijn, 1650,
pen, brown ink, and wash (7.9"x11")



Jesus and the Canaanite Woman,
Rembrandt van Rijn, 1660, drawing (6"x8.9")



Jesus' travels in Mark 7

“Throw it to the Dogs”

The word used in Mark 7:27 to denote “dogs” (*kunarium*) actually means “little dogs” or “puppies.” This is not the derogatory term that refers to wild scavenger dogs. The picture is of a family meal, with the pet house-dogs running around the table. The children at the table are fed before the pets.

By these words, Jesus may have meant that his purpose in coming to Tyre was to spend time feeding his children (teaching his disciples), and the woman's request was an interruption. His words could also be taken to mean that his ministry was to the Jews first (the children of Israel) and that they were to have the first opportunity to accept him as the Messiah (see Gen 12:3). Jesus may have been testing her faith, or he may have wanted to use the situation as another opportunity to teach that faith is in fact available to all races and nationalities.

Source: *The Life Application Commentary Series*, “Mark” (Tyndale House Publ., © 1994 by Livingstone Corp.).

Barriers to Faith

Parallel
Gospels

Jesus teaches about inner purity	Matt 15:11-20	Mark 7:1-23
Jesus sends a demon out of a girl	Matt 15:21-28	Mark 7:24-30
The crowd marvels at Jesus' healings	Matt 15:29-31	Mark 7:31-37
Jesus feeds four thousand	Matt 15:32-39	Mark 8:1-10
Religious leaders ask for a sign in the sky	Matt 16:1-4	Mark 8:11-13
Jesus warns against wrong teaching	Matt 16:5-12	Mark 8:14-21
Jesus restores sight to a blind man		Mark 8:22-26

Discussion

Mark 7:1-23
Tradition

- 1 What is a “tradition”? How do we know when a tradition has become destructive?
- 2 Why did the Pharisees and scribes criticize Jesus' disciples? What can we learn from them about our own behavior?
- 3 How were the Pharisees and scribes being hypocritical? What are some things *inside* us that make us “unclean”?
- 4 How can we be truly clean in God’s sight?

Mark 7:24-30
Culture

- 5 How would you describe this Gentile woman's reply to Jesus? What was it that persuaded Jesus to do what she wanted? How could this example improve your prayer life?



Jesus heals a man who is deaf and mute, 1563, woodcut, artist unknown

Mark 7:31-37
Success

- 6 What did the people proclaim about Jesus after the man was healed? Was it what He wanted people to know about Him?

Mark 8:1-26
Blindness

- 7 Can you think of some areas of your life in which God is trying to help you see beyond the obvious tangible aspects? What might Jesus want you to see?
- 8 How is the healing of the blind man (8:22-26) similar to the healing of the man who was deaf and speech-impaired (7:31-37)? How are they different?



Jesus feeds the four thousand, 1563, woodcut, artist unknown



Transfiguration, Fra Angelico (Vicchio nell Mugello), 1440-41
 Fresco in the Convent of St. Mark, Florence

“Some ... Shall Not Taste Death”

When Jesus said that some would not die before seeing the coming of the kingdom (Mark 9:1), he may have been referring:

- to Peter, James, and John, who would witness the transfiguration a few days later;
- to all who would witness Jesus' resurrection and ascension
- to all who would take part in the spread of the church after Pentecost.

In the transfiguration, Peter, James, and John saw Jesus' glory, identity, and power as the Son of God. In 2 Peter 1:16-18, Peter definitely says, “We told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . we were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (NIV). Thus, certain disciples were eyewitnesses to the power and glory of Christ's kingdom. Jesus' point was that his listeners would not have to wait for another, future Messiah because the kingdom was among them, and it would soon come in power.

Source: *The Life Application Commentary Series*, “Mark” (Tyndale House Publ., © 1994 by Livingstone Corp.).

Moses & Elijah on the Mountain

The high mountain (Mark 9:2) was traditionally identified as Mount Tabor in Galilee, but this is too far from Caesarea Philippi. Mount Hermon seems to fit the description more satisfactorily.

The Greek word that is translated “transfigured” is *metamorphoo* (the source of our word “metamorphosis”). It refers to a change of essential form, not a superficial change of outward appearance.

Source: *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, (Moody Press, 1962)

The most common explanation of the presence of Moses and Elijah (Mark 9:4) is that the former represented the Law while the latter represented the Prophets, thus encompassing the Old Covenant. However, both were in fact prophets (Deut 34:10; 1Kings 18:22) and both dealt with the Law (Exodus 24:12; 1Kings 18:18). In addition, both Moses and Elijah had mysterious deaths (Deut 34:5-6; 2Kings 2:11-12).

