

The Questions Jesus Asked

A study of the Gospel of Mark

SCHEDULE

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Study Time Suggestion for this series

Do you have a quiet place where your “appointment with God” will not be interrupted?
Do you have your Bible, paper and pen, along with your study guide ready?
As you prepare to study, why not quiet your mind and heart before God? This time might include thanksgiving, confession, repentance, and submission to the Holy Spirit as your teacher.

INFORMATION – Mark is an action packed book picturing some of the events in Jesus’ life during the 3 years of His public ministry. It will help you to follow the drama and sequence if you will make a list of each of the stories as you go along. You may want to highlight the miracles and/or the opposition by using another color pen.

OBSERVATION – There are questions that Jesus asked in each lesson. Find those questions and investigate them as suggested in each study guide. Write down your observations.

MEDITATION - Now that you have the facts in mind, it is time to consider the meaning and impact of these events. Just as Jesus was endeavoring to help the people in that first century to get to know Him, to trust Him, and to understand His identity, authority, and His mission, He wants you to grasp these truths also.

INVITATION - Studying the Word of God is always more than an intellectual exercise. Jesus longs for a personal relationship with you and with me. It is the reason that He came to this earth as the Son of Man – “to seek and to save those who are lost”. The value of each lesson will become apparent to you as you allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. He is the One that will open up your heart and mind and teach you how to live and experience the abundant life which Jesus promised to all those who will trust in Him.

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LESSON 1 - LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE

**“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to give His life as a ransom for many.”** Mark 10: 45

Have you ever asked yourself why there are 4 different books in the New Testament that present the life story of Jesus? One good reason is that each one is written for a different audience and certainly with a unique purpose. The Gospel written by Mark was for the Romans who were living under serious persecution. While Mark was not one of the original group of Jesus' apostles, he certainly had seen Jesus in his early years and then he traveled extensively with Peter and spent time with Barnabas and Saul, as well. His Gospel is an action filled account, giving us a glimpse into the life of Christ as He revealed His identity as the Son of Man who came to accomplish all that His Father had sent Him to do.

Information – The GOSPEL of MARK

This is your opportunity to read the entire Gospel of Mark so that you get a feel for his style of writing and what he is most interested in telling his readers about Jesus. You may want to read it more than once or to listen to it audibly. You can read it in about 80 -90 minutes at one sitting, or in smaller increments as your personal schedule allows.

Observation –

As you read the book notice the many questions that Jesus asks, as well as the accounts of more miracles than in any other book. Some of his favorite words are “immediately, at once, quickly, and just then.” Take note of the things that make an initial impression on you. The simplest outline of the book is as follows:

Mark 1 – 10 - Jesus Serves Others

Mark 11 – 16 - Jesus Sacrifices Himself

Meditation –

1. Why do you think that Mark recorded so many miracles that Jesus performed?
2. If you were to give a short “book report” to your friends, how would you describe this biography so that others would be inspired to read it?
3. What events made the biggest impression on you? Why?

Invitation –

As you think about the story that you have just read, how would you describe your relationship to Jesus? If you had the opportunity to meet with Jesus today, what are the questions that you think He might want to ask you? What do you think He would want you to hear Him say?

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LESSON 2 – WHO IS THIS MAN NAMED JESUS?

**“Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’
At once they left their nets and followed Him. Mark 1: 17 – 18**

When Jesus began His public ministry, he needed to establish His identity and His authority. We know about His birth and the early years of His life through the books written by Matthew and Luke. When we come to the Gospel or Good News written by Mark, we are presented immediately, following the introductory verses, with Jesus as He ministered to people – serving, healing, performing miracles, and preparing His followers for the reality of His sacrificial death. In a remarkable way, Mark recorded for his readers not only what Jesus had to say and what he did but many of his emotions. He truly was fully divine and totally human – the Son of God and the Son of Man.

Information – Mark 1 and 2

1. Mark 1: 1 – 13 – Make a list of the events described in these introductory verses. What are the credentials with which Jesus began His ministry?
2. Mark 1: 14 – 2: 27 – Continue your list of the each of the events described. Find the 4 questions that Jesus asked, noting to whom He is speaking and the circumstances surrounding the conversion.

