

## **The Gospel According to Mark Jesus: Servant in Action**

**Sun.** - Lesson #1 - Introduction

**The whole book of Mark**, as an overview

Wed. - Lesson # 2 - Authority

**Mark 1 & 2** “That you may know that the Son of Man has power...”

**Sun.** - Lesson # 3 - Parables

**Mark 3 & 4** “Without a parable He did not speak to them.”

Wed. - Lesson # 4 - Rejection

**Mark 5 & 6** “He marveled because of their unbelief.”

**Sun.** - Lesson # 5 - Deaf, Mute, Blind ... and Dumb!

**Mark 7 & 8** “Do you not yet perceive nor understand?”

Wed. - Lesson # 6 - Power, Passion, Service, and Sacrifice

**Mark 9** “After He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

**Sun.** - Lesson # 7 - Teaching on the Way to Jerusalem

**Mark 10** “Come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

Wed. - Lesson # 8 - Entering the Snake Pit

**Mark 11:1 – 12:12** They “sought how they might destroy Him.”

**Sun.** - Lesson # 9 - Trick Questions; Predicting the Temple’s Destruction

**Mark 12:13 through chapter 13** They sent some “to catch Him in His words.”

Wed. - Lesson # 10 - Betrayal, Arrest, Trial, Denial

**Mark 14** “She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.”

**Sun.** - Lesson # 11 - The Crux of the Gospel

**Mark 15 & 16** “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

# The Gospel According to Mark

## Lesson One: Introduction

### I. Survey of the Life of Christ

- A. Jesus wants **followers**. “Come, take up the cross, and follow Me” (Mark 10:21). “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.” (1 Peter 2:21; see John 13:15).
- B. In order to **follow** Jesus, we must study and imitate His **steps**. We can benefit both from a **detailed study** of the various accounts and from a quicker overview of His life. Re-visiting familiar material can increase our comprehension. The more we study a specific passage, the more specific our study can be. We can notice details/lessons that we may have overlooked in the past.

### II. Comparisons and Contrasts Among the Four Gospels

- A. The very existence of four different accounts of the life of Christ suggests that each one probably contains **unique lessons**. Note the various emphases of each of the gospels:
  - 1. **Matthew** - The Royal Jewish Messiah
  - 2. **Luke** - The Sympathetic Savior, or, The Gospel of Historical Certainty (1:4)
  - 3. **John** - The Incarnate Son (1:14; 20:31)
  - 4. **Mark** - The Servant/Worker, or, The Gospel of Action
- B. The gospels also vary in **how they apportion space** to different periods in the life of Christ.
  - 1. Matthew and Luke describe the birth of Christ and surrounding events. John and Mark, on the other hand, say nothing about the **birth** or early **childhood** of Jesus!
  - 2. Only John describes much of the early Judean ministry of Jesus (John 2:13-4:3) and John provides numerous accounts and teachings of Jesus not contained in the other gospels. Mark adds a few **unique details**, but all the events he records are also described in at least one of the other gospels.
  - 3. Mark and John allot relatively more space for events starting with the **final week** of Jesus to the ascension. Mark uses 6 of 16 chapters; John uses 9 of 21. (Note that the chapter divisions were added later and that chapters vary in length, but talking about “chapters” allows a rough estimate of book’s lengths.)
- C. The gospels also vary in their **arrangement of material**.
  - 1. While Matthew and Luke are likely to present the accounts grouped roughly by **themes**, Mark and John lay out their accounts in basically a **chronological** order.
  - 2. A brief chronological sketch of the life of Christ:
    - a. Jesus was born c. 5-6 B.C. (Herod the Great died in 4 B.C. Jesus was born prior to Herod's death).<sup>1</sup>
    - b. He began His ministry in A.D. 26 at approximately age 31 (Luke 3:23).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Alfred Edersheim, The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979), pp. 704-5.

<sup>2</sup>Merrill C. Tenney, New Testament Times (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978), pp. 164-5.

- c. His ministry probably lasted about three years (based on John's record of Jesus' attendance of the Passover, a yearly feast; John records at least two and probably three Passovers).<sup>3</sup>
- d. He died c. A.D. 30 at approximately age 35.