Source: *Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament*, (Broadman Press, © 1985)

True Discipleship

Parallel
Gospels

Peter says Jesus is the Messiah	Matt 16:13-20	Mark 8:27-30	Luke 9:18-20
Jesus predicts his death the first time	Matt 16:21-28	Mark 8:31-9:1	Luke 9:21-27
Jesus is transfigured on the mountain	Matt 17:1-13	Mark 9:2-13	Luke 9:28-36
Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy	Matt 17:14-21	Mark 9:14-29	Luke 9:37-43

Discussion

Mark 8:27-9:1
Confession

1 What did Jesus mean when He spoke of taking up a cross (8:34)? What are its implications for anyone considering Christian discipleship?

2 What does it mean to lose your life for Christ's sake (8:35)?



*Taking the cross up, 1547,
woodcut, artist unknown*

Mark 9:2-13
Attention

3 How should we “listen” to Jesus (9:7)?

4 What significance does the transfiguration have for us today?

Mark 9:14-29
Conviction

5 Which character in this story do you most identify with? Why?

6 Why were the disciples unable to heal the boy?

7 What did Jesus mean when He taught that everything is possible for those who believe (9:23)?

8 How can we encourage others who are lacking faith (9:24-29)?

Parallel Gospels

Jesus predicts his death the second time	Matt 17:22,23	Mark 9:30-32	Luke 9:44,45
Peter finds the coin in the fish's mouth	Matt 17:24-27		
Disciples argue – who would be the greatest	Matt 18:1-6	Mark 9:33-37	Luke 9:46-48
Disciples forbid another to use Jesus' name		Mark 9:38-41	Luke 9:49,50
Jesus warns against temptation	Matt 18:7-9	Mark 9:42-50	
Jesus warns against looking down on others	Matt 18:10-14		
Jesus teaches how to treat a believer who sins	Matt 18:15-20		
Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving debtor	Matt 18:21-35		
Jesus' brothers ridicule him			John 7:1-9
Jesus teaches about the cost of following him	Matt 8:18-22		Luke 9:51-62
Jesus teaches openly at the temple			John 7:10-31
Religious leaders attempt to arrest Jesus			John 7:32-52
Jesus forgives an adulterous woman			John 7:53-8:11
Jesus is the light of the world			John 8:12-20
Jesus warns of coming judgment			John 8:21-30
Jesus speaks about God's true children			John 8:31-47
Jesus states he is eternal			John 8:48-59
Jesus sends out 72 messengers			Luke 10:1-24
Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan			Luke 10:25-37
Jesus visits Mary and Martha			Luke 10:38-42
Jesus teaches his disciples about prayer			Luke 11:1-13
Jesus answers hostile accusations			Luke 11:14-28
Jesus warns against unbelief			Luke 11:29-32
Jesus teaches about the light within			Luke 11:33-36
Jesus criticizes the religious leaders			Luke 11:37-54
Jesus speaks against hypocrisy			Luke 12:1-12
Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool			Luke 12:13-21
Jesus warns about worry			Luke 12:22-34
Jesus warns about preparing for his coming			Luke 12:35-48
Jesus warns about coming division			Luke 12:49-53
Jesus warns about the future crisis			Luke 12:54-59
Jesus calls the people to repent			Luke 13:1-9
Jesus heals the crippled woman			Luke 13:10-17
Jesus teaches about the kingdom of God			Luke 13:18-21
Jesus heals the man who was born blind			John 9:1-12
Religious leaders question the blind man			John 9:13-34
Jesus teaches about spiritual blindness			John 9:35-41
Jesus is the Good Shepherd			John 10:1-21
Religious leaders surround Jesus at the temple			John 10:22-42
Jesus teaches about entering the kingdom			Luke 13:22-30
Jesus grieves over Jerusalem			Luke 13:31-35
Jesus heals a man with dropsy			Luke 14:1-6
Jesus teaches about seeking honor			Luke 14:7-14
Jesus tells the parable of the great feast			Luke 14:15-24
Jesus teaches about the cost of being a disciple			Luke 14:25-35
Parable of the lost sheep, lost coin, & lost son			Luke 15:1-32
Jesus tells the parable of the shrewd manager			Luke 16:1-18
Jesus tells about the rich man and the beggar			Luke 16:19-31
Jesus tells about forgiveness and faith			Luke 17:1-10
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead			John 11:1-44
Religious leaders plot to kill Jesus			John 11:45-57
Jesus heals ten men with leprosy			Luke 17:11-19
Jesus teaches about the coming of the kingdom of God			Luke 17:20-37
Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow			Luke 18:1-8
Jesus tells the parable of two men who prayed			Luke 18:9-14
Jesus teaches about marriage and divorce	Matt 19:1-12	Mark 10:1-12	
Jesus blesses little children	Matt 19:13-15	Mark 10:13-16	Luke 18:15-17
Jesus speaks to the rich young man	Matt 19:16-30	Mark 10:17-31	Luke 18:18-30
Jesus tells the parable of the workers paid equally	Matt 20:1-16		
Jesus predicts his death the third time	Matt 20:17-19	Mark 10:32-34	Luke 18:31-34
Jesus teaches about serving others	Matt 20:20-28	Mark 10:35-46	
Jesus heals a blind beggar	Matt 20:29-34	Mark 10:46-52	Luke 18:35-43