Observation – As you study the questions that Jesus asked, you might want to do the following:

- Look at the whole event and try to figure out why Jesus asked this question.
- Think about what Jesus is really asking and re-write the question in your own words.
- Consider the reaction or answer that He received. Did He need/want an answer?
- Summarize what the response(s) of the observers were to Jesus, if possible.
- Decide whether this event helped establish Jesus’ identity or authority or both.

1. Question # 1 and #2 – Mark 2: 8 and 9 (Matt. 2-8 & Luke 4: 17-26)
2. Question #3 - Mark 2: 19 (Matt. 9: 14 – 17 & Luke 4: 33 – 39)
3. Question #4 - Mark 2: 25 – 26 (Matt. 12: 1-8 & Luke 6: 1 – 5)
More info – Exodus 20: 8 – 11 & Ex.31: 12 – 17, I Samuel 21:1 – 6

Meditation –

1. Do you really believe that Jesus knows the thoughts and intents of your heart? (2: 8)
What’s the difference between doubt and disbelief? When would it be helpful to discern this?
2. Which is easier in your mind – forgiveness or physical healing? What would Jesus ask you?
3. Answering a question with a question can sometimes be a good communication tool. But Jesus didn’t stop there, He went on to talk about fasting, new cloth and new wineskins. (2: 18 – 20)
How would you summarize what Jesus is beginning to teach these Jews?
4. Jesus’ conclusion, as He talks about legalism with the Pharisees, is a clear statement about who He really is. What are the 2 titles He gives Himself and what is He saying through them? (2:28)

Invitation – Take some time to let the One, who is always compassionate, touch you. What are the questions that He is asking you about His identity and authority? Listen to His tender voice.

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LESSON 3 – BIG CROWDS and STRONG WORDS

“Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother”.

Mark 3: 35

Why do you think that the religious leaders were so vehemently opposed to Jesus? Was it His miracles? His teachings? The followers that He began to attract? Was He a threat to them and to their traditions? It’s interesting to think about the various groups of people and individuals with whom Jesus interacts. With which group would you have been identified if you had been there in those early weeks of Jesus ministry?

Information – Mark 3

1. As you read, continue your list of the events which are described, noting how Jesus’ identity and authority are becoming more clearly established.
2. Find the 3 questions that Jesus asked, noting to whom He is speaking and the circumstances surrounding the conversation.

Observation – As you study the questions that Jesus asked, you will want to consider the following:

Look at the whole event and try to figure out why Jesus asked this question?
Think about what Jesus is really asking and re-write the question in your own words.
Consider the reaction or answer that He received. Did He need/want an answer?
Summarize what the response(s) of the various observers was to Jesus if possible.
Decide whether this event helped establish Jesus’ identity or authority or both.

1. Question #5 – Mark 3: 4 (Matt. 12: 9 – 14, & Luke 6: 6 – 11)
2. Question #6 – Mark 3: 23 (Matt. 112: 25 – 29 & Luke 11: 17 – 22)
3. Question #7 – Mark 3: 33 (Matt. 12: 46 – 50 & Luke 8: 19 – 21)

Meditation

1. Why do you think that Jesus chose to do this miracle on the Sabbath at the synagogue?
2. Jesus does not respond to the concern of his own people or to the attack of the scribes with anger or defensively, but He tells a story, introduced by a question. What effect would this have on the people? For those who could hear, what did the story teach them?
3. Why do you think that Jesus’ family was trying to get His attention? Do you think His response was a surprise to them? What was He trying to accomplish with this information?
4. Put yourself in the place of the disciples whom Jesus had just selected. When Jesus called them, they did not hesitate to follow Him. What have they learned so far about their leader?

Invitation –

Jesus is still calling people to Himself. (Mark 2: 17 and 3: 13 – 15) He continues to invite sinners, like you and me, to follow Him? What do you think He might want you to hear Him say to you today? What is His invitation to you? Listen attentively and quietly as He calls your name.