### III. Author

- A. We know that **Mark** wrote “Mark” because of early Christians’ testimony.
  - 1. External evidence in the form of **patristic opinions** is strong.
    - a. Papias (c. A.D. 115), Irenaeus, Clement of Alexander (c. A.D. 180), Origen (c. A.D. 225) and Jerome all attest to Mark's authorship of the second gospel.<sup>4</sup>
    - b. These writers also suggest that Peter assisted Mark in the production of his gospel.
  - 2. There is little in the way of internal evidence; the author does not name himself nor give many clues as to his identity. The author may have been an eyewitness of the last hours of Christ, as this is the only gospel to record the young man who fled naked from Gethsemane (Mark 14:51-52).
- B. The New Testament tells us some **about Mark**, a.k.a., **John Mark**.
  - 1. Mark was the son of Mary and a **friend** of the apostles (Acts 12:12).
  - 2. He was the **companion** of Paul and Barnabas on part of the first preaching tour (Acts 13:5, 13). His departure from the trip became the source of dispute and division between Paul and Barnabas, and Mark became Barnabas’ preaching companion traveling to Cyprus (Acts 15:36-40).
  - 3. Later, Mark was the **companion** of Paul and Peter (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13).

### IV. Date

- A. It can reasonably be argued that Mark wrote his gospel **prior to A.D. 70**, which is when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem (see Mark 13:14).
- B. Many scholars believe that Mark's gospel may have been the **earliest** of the gospels.<sup>5</sup>
  - 1. The date assigned to Mark will depend one's opinion of the relationship between Peter and the production of the gospel.<sup>6</sup>
  - 2. If the gospel was written in Rome at about the time of Peter's martyrdom, then it can be dated in the early to mid 60's. Others suggest that the gospel may have been written as early as A.D. 45.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Frederic W. Farrar, The Life of Christ (Portland, Oregon: Fountain Publications, 1980), pp. 686-9.

<sup>4</sup>Donald Guthrie, New Testament Introduction (Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1979), p. 69.

<sup>5</sup>Robert Gundry, A Survey of the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1979), p. 81.

<sup>6</sup>Guthrie, p. 72.

<sup>7</sup>Gundry, p. 81.

## V. Audience

- A. Obviously, Mark's intended audience was "**every creature**" (Mark 16:15).
1. Most people are not Jews, and Mark's work is easier for non-Jews ("**Gentiles**") to understand.
  2. Mark **explains Jewish customs** (e.g. 7:1-4) suggesting that his audience was not necessarily familiar with Jewish ways.<sup>8</sup>
- B. Mark may have been thinking in the near-term about a **Roman** audience.
1. Mark uses **Latinisms** (Latin words instead of their Greek equivalents; e.g. 4:21; 12:14; 6:27; 15:39, 44, 45)<sup>9</sup> and sometimes gives Latin equivalents for Greek terms (e.g. 12:42; 15:16).
  2. Mark **translates Aramaic** expressions (see 3:17; 5:41; 7:34; 14:36; 15:34).

## VI. Overview

- A. Mark's **purpose** was to tell the good news, "the gospel of Jesus Christ" (1:1).  
**Chapters 1-9, Jesus' Galilean ministry.**  
**Chapter 10, down the eastern side of the Jordan and across through Jericho, heading for Jerusalem.**  
**Chapters 11-13, the last week in Jerusalem.**  
**Chapter 14, the night before His crucifixion.**  
**Chapter 15, His death and burial.**  
**Chapter 16, the resurrection, appearances, further teachings, and ascension.**
- B. Mark presents Jesus as **a man of action**.
1. There is more **emphasis on the works** of Jesus than on His words.
    - a. Mark gives minimal "back story." The "**genealogy**" of Jesus is one phrase, "the Son of God." There is no birth narrative and no mention of Jesus' childhood.
    - b. Mark records 18 of the 35 **miracles** of Jesus, more so than any of the other gospels, though his account is the briefest.
  2. Even Mark's **language** is concise and active.
    - a. The word "eutheos" (transliteration of the Greek word often translated "straightway" or "**immediately**") appears some 40 times, more than in the rest of the New Testament.
    - b. Extensive use of the present and imperfect **tenses** emphasizes action in progress.<sup>10</sup>
    - c. Tenney calls Mark the "**gospel of vividness**" because of the emphasis on action and descriptive details.<sup>11</sup>
- C. Mark presents Jesus as a **true servant**, in keeping with Jesus' statement in Mark 10:45, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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<sup>8</sup>Gundry, p. 81.