Discussion

Mark 9:30-50
Service

- 1** Why do we have a tendency to stand in the way of those who are “not one of us”? How might a *humble* view of *ourselves* affect the way we treat others?
- 2** What *should* the disciples have been concerned about rather than the man who was casting out demons in Jesus' name?

Mark 10:1-16
Faithfulness

- 3** What was the Pharisees' motive in asking Jesus about divorce? What did Jesus think about divorce?
- 4** What is it about a childlike (not *childish*) attitude that Jesus welcomed (9:13-16)?

- 5** Can you think of ways that we hinder people from coming to Jesus?



Jesus Blessing the Children, engraving,
Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 1860

Mark 10:17-31
Devotion

- 6** For this man who wanted eternal life (10:17-22), how would selling all of his possessions be like “taking up his cross” (8:34)? What are some reasons why wealth inhibits people from following Jesus?

Mark 10:32-45
Suffering

- 7** Why are the disciples so preoccupied with the “greatness” of their position (9:34,38; 10:37)? What are they failing to understand?



Jesus Heals a Blind Man, 1563,
woodcut, artist unknown

Mark 10:46-52
Mercy

- 8** Jesus asked the blind man the same question that He asked James and John: “What do you want me to do for you?” Which of them made the better request of Jesus?

A Royal Welcome

The prophecy about Jesus in Zech 9:9 is right after the prophecy concerning Alexander the Great, who conquered the cities of Phoenicia after defeating the Persians in 333 BC. Zechariah was obviously inviting his readers to contrast the two conquerors. Alexander rode a mighty steed and proudly led a great army from one victory to another, but Jesus rode a lowly donkey and came in humility. The people who welcomed Him were common peasants who laid palm branches and garments before Him on the road.

Source: Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament* (Victor, 2002).



Above: *Christ's Entry into Jerusalem*, Albrecht Dürer, woodcut, 1511

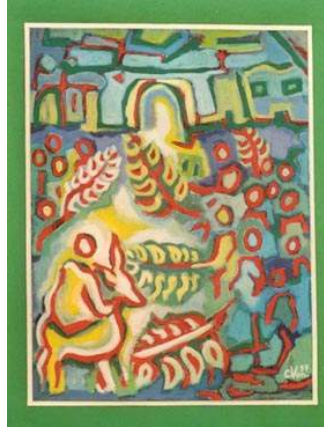


A denarius coin during the reign of Tiberius Caesar (about AD 20)



The "mite" (Mark 12:42) was a small coin, like the Greek *lepton* ("thin")

Right: *Jesus Driving the Merchants from the Temple*, Rembrandt, etching (5x7in.), 1635



Above: *Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem (L'entrée de Jésus à Jérusalem)*, Corinne Vonaesch, 2001.

Where Were the Figs?

Fig trees were a popular source of inexpensive food in Israel. In March, the fig trees had small edible buds; in April came the large green leaves. Then in May the buds would fall off, replaced by the normal crop of figs. This incident occurred in April, and the green leaves should have indicated the presence of the edible buds which Jesus expected to find on the tree, because it was not the season for figs. However, this tree, though full of leaves, had no buds. The tree looked promising but offered no fruit.

Source: *The Life Application Commentary Series, "Mark"* (Tyndale House & Livingstone Corp., 1994)

Money Changers

The money changers did big business during Passover. Visitors had to have their money changed into Jewish currency because it was required by both the merchants and the temple tax. The money changers exchanged Hebrew shekels for Roman drachmas, and the inflated exchange rate plus the exorbitant prices of animals often enriched the money changers. Mark alone recorded that Jesus would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts (11:16) – Jesus was so zealous for the sanctity of God's temple and the need for the Gentiles to have a place of worship that he enforced a Talmudic rule that forbade anyone to use the Court of the Gentiles as a thoroughfare or shortcut between the city and the Mount of Olives.

