

Quarter Three: The Book of Mark

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Lesson 7—Teaching Disciples: Part I

Sunday: Seeing Clearly

August 11, 2024

- **Last Weeks:** “Miracles Around the Lake”
 - Jesus’ healing ministry around Galilee (Who Is Jesus)
 - Lesson 6: “Inside Out”
 - Mark 7 & first half of Mark 8 – teaching & healing that are sometimes confusing
 - Dig deeper for the meaning & how to apply to religious life
- **This Week:** “Teaching Disciples: Part I” (Mark 8 (2nd half) & 9)
- Two divisions of Mark
 - Mark 1 – 8 = “Who Is Jesus?”
 - Answer given in His miracles & teaching
 - At this point in the narrative (this week’s lesson), someone *not demon possessed* answers that question
 - Peter in Mark 8:29 – “You are the Christ”
 - Who is Jesus?
 - Answer: He is the Messiah
 - Mark 9 – 16 = “Where Is He going?”
 - Answer: He’s going to the Cross
 - Not expected for the Messiah who was supposed to conquer the Romans
 - Mark 8 (last part) through Mark 10 = Jesus teaches His disciples about His journey
 - Section bookended by healing 2 different blind men
 - Illustrative of spiritual insight regarding
 - Who Is Jesus?
 - Where Is He going?
 - In the middle –
 - 3 “passion” predictions about the cross
 - Each prediction is followed by teaching on discipleship
 - Discipleship
 - Benefits
 - Cost
 - *Hire someone – give benefits / not always cost

Memory Text: “When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, ‘Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’ (Mark 8:34, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Seeing Clearly (Jill)
 - Mark 8:22 – 30 – healing of blind man (2-stage healing); Peter confesses Jesus as Christ
- 2. **Monday:** The Cost of Discipleship (John L)
 - Mark 8:31 – 38 – Jesus explains about His coming death (where is He going?); cost of discipleship (take up cross & follow Him)
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Mountain & the Multitude (Yvonne)
 - Mark 9:1 – 29 – transfiguration of Jesus; healing of demon-possessed boy
- 4. **Wednesday:** Who Is the Greatest? (John D)
 - Mark 9:30 – 41 – Jesus' 2nd prediction of His coming death; discussion of who is the greatest (amongst disciples)
- 5. **Thursday:** The Healthy Man in Hell (James)
 - Mark 9:42 – 50 – Jesus' teaching on 1. New believers; 2. Seriousness of sin

Seeing Clearly

Mark 8:22 - 30

- Healing of the blind man
 - Gospels record several accounts of healing blind men
 - Mark 10 (2nd half of bookend) = Blind Bartimaeus
 - Matthew 20 = 2 blind men
 - John 9 = man born blind by Pool of Siloam
 - This healing = recorded only in Mark & only one in all gospels where Jesus didn't heal in one initial act
- The healing (Mark 8:22 – 26)
 - Mark 8:22 – “Then He came to Bethsaida (northern end of Sea of Galilee); and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him.”
 - **Takeaway #1: Stand in the gap for others**
 - Intercede / pray for others
 - Bring others to Jesus
 - Others brought the blind man to Jesus
 - Eze 22:30 – “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”
 - Mark 8:23 – “So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he say anything.”
 - **Takeaway #2: Touch those in need**
 - Disease considered a result of sin (John 9)
 - Jesus touched him
 - Took him by the hand & lead him out of town (compassion for him being blind)
 - Put His hands on him
 - Offer compassion & kindness
 - Offer hope & healing & redemption through Jesus

- Quote: “Go, compel them to come. Plead with them to come! Go down to the outskirts of town, where the unclean people live, & reach out to them with the gospel. Tell them of a Savior who has come to touch them, to cleanse them, to bring them home to God.”
 - Mark 8:24, 25 – “And he looked up and said, ‘I see men like trees, walking.’ (25) Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.”
 - **Takeaway #3: Only Jesus enables us to see others clearly**
 - Jesus’ touch enabled him to see others clearly
 - Ever wonder why
 - You’re judgmental towards others?
 - Need a touch from Jesus
 - The spirit of criticism runs rampant?
 - Need a touch from Jesus
 - You cannot forgive?
 - You’re jealous of others?
 - Compare yourself amongst others?
 - Either in superiority or condemnation?
- **Why a 2-stage healing?**
 - **1. Metaphor / parable for spiritual healing**
 - Spiritual insight / understanding takes time to unfold
 - First touch = man’s vision was blurry; 2nd touch = see clearly
 - 1 Cor 13:12, KJV – “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”
 - 2 blind men bookend this passage (Mark 8 – 10) on discipleship
 - 1st touch = disciples arriving at conclusion of who Jesus is (next passage they declare Him the Christ / the Messiah)
 - Knowledge was only partial / vision was cloudy
 - 2nd touch = understand where He is going
 - **2. Medical + spiritual healing**
 - Stage 1 = spit on eyes
 - Common home remedy used in the ancient world
 - Ancient world, saliva was considered to have healing properties
 - Stage 2 = Jesus put His hands on his eyes
 - Example of medical + spiritual healing
- **Identity of Christ**
 - Turning point of Gospel of Mark
 - From Who is Jesus?
 - To Where Is He Going?
 - Jesus asks disciples the question: Who is He?
 - Jesus never questioned His disciples about His identity before

- Peter is the first *non-demon-possessed* person (in Mark) to identify Christ as Messiah
 - Jesus immediately shifts to the focus of the 2nd half of the book
 - Where is He going?
 - Begins discussion of the Cross (Lomacang's day)
- Jesus travels 20 – 25 miles north – from Bethsaida to Caesarea Philippi
 - Caesarea Philippi = predominantly Gentile city northeast of Galilee
 - *Israel tour
 - Jesus travels throughout this section of Mark
 - Reminder that discipleship is about following Jesus
- Mark 8:27 – “Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the town of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, ‘Who do men say that I am?’”
 - Good teacher asks good questions
 - Make student think / process / analyze
 - Jesus' first question is about others
 - What do others think of Jesus?
 - **Takeaway #1: Truth is absolute**
 - Truth is not relative or subjective
 - Not my truth, your truth
 - Truth is absolute
 - There is only one correct answer
- Mark 8:28 – “So they answered, ‘John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.’”
 - **Takeaway #2: Truth divides people**
 - Jesus asked the question, and there were multiple answers
 - Everyone answered according to “their truth”
 - None were correct
- Mark 8:29, 30 – “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered and said to Him, ‘You are the **Christ**.’ (30) Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him.”
 - Christ = from the Hebrew word for Messiah; Gk *Christos* means “Anointed One”
 - **Takeaway #3: With knowledge comes decision**
 - If you know He is the Christ, what will you do with that?
 - Not enough to know, must follow
 - Peter stood against
 - Roman government
 - They didn't care if people worshiped Jesus as long as they also affirmed Cesar as Lord
 - Disciples said, “Jesus is the only Lord” – cost many their lives

- Jewish religious crowd
 - Thought Jesus was Elijah or John the Baptist or prophets
 - Stand for absolute truth, against what other Christians say or affirm or claim
- Jewish religious leaders
 - Disciples not formally educated; leaders were
 - Disciples had no public influence; leaders did
- Section on discipleship: Peter's understanding of Jesus as Messiah was faulty
- **3 takeaways from healing of blind man**
 - 1. Stand in the gap for others
 - 2. Touch those in need
 - 3. Only Jesus enables us to see others clearly
- **3 takeaways from acknowledgement of Christ**
 - 1. Truth is absolute
 - 2. Truth divides people
 - 3. With knowledge comes decision