<sup>9</sup>Merrill C. Tenney, New Testament Survey (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978), p. 157.

<sup>10</sup>Tenney, Survey, pp. 161, 164.

<sup>11</sup>Tenney, Survey, p. 164-5.

### **Assignment for class, for Sunday, August 3:**

1. **Read** the gospel according to Mark. It should take less time than watching your favorite movie. Be on the look-out for various **themes**, which might include...

- Jesus, a man of action
  
- Crowds and multitudes thronging/smothering Jesus
  
- Times Jesus doesn't want certain ones to tell who He is... and times He does!
  
- The witness given to Jesus' identity by various and unexpected sources
  
- The determined way in which Jesus goes to Jerusalem to die

2. **Write** down some favorite quotables to share in class.

## Mark, Lesson Two: Authority

*Text: Mark 1 & 2*

### Quick Notes

“That you may know that the Son of Man has power...” Notice in these chapters the **power** of Jesus demonstrated in His miracles and in His teaching. Notice the contrast in the **reaction** of the common people and the reaction of the Jewish leaders. Watch Jesus’ **fame** and **popularity** grow!

### Questions

Tell a couple of events that happened in the wilderness before Jesus started preaching.

Find a couple of other passages that use the phrase found in Mark 1:4, “for the remission of sins” (NKJV) or “for the forgiveness of sins” (ESV).

What was Jesus’ central message?

From Zechariah 12:10 - 13:2, we learn that unclean spirits would someday depart from the land.

What clues do we have from the text about the timing of their departure?

What can we learn about the character of Jesus from the healing of the leper?

*Multiple Choice. (More than one may be correct.):* The scribes and Pharisees criticized Jesus because:

- a. He pronounced the paralytic forgiven
- b. He ate and drank with “sinners”
- c. He didn’t fast like John did

Comparing 1:25 and 1:34, what two things did Jesus do to the unclean spirits?

What happened as a result of the leper not following Jesus’ command in 1:43-44a?

Which is easier, to say to a paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven you,” or to say, “Arise, take up your bed and walk?”

What can we learn about the character of Jesus from the calling of Levi?

What did the Pharisees say had happened that was “not lawful”?

What did Jesus say had happened that was “not lawful”?

What’s Jesus’ point? Were Jesus’ disciples allowed to break the Sabbath because David was allowed to eat the priests’ food?

## Mark, Lesson Three: Parables

*Text: Mark 3 & 4*

### Quick Notes

“Without a parable He did not speak to them.” A **parable** puts a heavenly teaching **alongside** an earthly story. These two chapters of teaching are bracketed by the performance of **two more miracles**. As Jesus’ **fame** continues to grow, so, too, does the **opposition** of the Jewish leaders. There’s a big difference between the multitude of listeners and the relatively few actual **followers**. Jesus selects twelve of his disciples and appoints them to a special work, granting them **special power**.

### Questions

T F Although Jesus broke the Sabbath (3:1-5), it was excused because He was doing good.

T F In a parable, every detail has some spiritual or symbolic significance.

T F The seed (the word of God) doesn’t always produce the same amount of fruit.

T F The large size of the mustard seed symbolizes the power of the gospel to change people.

T F The miraculous calming of the sea shows us that Jesus is Lord over the realm of nature.

3:1-6. In what two ways did the Pharisees illustrate their hardness of heart?

List the apostles 3:16-19. Compare this list with the lists in Luke 6:14-16 and Matthew 10:2-4.

What do you see as you compare the lists?

Jesus had been accused of blasphemy in chapter 2. Describe how the tables turn in chapter 3.

In the parable of the soils, what is represented by ...

- a. the birds?
- b. the sun?
- c. the stones?
- d. the thorns?

What is a major point in the parable in 4:26-29?

4:35-41. Describe two kinds of fear the disciples demonstrated in the boat.

## Mark, Lesson Four: Rejection

*Text: Mark 5 & 6*

### Quick Notes

“He marveled because of their **unbelief.**” Jesus elicited a wide variety of emotions and reactions:

Worship, fear, puzzlement, scorn and amazement. In these chapters, Jesus is **rejected** in **two locations**.