Source: *The Life Application Commentary Series, "Mark"* (Tyndale House & Livingstone Corp., 1994)



Parallel Gospels

Jesus brings salvation to Zacchaeus' home			Luke 19:1-10	
Jesus tells the parable of the king's ten servants			Luke 19:11-27	
A woman anoints Jesus with perfume				John 12:1-11
Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey	Matt 21:1-11	Mark 11:1-11	Luke 19:28-44	John 12:12-19
Jesus clears the temple again	Matt 21:12-17	Mark 11:12-19	Luke 19:45-48	
Jesus explains why he must die				John 12:20-36
Most of the people do not believe in Jesus				John 12:37-43
Jesus summarizes his message				John 12:44-50
Jesus says the disciples can pray for anything	Matt 21:18-22	Mark 11:20-26		
Religious leaders challenge Jesus' authority	Matt 21:23-27	Mark 11:27-33	Luke 20:1-8	
Jesus tells the parable of the two sons	Matt 21:28-32			
Jesus tells the parable of the wicked tenants	Matt 21:33-46	Mark 12:1-12	Luke 20:9-19	
Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast	Matt 22:11-14			
Leaders question Jesus about paying taxes	Matt 22:15-22	Mark 12:13-17	Luke 20:20-26	
Leaders question Jesus about the resurrection	Matt 22:23-33	Mark 12:18-27	Luke 20:27-40	
The greatest commandment	Matt 22:34-40	Mark 12:28-34		
Religious leaders can't answer Jesus' question	Matt 22:41-46	Mark 12:35-37	Luke 20:41-44	
Jesus warns against the religious leaders	Matt 23:1-12	Mark 12:38-40	Luke 20:45-47	
Jesus condemns the religious leaders	Matt 23:13-36			
Jesus grieves over Jerusalem again	Matt 23:37-39			
A poor widow gives all she has		Mark 12:41-44	Luke 21:1-4	

Discussion

Mark 11:1-11
King

- 1 What significance does Mark see in Jesus' entry into Jerusalem? How did the people appear to view this event? Read Psalm 118, which is quoted here.

Mark 11:12-25
Judge

- 2 As he often does, Mark embeds the description of Jesus' activities in the temple within a story about a fig tree. What similarities do you see between the fig tree and those who worked in the temple?
- 3 What should the fig tree and the Jewish leaders have been doing to fulfill God's purposes? How can I avoid a similar judgment?

Mark 11:26-33
Messiah

Mark 12:1-12
Son

- 5 The religious authorities knew that Jesus "had spoken the parable against them" (12:12). How do you think they would have understood it?

Mark 12:13-27
Prophet

Mark 12:28-34
Covenant-Maker

- 6 What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
- 7 Why are these two commandments greater than everything else? How are the two interrelated?

Mark 12:35-44
Lord

- 8 What does it mean to be "not far from the kingdom of God" (12:34)?

The Olivet Discourse

Jesus' disciples wanted to know *when* the temple would be destroyed and *how* they might know it was about to happen. Jesus warns them to not be deceived:

- ➔ (13:6) People will claim to be the Messiah before it is time.
Fulfilled: Acts 5:36; 8:9-10; 1 John 2:18; 4:1.
- ➔ (13:7) There will be talk of war that is *not* relevant.
Fulfilled: Acts 21:30-38; 2 Cor 10:3-4. Also, the Jewish Zealots clashed with the Roman army from A.D. 66 to 70.
- ➔ (13:8) Earthquakes & famines do *not* indicate that it is time.
Fulfilled: Acts 11:28; 16:26.
- ➔ (13:9) Disciples will be arrested & flogged before that time.
Fulfilled: Acts 4:1-4; 2 Cor 11:24; 1 Pet 2:12

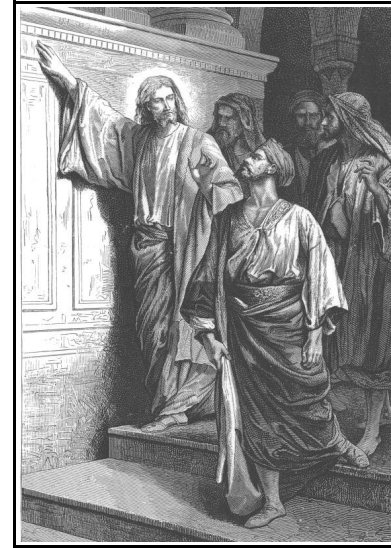
Then Jesus tells them what to look for:

- ➔ (13:10) “The gospel must first be preached to all nations.”
Fulfilled: Acts 2:5-11; Rom 1:8; Col 1:6,23
- ➔ (13:11) The Spirit will speak for them.
Fulfilled: Acts 4:8-10
- ➔ (13:12) There will be unfaithfulness and violence.
Fulfilled: Acts 7:54-8:3; 9:1-2.
- ➔ (13:13) Disciples will be hated because of Jesus.
Fulfilled: Rom 8:7; 2 Tim 3:12-13; 1 John 3:13.
- ➔ (13:14-30) A fulfillment of Daniel's visions.
Fulfilled: Destruction of temple & Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