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LESSON 4 – STORIES and a STORM

“Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!” Mark 4: 41

Everyone – from infant to elderly - loves a good story. It captures the attention of the listeners and is often easy to remember. But when Jesus told a story, He was doing so in order to reveal truth to the people who were ready to receive it. Those who were opposed to Jesus were unable to “hear it” or to understand the message. Isn’t it wonderful that many of Jesus’ parables are in the Bible for us to read today? Discovering the truth that is contained in them will help us understand what Jesus meant by the “Kingdom of God” or the “Kingdom of Heaven”. How is your hearing?

Information – Mark 4 - Two of the questions today are rhetorical questions that introduce a parable. The other two are directed to the disciples. As you read, continue to add these events to your list. You might want to make another list of Jesus’ parables as you discover them.

Observation – As you study these questions that Jesus asked, you will want to consider the following:
Why did He ask the question? What was He trying to help them think about?
Can you re-write the question in your own words?
Who heard the question and what was their answer or response?
Did this question help Jesus establish His identity or His authority or both?

1. Question #8 – Mark 4:13 (Matt. 13: 10 – 23 & Luke 8: 9 – 15)
2. Question #9 – Mark 4: 21 (Luke 8: 16 – 18)
3. Question #10 – Mark 4: 30 (Matt. 13: 31 – 32 & Luke 13: 18 – 19)
4. Question #11 – Mark 4: 40 (Matt. 8: 23 – 27 & Luke 8: 22 – 25)

Meditation

1. Jesus explained to the disciples and His close followers why He would often be using parables when He was teaching. (Mark 4: 9 – 12)
What do you think the positive effects would be? Would there be some negative results?
2. The Parable of the Soil is one of the few that Jesus actually explained. As you read this explanation, what principles can you observe that would help you understand other parables?
3. Using these principles, try to summarize the point of the other parables in Mark 4.
4. The disciples called him, “Teacher” – Mark 4:38 – but the miracle that they were about to experience on the sometimes tumultuous Sea of Galilee would have a major impact on them. What do you think the disciples learned on their “boat trip with Jesus”?

Invitation –

Sometimes Jesus calms the storm. He always has the power to do so. More often He simply wants you and me to trust Him as we continue to experience the storm. Where are you right now? Are you willing to believe that while He could stop the storm that He can also keep you safe in the storm? It’s called faith and it pleases God.

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LESSON 5 – MIRACLES and MULTITUDES

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” - Mark 6: 31

“After leaving them, He went up on a mountainside to pray.” - Mark 6: 46

The crowds, the pressure of people, the opposition, question after question, miracles, misunderstanding, needs, teaching, and criticism. How could Jesus, the Son of Man, keep on going day after day? What kind of example was He setting for the apostles who would be responsible to carry on when He was gone? Hidden in between the events of the day are clues about Jesus' priorities. He knew where to find strength and renewal. He knew who was setting His agenda and what His mission was. He kept His focus in one direction. What an example!

Information – Mark 5 and 6 - Find the 4 questions - Five miracles with 4 questions.

How's your list of the events that are described in each chapter coming? How many miracles have you witnessed? You might want to highlight them in some way on your list.

Observation – As you study the questions that Jesus asked, you will want to consider the following:

- What is the setting or the event? Why did Jesus ask that particular question?
- Try to re-write the question in your own words. What is He really asking?
- Is there a response or reaction from the person or group? Did He need/want one?
- Is there a response or reaction from the various observers or the crowd?
- Did this event help establish Jesus' identity or authority or both?

1. Question # 12 – Mark 5: 9 (Matt. 8: 28 -8 34 & Luke 8: 26 – 39)
2. Question #13 – Mark 5: 30 (Matt. 9: 20 – 22 & Luke 8: 42b – 48)
3. Question #14 – Mark 5: 39 (Matt. 9: 188-26 & Luke 8: 41 – 56)
4. Question #15 – Mark 6: 38 (Matt.14: 13-21, Luke 9;10-17, & John 6:5-13)

Meditation

1. Why do you think the people were so afraid after Jesus healed the demon-possessed man? How do you think his testimony and life would impact the people that he met at home?
2. Why do you think that Jesus chose to heal people one person at a time? He seemed to always be aware of the individual person and his/her specific desires and attitudes, didn't He? Why?
3. After a miracle of healing Jesus tells one person to go home and tell everyone and yet He tells Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, to keep His daughter's "resurrection" to himself? What could some of the reasons be for the difference?
4. Whenever there is a personal description of Jesus, it is good to look at it carefully – Mark 6: 34. Compassion – what does it mean? What does the image of a shepherd bring to your mind?