Rejection is a common response to a prophet - just ask **John** the baptizer! The last half of chapter 6 tells two of Jesus’ better known miracles, and of a region where this rejected prophet was thronged!

### Questions

What instructions does Jesus give to the former demoniac?

Why is that different from the instructions to the leper (1:43-44a) and Jairus (5:43)?

Name two things on the part of the woman with the flow of blood that explain how she was healed.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

Why were the disciples surprised that Jesus asked who had touched Him after the woman was healed?

What reception did Jesus receive at the house of Jairus by those who were already there?

How was Jesus received in His home town, and why is this surprising?

When Jesus sent the apostles to preach in the villages, what preparations were they to make?

How were they instructed to respond in case of rejection?

What was the reaction of Herod to the reports about Jesus?

T F Herod really wanted to kill John because John had spoken against his marriage to Herodias.

Tell at least one thing we learn about marriage from John’s teaching.

What evidence is there from the text to support the idea that Jesus fed the 5,000 *miraculously*?

Imagine that you are a personal advisor to Herod. Herodias’ daughter has come to Herod and made her request. Herod comes to you and asks what he should do. What advice would you give him?

Compare 6:45-52 with the other gospel accounts. List **four miracles** that took place that night.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

Why did the disciples marvel?

What in these two chapters made *Jesus* marvel?



## Mark, Lesson Five: Deaf, Mute, Blind ... and Dumb!

*Text: Mark 7 & 8*

### Quick Notes

“Do you not yet perceive nor understand?” So many miracles. So much **proof** of power and divinity. Jesus had marveled that His disciples **failed to grasp** the significance of the first multitude feeding. He repeats the miracle, but they still don’t get it, and the Jewish leaders still request a sign! Jesus issues His first of three specific **predictions** about His death and calls people to **take up the cross and follow** Him.

### Questions

Who fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy?

Find two other New Testament passages (after the resurrection) which teach that Christians may eat anything (except blood) without distinguishing between ceremonially “clean” and “unclean” foods.

Give Bible examples of “vain worship.”

Translate from the Hebrew, “corban.”

How did the invented notion of “Corban” allow the Jews to have their cake and eat it, too? (Hint: It’s about the use of their money.)

How does Jesus’ teaching about Corban help answer the Pharisees’ complaint about Jesus’ disciples?

Describe the attitude and the intelligence of the Syro-Phoenician’s answer in 7:28.

Why were the 4,000 hungry?  
Why did Jesus feed them?

What *should* the disciples have understood from the feedings?

Comment on the relation between verse 31 and verse 34.

## Mark, Lesson Six: Power, Passion, Service, and Sacrifice

*Text: Mark 9*

### Quick Notes

“After He is killed, He will rise the third day.” As in chapter 8, the **identity** of Jesus is specified and proven. Then Jesus **again predicts His death**. Then He again teaches about the **character** of His **followers**, with two exchanges dealing with **competiveness** and one about **self-control**.

### Questions

What did Jesus say about the timing of the coming of the kingdom of God?

The purpose of the transfiguration was:

- a. to show that Jesus superseded both Moses and Elijah in authority
- b. to honor Moses and Elijah, two men held in high esteem by the Jews
- c. to show that Jesus had authority even as Moses did and worked miracles even as Elijah did

Based on the transfiguration, what was going to happen to the Law and the Prophets?

T F Jesus instructed Peter, James and John to immediately begin telling people about the truth that they learned on the mount of transfiguration.

Why did the scribes say that Elijah would come back and precede the coming of the Messiah?

In what sense had Elijah already come?

Opinion: Do you think it's reasonable to imagine that the disciples had tried praying when they cast out demons? Why (not)?

Do you understand what Jesus was teaching His disciples in verse 31? In your opinion, why did the disciples not understand?

Why did Jesus set a little child in the midst of them?

T F The disciples prohibited a man who was casting out demons in the name of Jesus from doing so.

Can a part of your body cause you to sin?  
Is Jesus recommending amputation?

How would you summarize the teaching of Jesus in verses 43-48?