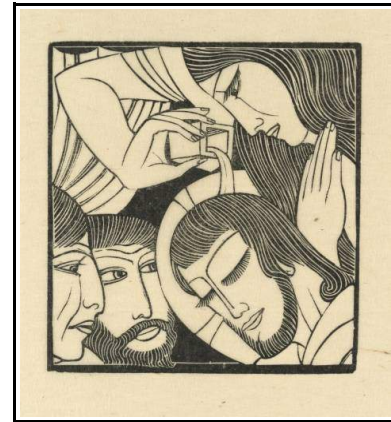
The phrase “let the reader understand” in 13:14 indicates that Mark is using code-words that should be clear to believers (see Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11). But everyone knew that the first fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy occurred in 168 B.C. when Antiochus Epiphanes sacrificed a pig to Zeus on the sacred temple altar (this was the beginning of the Maccabean wars). Therefore, Mark is telling his readers that Jesus predicted the *same sort of event*. That should make it easy to identify, especially since it would happen within a generation (13:30).

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote that the agitation of the Jewish Zealots convinced the Christian community to flee to Pella, a town located in the mountains across the Jordan River. As Jesus had said, this proved to be their protection, because when the Romans sacked Jerusalem and devastated Judea in A.D. 70, one hundred thousand Jews were taken prisoner and another 1.1 million died by slaughter and starvation. So many Jews were crucified that the hills were emptied of trees in order to build enough crosses. Certainly those who lived through that distress would wonder at the “darkness” and how their world had been “shaken” (13:24-25). However, it was reported that no Christians died in the struggle, as though God had “gather[ed] His elect” (Mark 13:27). Do you suppose they got the message from the Gospel writings?

Source: *The Life Application Commentary Series*, “Mark”
Historical facts: Flavius Josephus, *The Wars of the Jews*



Jesus Foretells the Destruction of the Temple, illustration by Alexandre Bida, from *Christ in Art*, by Edward Eggleston. 1874.



Mary Magdalene, Eric Gill, relief print, 1926



The Agony in the Garden, Carle Vanloo, ink, wash, gouache, & chalk, c.1760

Great Expectations

Parallel
Gospels

Jesus tells about the future	Matt 24:1-25	Mark 13:1-23	Luke 21:5-24	
Jesus tells about his return	Matt 24:26-35	Mark 13:24-31	Luke 21:25-33	
Jesus tells about remaining watchful	Matt 24:36-51	Mark 13:32-37	Luke 21:34-38	
Jesus tells the parable of the ten bridesmaids	Matt 25:1-13			
Jesus tells the parable of the loaned money	Matt 25:14-30			
Jesus tells about the final judgment	Matt 25:31-46			
Religious leaders plot to kill Jesus	Matt 26:1-15	Mark 14:1,2	Luke 22:1,2	
A woman anoints Jesus with perfume	Matt 26:6-13	Mark 14:3-9		
Judas agrees to betray Jesus	Matt 26:14-16	Mark 14:10,11	Luke 22:3-6	
Disciples prepare for the Passover	Matt 26:17-19	Mark 14:12-16	Luke 22:7-13	
Jesus washes the disciples' feet				John 13:1-20
Jesus and the disciples have the Last Supper	Matt 26:20-30	Mark 14:17-26	Luke 22:14-30	John 13:21-30
Jesus predicts Peter's denial			Luke 22:31-38	John 13:31-38
Jesus is the way to the Father				John 14:1-14
Jesus promises the Holy Spirit				John 14:15-31
Jesus teaches about the vine and the branches				John 15:1-17
Jesus warns about the world's hatred				John 15:18-16:4
Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit				John 16:5-15
Jesus teaches about using his name in prayer				John 16:16-33
Jesus prays for himself				John 17:1-5
Jesus prays for his disciples				John 17:6-19
Jesus prays for future believers				John 17:20-26
Jesus again predicts Peter's denial	Matt 26:31-35	Mark 14:27-31		
Jesus agonizes in the garden	Matt 26:36-46	Mark 14:32-42	Luke 22:39-46	

Discussion

Mark 13:1-23

Watch Your World

1 What are the warnings that Jesus gave His disciples? Why were they important for the disciples? Why are they important for us?