Bonus - After the "big picnic", we do not know how the disciples or the crowd responded. Try to write an editorial or two, giving various impressions of the afternoon, for the local newspaper

Invitation – As you think about the ways that Jesus cared for His disciples and Himself in order to renew His strength and purpose, what do you think the Holy Spirit might be inviting you to consider? What are your physical, emotional, and spiritual needs at this time in your life would you say?

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LESSON 6 – REBUKES and RESPONSES

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

Mark 8: 34

It must have been a huge challenge! Taking twelve very different men and helping them to grasp not only who He was but to understand why He came to live among them. Don't you sometimes wonder what it was about Jesus that made them leave home to travel with Him. Once they had been with Him for a few months and had experienced some miracles, listened to His teaching, watched His reactions and felt His passion and compassion, it would seem that they would begin to understand. So, at just the right time, Jesus asks them the eternally important question, "Who do YOU think that I am?" It's still the bottom line question that each of us must answer, isn't it?

Information – Mark 7 and 8 – You will find several questions for the disciples to consider and one question for the Pharisees. Watch for these questions as you continue to add to your list of the events and the miracles that are described in these two chapters.

Observation – As you study the questions that Jesus asked, spend some time thinking about –

- What are the circumstances in which Jesus asked the question? Why did Jesus ask it?
- Try to re-write the question in your own words. What is He really asking?
- Is there a response or reaction from the person or group? Did He need/want one?
- Did this event help establish Jesus' identity or authority or both?

1. Question #16 – Mark 7: 18 (Matt. 15: 1 – 20)
2. Question #17 – Mark 8: 5 (Matt. 15: 32 – 39)
3. Question #18 – Mark 8: 12 (Matt. 16: 1 – 4)
4. Question #19 & 20 – Mark 8: 17-20 & 21 (Matt. 16: 5 – 12)
5. Question #21 – Mark 8: 27 & 29 (Matt. 16: 13 -20 & Luke 9: 18 – 20)
6. Question - #22 – Mark 8: 36 -37 (Matt. 16: 24 – 27 & Luke 9: 34 – 36)

Meditation

1. As you review the "training sessions" in chapters 7 & 8 that Jesus had with His disciples, what are the new insights and instructions that they received?
2. Do you think there is a turning point as they consider who Jesus really is? Why or why not?
3. Do you identify with Peter's actions in any way? (Mark 8: 27 – 33)
4. As Jesus talked about the denial of self and taking up the cross and following Him, what do you suppose the disciples could really grasp? Why would Jesus tell them these things at that time?

Invitation – If you consider yourself to be a "follower of Jesus", one of His 21st century disciples, what do you think Jesus might want to ask you or teach you? Who do you really believe that He is?

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LESSON 7 – LIFE LESSONS

Jesus said, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.' Mark 9:23
The father of the child cried out, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9: 24

Now that the identity and authority of Jesus have been clearly proclaimed and observed, He is beginning to teach more clearly and often about His mission and future. It's going to take some time for the disciples to grasp the reality of what He is saying to them, but the information will give them a good foundation from which to build when that time comes. It's a great motivation for Bible study today when you realize that the truth that is penetrating your mind and heart may not be applicable to your situation at the present time, but those promises will be there for you to claim when the need in your life arises. So . . .keep on listening and learning.

Information – Mark 9 – Seven questions – 3 for the disciples and 4 at the time of a miracle of healing. Keep on adding to your list of events and miracles as you read this chapter.

Observation – As you study the questions that Jesus asked, it would be helpful to consider:

- To whom did Jesus ask the question? Why did Jesus ask it?
- Try to re-write the question in your own words. What is He really asking?
- Is there a response or reaction from the person or group? Did He need/want one?
- Did this event help establish Jesus' identity, authority, or mission?