## Mark, Lesson Seven: Teaching on the Way to Jerusalem

*Text: Mark 10*

### Quick Notes

“Come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” **Jesus leads** the way from Galilee to Perea and through Jericho while His **disciples** follow in **amazement** and **fear**. Jesus continues working the themes of **humility** and **service** while the apostles continue failing to emulate these basic qualities of their Master.

### Questions

How did Jesus answer the question of the Pharisees about divorce?

How can a man commit adultery with a woman to whom he is married? (Hint: See Romans 7:1-3 for a definition of adultery)

What problem do we see in the disciples’ attitude in verse 13?

What verse from chapter 9 had they failed to practice?

How is Jesus’ teaching in 10:15 different from what He said in 9:37?

What problem did the rich man have?

Find an important word in Mark 10:29-30 which is NOT in Matthew 19:29.

(Hint: It must be considered when counting the cost of discipleship!)

T F A man who divorces his wife does not sin as long as he does not remarry.

T F Jesus said that the path to greatness in the kingdom lies in service to others.

T F Jesus referred to the humility of children to show the attitude of those who would enter the kingdom of heaven.

T F The other apostles were angry with James and John because of the request they had made.

*Match the person who received healing from Jesus with how they behaved afterwards:*

Peter’s mother-in-law	Followed
Bartimaeus	Told the good news
The demoniac of Decapolis	Served

Which of the following statements is *true*?

- Jesus reminded the Pharisees that Moses had permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and dismiss his wife.
- It is easier for a rich man to go through the eye of a needle than to enter into the kingdom of God.
- Jesus predicted that He would be arrested by the Gentiles and put to death, but be resurrected on the third day.
- James and John would indeed drink the same cup as Jesus.

## Mark, Lesson Eight: Entering the Snake Pit

*Text: Mark 11:1 – 12:12*

### Quick Notes

They “sought how they might destroy Him.” Having predicted the **sufferings** of the “passion week” three times, Jesus now enters Jerusalem where all things will be fulfilled within a matter of **days**. He performs a **miracle**, takes decisive **action**, and teaches a pointed **parable which all make the same point** about the bunch of “snakes” (cp. Matthew 23:33) with whom He was getting involved.

### Questions

- T F Jesus refused to answer the Pharisees’ question about His authority.
- T F In the parable of the vineyard, the owner of the vineyard represents God.
- T F During His last week, Jesus spent His nights outside of Jerusalem.
- T F The consequence of being unforgiving toward others is that we will find ourselves unforgiven by God.
- T F The scribes and chief priests were afraid of Jesus because He did miracles.
- T F The parable of the vineyard was not only descriptive; it was also prophetic.

What was the significance of the manner of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem?

Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

What lesson did Jesus teach when they passed the fig tree the next day?

What bigger lesson is being illustrated by the tree?

Why did Jesus “cleanse” the temple of merchants and money-changers?

Explain why Jesus asked the scribes, chief priests and elders about the baptism of John.

The reaction of the scribes and chief priests to Jesus’ actions and teaching was:

- they were curious
- they were receptive to what He had to say
- they were afraid
- they ignored Him

What emotion/s is/are attributed to the chief priests and scribes (and elders)?

## Mark, Lesson Nine: Trick Questions; Predicting the Temple's Destruction

Text: Mark 12:13 – Chapter 13

### Quick Notes

They sent some “to catch Him in His words.” The **Pharisees** (and unlikely partners, the **Herodians**), the **Sadducees**, and then one of the **scribes** take turns asking Jesus “stumper” questions. Jesus discerns their **various motives** and answers accordingly. Then Jesus asks *them* a “**stumper**.” In chapter 13, the context is set by the disciples’ comments and Jesus’ prediction in verses 1 and 2 about “**stones**,” and “**buildings**.” The disciples ask for a “**sign**,” and Jesus gives more than one!

### Questions

T F The motive for the tax question was to determine if Jews should pay taxes to the Romans or not. What principle did Jesus use to answer the tax question?

T F Jesus told the Sadducees that they knew neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. What is ironic about the Sadducees’s question?

Based on Jesus’ teaching in 12:29, which of “The 10 Commandments” is most important? So, what do we learn about the relationship of the 10 commandments to the rest of the Law of Moses?