2 What should our behavior be in times such as those described here?

Mark 13:24-37

Watch Your Lord

3 What was the significance of the woman's actions?

4 In what ways does the example of this woman challenge your view of worship?

*Mark 14:12-31*Watch Your
Devotion

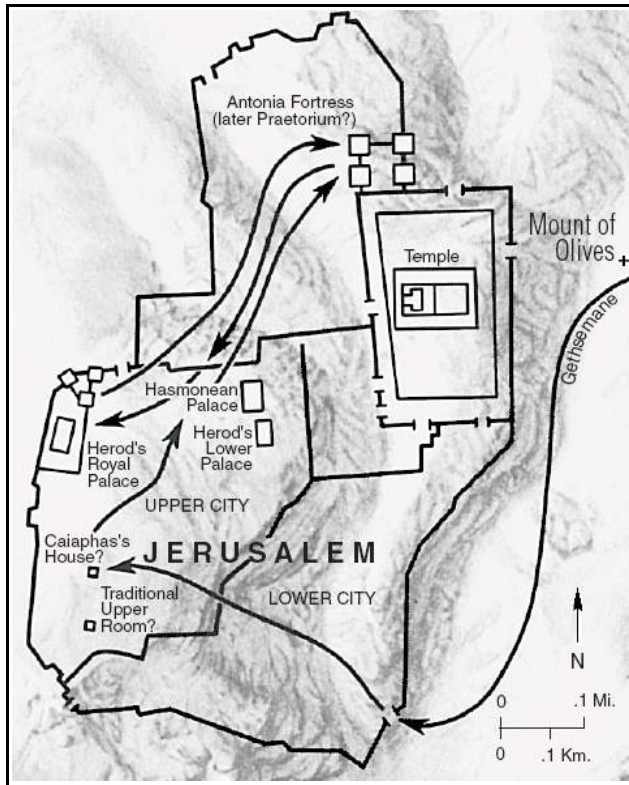
5 What do you think Judas should have done? What do you do when you discover that your behavior is sinful (or likely to lead to sin)?

6 What was the significance of the Last Supper for the disciples? What is its significance for us today?

Mark 14:32-42

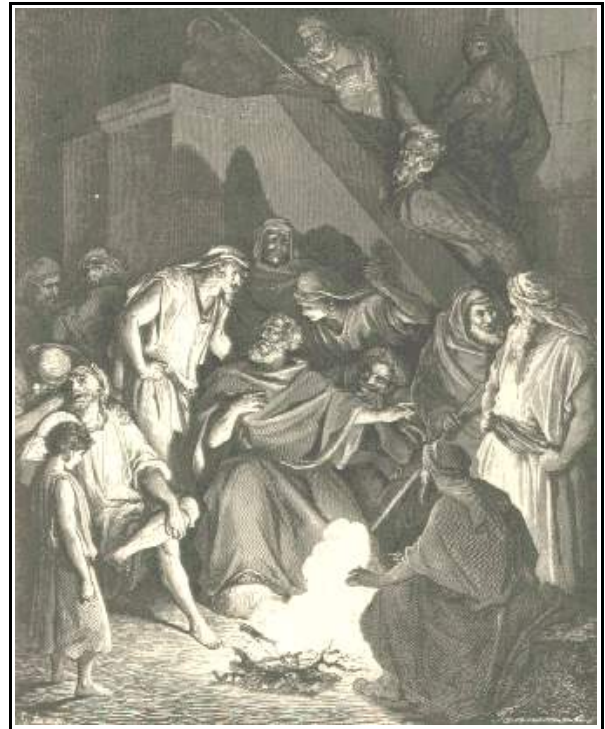
Watch Your Faith

7 What does Jesus' prayer reveal about Him? Why did He want the others to watch with Him?



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Events After Jesus' Arrest



St. Peter denying Christ, Gustave Doré, engraving, 1865

The Trials of Jesus

Jesus' trial was actually a series of hearings, carefully controlled to accomplish the death of Jesus. The verdict was predecided, but certain "legal" procedures were necessary. A lot of effort went into condemning and crucifying an innocent man. Jesus went through an unfair trial in our place so that we would not have to face a fair trial and receive the well-deserved punishment for our sins.

Event	Probable Reasons	References
Trial before Annas (powerful ex-high priest)	Although no longer the high priest, he may still have wielded much power	John 18:13-23
Trial before Caiaphas (the ruling high priest)	To gather evidence for the full high council hearing to follow	Matthew 26:57-68 Mark 14:53-65 Luke 22:54, 63-65 John 18:24
Trial before the high council (Sanhedrin)	Formal religious trial and condemnation to death	Matthew 27:1 Mark 15:1 Luke 22:66-71
Trial before Pilate (highest Roman authority)	All death sentences needed Roman approval	Matthew 27:2, 11-14 Mark 15:1-5 Luke 23:1-6 John 18:28-38
Trial before Herod (ruler of Galilee)	A courteous and guilt-sharing act by Pilate because Jesus was from Galilee, Herod's district	Luke 23:7-12
Trial before Pilate	Pilate's last effort to avoid condemning an obviously innocent man	Matthew 27:15-26 Mark 15:6-15 Luke 23:13-25 John 18:39-19:16