T F The main point of Jesus’ question in 12:35-37 was to affirm that David spoke by the Holy Spirit. Why was the widow's gift commended so highly by Jesus?

T F When it came time to flee from Jerusalem, the disciples should not delay at all. What is Jesus’ startling prediction in 13:2?

Describe the times of sorrow that Jesus predicts.

Find clues in 13:14-23 that make no sense if applied to the end of the world.

Identify the *true* statements regarding the coming of the Son of Man: Jesus said,

- It would happen before that present generation passed away.
- Wars and rumors of wars would precede the coming of the Son of Man.
- The disciples were warned to flee Jerusalem when they saw the “abomination of desolation.”
- The sun and moon would be darkened after a terrible tribulation.

Find (*Choose ONE answer*.) The destruction of Jerusalem is the theme of...

- a. 13:1-23                      b. 13:14-23                      c. 13:1-30                      d. All of chapter 13

To what does “that” refer in 13:32? (In other words, “the day and hour” of *what*?) Support your answer.

## Mark, Lesson Ten: Betrayal, Arrest, Trial, Denial

*Text: Mark 14*

### Quick Notes

“She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.” The **plots** of Jesus’ enemies have been brewing since the beginning of His public ministry. Jesus is as good as dead in chapter 14, and **emotions** run high. Against the backdrop of Jesus’ **sorrow**, at least one who was **indignant** (see Matt. 26:8 and John 12:4) becomes **glad** at helping the events unfold. Another, who vehemently promises to be loyal, falls asleep and later falls apart and then weeps. The **sheep are scattered**, and the Shepherd is left alone.

### Questions

T F Some of the disciples were upset about the expensive oil being “wasted” by anointing Jesus.

Why did the chief priests and scribes need someone to betray Jesus?

How did Judas “betray” Jesus?

T F Peter claimed that he would be stronger than the rest of the disciples.

T F Mark records that Jesus prayed the same thing(s) twice while at Gethsemane.

Why was Jesus arrested at the very time that the chief priests and scribes did not want to arrest Him?

Why did Jesus address His question of verse 37 to Peter?

*Choose the true answers:* At the arrest of Jesus...

- Judas kissed Jesus and called Him “Rabbi.”
- All the disciples ran away.
- One of the disciples cut off an ear of the high priest’s servant.
- Jesus asked why the Jews had not arrested Him during the Passover Supper.

What difficulties did the chief priests and council have when they attempted to condemn Jesus?

Which question of the High Priest does Jesus answer?

For what sin did the high priest and the council condemn Jesus?

- false teaching
- blasphemy
- threats against the temple
- false/failed prophecy

Whose statements prompt Peter’s first two denials.

How are Judas’ betrayal and Peter’s denial similar?

How are they different?

Contrast the men’s responses upon recognizing their sins.

## Mark, Lesson Eleven: The Crux of the Gospel

*Text: Mark 15 & 16*

### Quick Notes

“Truly this man was the Son of God!” **Death, burial, resurrection, and appearances.** The **gospel** in a nutshell. (1 Cor. 15:1-8) “Tell no one” becomes “**preach** the gospel to every creature”!

### Questions

- T F Jesus answered the Jewish accusations when He was before Pilate, but Pilate didn’t listen.
- T F It was traditional for the Roman governor to release a prisoner at the Passover Feast.
- T F Pilate was convinced by the Jews that Jesus was guilty of crimes.
- T F The Roman soldiers gambled to see who would get the various garments that belonged to Jesus.
- T F Jesus quoted from Psalm 22 while on the cross.
- T F There was darkness over the whole land during the entire time that Jesus was on the cross.
- T F Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus had died so rapidly.

List two supernatural events which are recorded in 15:33-38.

Tell the symbolic significance of these events.

Why did the crowd ask for Barabbas instead of accepting the release of Jesus?

Note the reaction of each of the following individuals or groups:

- a. Those who passed by the cross -
- b. The chief priests and scribes -
- c. The robbers crucified with Jesus -
- d. The centurion, to the death of Jesus -

When did the women come to the tomb of Jesus and why?

Tell of two occasions on which the disciples did not believe in the resurrection.

Tell how Jesus dealt with this problem in ...  
verse 14  
  
and verse 16.

What “signs” are listed by Jesus (in the end of chapter 16) and what was the purpose of these signs?