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Universal Betrayal

Parallel Gospels

Jesus is betrayed and arrested	Matt 26:47-56	Mark 14:43-52	Luke 22:47-53	John 18:1-11
Annas questions Jesus				John 18:12-24
Caiaphas questions Jesus	Matt 26:57-68	Mark 14:53-65		
Peter denies knowing Jesus	Matt 26:69-75	Mark 14:66-72	Luke 22:54-65	John 18:25-27
Council of religious leaders condemns Jesus	Matt 27:1,2	Mark 15:1	Luke 22:66-71	
Judas kills himself	Matt 27:3-10			
Jesus stands trial before Pilate	Matt 27:11-14	Mark 15:2-5	Luke 23:1-5	John 18:28-37
Jesus stands trial before Herod			Luke 23:6-12	
Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified	Matt 27:15-26	Mark 15:6-15	Luke 23:13-25	John 18:38-19:16
Roman soldiers mock Jesus	Matt 27:27-31	Mark 15:16-20		

Discussion

Mark 14:43-52

Betrayed by Disciples

- 1 Was Judas' betrayal worse than the others' betrayal of Jesus? Why?
- 2 What are some ways that Jesus is betrayed today?
- 3 Why do you suppose Mark mentioned the young man who fled naked (14:51-52)?

Mark 14:53-72

Betrayed by Jews

- 4 What is "blasphemy"? Why did the religious authorities regard Jesus' statement as blasphemy?
- 5 Why do you suppose Jesus gave His accusers the "ammunition" they needed to create a case against Him?



Interrogation before the Sanhedrin, engraving, Matthaeus Merian the Elder, 1625-30

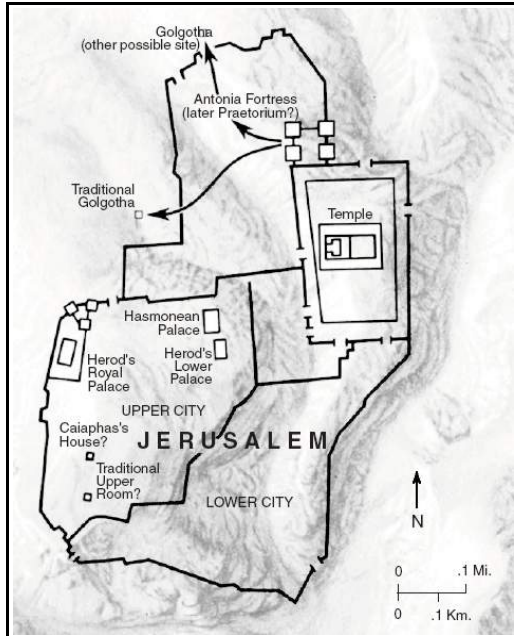
- 6 With what sort of thoughts and emotions do you suppose Peter was grappling during Jesus' trial?

Mark 15:1-20

Betrayed by Gentiles

- 7 What are some possible motivations for the people wanting Jesus crucified? How do those same motivations affect Christians today?

The Last Words of Jesus on the Cross

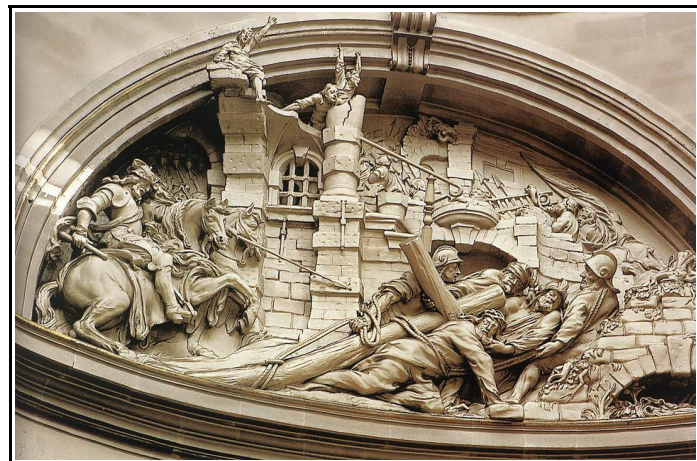


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Possible routes and locations of the crucifixion

"Father, forgive these people because they don't know what they are doing."	Luke 23:34
"I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."	Luke 23:43
Speaking to Mary and John, "Woman, he is your son. . . . She is your mother."	John 19:26-27
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"	Matthew 27:46 ; Mark 15:34
"I am thirsty."	John 19:28
"It is finished!"	John 19:30
"Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!"	Luke 23:46

The statements that Jesus made from the cross have been treasured by all who have followed him as Lord. They demonstrate both his humanity and his divinity. They also capture the last moments of all that Jesus went through to gain our forgiveness.