# The Gospel of Mark: Review Questions Covering the Whole Book

## I. Matching (Match each name on the left with the *best* descriptive phrase on the right. Some descriptions might fit more than one name, but each name fits at least one description.)

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. _____ John        | a. ruler of the demons                                       |
| 2. _____ Peter       | b. blind man   |
| 3. _____ Levi        | c. bloodthirsty  |
| 4. _____ Beelzebub   | d. brought spices  |
| 5. _____ Jairus      | e. slept while Jesus prayed                                  |
| 6. _____ Legion      | f. Galilean who swore  |
| 7. _____ Herodias    | g. buried Jesus  |
| 8. _____ Elijah      | h. lawgiver on the mount of transfiguration                  |
| 9. _____ Moses       | i. brother of Jesus  |
| 10. _____ Bartimaeus | j. synagogue ruler   |
| 11. _____ Barabbas   | k. Elijah  |
| 12. _____ Pilate     | l. son of a cross-bearer                                     |
| 13. _____ Joseph     | m. opinion of some about Jesus                               |
| 14. _____ Mary       | n. among those who asked about the destruction of the temple |
| 15. _____ Alexander  | o. freed murderer  |
| 16. _____ Simon      | p. crowd-pleaser   |
| 17. _____ Judas      | q. foolish promise-maker                                     |
| 18. _____ Andrew     | r. tax collector   |
| 19. _____ James      | s. leper who hosted a supper                                 |
| 20. _____ Herod      | t. Gadarene demoniac   |



## II. True/False

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus promised that believers would be able to handle poisonous snakes and drink poison without being harmed.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Some at the cross thought that Jesus was calling for Elijah to help Him.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Pilate thought that the crowd would choose to have Jesus released.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The witnesses who testified against Jesus before the high priest accused Him of blasphemy.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ To identify Jesus as the person to be arrested, Judas called Him “Rabbi” and kissed Him.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ After the observance of the Passover, the twelve apostles went with Jesus to a place called Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Although the Pharisees would have like to kill Jesus, they feared the multitude who held Him in high esteem.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ As Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a colt, He saw a fig tree with leaves and He cursed it because it had no fruit.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus cleansed the temple on the day that He entered Jerusalem riding on a colt.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus healed a blind man as He left Jericho on His way to Jerusalem.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus answered the divorce question from the Pharisees by noting that God’s law in the beginning offered no exception.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ There were different kinds of unclean spirits which possessed people in Jesus’ day.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus turned seven loaves of bread and a few fish into enough food to feed five thousand people...with leftovers!
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Following Peter’s identification of Jesus as the Christ, Jesus predicted that He (Jesus) would be killed.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes Jesus instructed those who were healed or freed from a demon not to tell others.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ King Herod felt obligated to execute John the baptizer because of the oaths that he had made when Herodias danced.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ The people of Nazareth received Jesus gladly when He returned there because they were convinced that He was the Messiah, having known Him from His youth.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus told the Gadarene demoniac to go and sell all of his possessions, give the proceeds to the poor and then come follow Him.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Although Jesus violated the Sabbath, He defended His actions by reminding the Pharisees of

king David's action in eating the showbread which was forbidden as food to anyone except the Levites.

20. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus healed the paralytic and then forgave his sins to show that He had power on earth to forgive sins.
21. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus forbid the demons who were exorcised to identify Him even though they acknowledged that He was the Son of God.
22. \_\_\_\_\_ Those who were baptized by John confessed their sins rather than confessing the deity of Jesus.

### **III. What Is Wrong...? (Identify the error in each of the statements below)**

1. Mark's gospel was written primarily for a Jewish audience.
2. Like John's gospel, Mark pays more attention to the Judean trips of Jesus than the synoptics.
3. Jesus told the Pharisees that divorce was permitted as long the spouses involved didn't remarry.
4. Pilate lacked the power to release Jesus and so was forced to deliver Jesus to be crucified.
5. A Christian might have to cut off a hand or foot or pluck out an eye in order to avoid sin.
6. Jesus was caught by surprise when Judas betrayed Him at Gethsemane and even more amazed when the Jewish leaders condemned Him to death.
7. Anyone who sees a miracle is bound to believe the message of the one who performs the miracle.