The Fall of Christ under the Cross, Luc Faydherbe, 17th century marble relief under the dome of the Haanswijkkerk in Mechelen, Belgium

The Meaning of the Cross

The cross is . . .	Reference
<i>a place of ransom</i> —Jesus made the payment for believers' debt of sin.	Mark 10:45 1 Timothy 2:6 Hebrews 9:15
<i>a place of substitution</i> —Jesus took the punishment that everyone deserves.	John 6:51 Romans 8:3 2 Corinthians 5:21
<i>a place of propitiation</i> —Jesus' perfect sacrifice removed God's punishment from those who believe.	Romans 3:25
<i>a place of victory</i> —Jesus' sacrifice defeated Satan's hold on humanity.	John 3:14-15 ; 8:28 ; 12:31-32 ; 18:32
<i>a place of beginning</i> —Jesus' shed blood began the church.	Acts 20:28
<i>a place of ending</i> —Jesus' sacrifice ended all other sacrifices for sin.	Hebrews 8-10
<i>a place of separation</i> —Jesus' death is the basis on which God sets apart a people to be a holy community.	1 Peter 1:2, 18-25 ; 2:1-11
<i>a place of mediation</i> —Jesus became mediator between sinful humanity and holy God.	Galatians 3:13, 19-20
<i>a place of reconciliation</i> —Jesus reconciled God and sinners, and reconciled Jews and Gentiles.	Romans 5:8-11 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 Ephesians 2:11-22 Colossians 1:21-22 ; 2:11-15
<i>a place of justification</i> —Jesus' death makes it possible for God to declare believers righteous before him.	Romans 3:21-31

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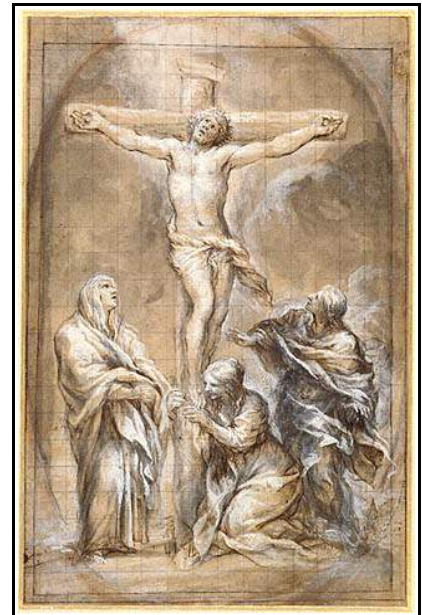
Parallel
Gospels

Jesus is led away to be crucified	Matt 27:32-34	Mark 15:21-24	Luke 23:26-31	John 19:17
Jesus is placed on the cross	Matt 27:35-44	Mark 15:25-32	Luke 23:32-43	John 19:18-27
Jesus dies on the cross	Matt 27:15-56	Mark 15:33-41	Luke 23:44-49	John 19:28-37
Jesus is laid in the tomb	Matt 27:57-61	Mark 15:42-47	Luke 23:50-56	John 19:38-42
Guards are posted at the tomb	Matt 27:62-66			
Jesus rises from the dead	Matt 28:1-7	Mark 16:1-8	Luke 24:1-12	John 20:1-9
Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene		Mark 16:9-11		John 20:10-18
Jesus appears to the women	Matt 28:8-10			
Religious leaders bribe the guards	Matt 28:11-15			
Jesus appears to 2 believers traveling on the road			Mark 16:12,13	Luke 24:13-35
Jesus appears to the disciples behind locked doors			Luke 24:36-43	John 20:19-23
Jesus appears to the disciples including Thomas		Mark 16:14		John 20:24-31
Jesus appears to the disciples while fishing				John 21:1-14
Jesus talks with Peter				John 21:15-25
Jesus gives the Great Commission	Matt 28:16-20	Mark 16:15-18		
Jesus appears to the disciples in Jerusalem			Luke 24:44-49	
Jesus ascends into heaven		Mark 16:19,20		

Discussion

Mark 15:21-41
Crucified

- 1 Why did the people insult Jesus while He was on the cross?
- 2 Why did Jesus cry out to His Father (quoting Psalm 22)?
- 3 How does Jesus' statement from the cross (15:34) exemplify what Mark wants us to learn from his book?
- 4 What meaning lies behind the temple curtain being torn in two?



Christ on the cross with the Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, and St. John, Pietro da Cortona, c.1661, ink, wash, and gouache

Mark 15:42-47
Buried

- 5 What was the significance of what Joseph of Arimathea did for Jesus?

Mark 16:1-20
Risen

- 6 How do you know that Jesus is alive?
- 7 The disciples couldn't believe that Jesus had appeared to the women. What are some things that Jesus has shown you that seem too good to be true?