1. Question #23 – Mark 9: 12 (Matt. 16: 28 – 17: 13, Luke 9: 27 – 36 and I Peter 1: 16 – 18)
Note: "Elijah" is a reference to John the Baptist – Malachi 4: 5 - 6

2. Questions #24 – 27 – Mark 9: 16, 19, 21, 23 (Matt. 17: 14 – 21 & Luke 9: 37 – 42)

3. Question #28 – Mark 9:33 (Matt. 18: 1 – 5 & Luke 9: 46 – 48)

4. Question #29 – Mark 9: 50 (Matt. 4: 13, Luke 14: 34 & Colossians 4: 6)

Meditation –

1. In some ways Jesus is giving His disciples a "leadership training course". What is He currently teaching them about His future and also about their attitudes, power, and relationships?
2. Have you noticed how often Jesus is aware of the needs of children? Take time to review your list. In what ways is His life consistent with His words about the worth and importance of children?
3. The disciples are trying so hard to "get it right". What do you think Jesus is really saying about anyone who is willing to "do good in His name". Does this create some questions in your mind?

Invitation – It is one thing to copy another person's external behavior – to do what they do, but to learn to think as they think is very challenging. Jesus was always helping the disciples change their attitudes. How about you? Where do you need an "attitude adjustment"?

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LESSON 8 – WHEN YOU FOLLOW JESUS

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” Mark 10:43

Have you ever felt like you were getting some confusing messages from a trusted friend? It makes you try to listen to every word, to watch every emotion, and to try to detect what the words really mean. It seems like the disciples must have been puzzled by the things that Jesus was telling them. They must have been doing their very best to understand, to get clarification and to keep on believing. Things will get a great deal more confusing before the fog will lift, but it will be worth it all. It always is when we trust Jesus!

Information – Mark 10 – Five different questions in 4 diverse situations. More miracles and events!

Observation – As you think about the questions that Jesus asked, here are some things to consider.

- What are the circumstances and the reasons that Jesus asked this particular question?
- Can you re-write the question in your own words?
- What was the response from the person? From the observers, if any?
- Did this event help establish Jesus’ identity, authority, or mission?

1. Question #30 – Mark 10:3 (Matt. 19: 1 – 9 & Luke 16: 18)

2. Question #31 – Mark 10: 18 (Matt. 19:16 –30, Luke 18: 18 -30)

3. Question #32 & 33 – Mark 10: 36 and 38 (Matt. 20: 20 – 28)

4. Question # 34 – Mark 10: 51 (Matt. 20:29–34 & Luke 18:5 -43)

Meditation

1. Perhaps this would be an appropriate time for you to review the Biblical stance on marriage. How does it compare to what you believe?

Genesis 2: 21 – 25

Deuteronomy 24: 1 - 4

Romans 7: 1 – 3

I Corinthians 7 ; 10 – 16

Ephesians 5: 22 – 33

2. What is Jesus really teaching about wealth and entering His kingdom?

3. James and John asked Jesus a very sincere question. Jesus could have reprimanded them for their attitude and selfishness. Instead, how does he treat them? What was the lesson that they learned from The One who came to serve and to give His life for them and for us?

4. Many people choose Mark 10: 45 as the theme verse for this Gospel. Is it a good choice? Why?

Invitation – “What do you want me to do for you?” It’s a question that Jesus often asks. Today He is inviting you to answer this question. Think about it and talk it over with One who is lovingly looking at you and waiting to hear your response.

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LESSON 9 – THE OPPOSITION ESCALATES

And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'THE LORD has need of it.' Mark 11: 3

Isn't it great? The disciples actually did just what Jesus told them to do. And, guess what? They experienced another miracle. They followed His directions, even though it must have seemed somewhat odd and the next thing they knew, they had a colt for Jesus. It must have been a great Sunday – a parade with the crowds cheering, "Hosanna", which means "Save we pray". (Psalm 113, 118, and 148.) Just like in our real life, Monday morning was a whole different scene. The leaders of the temple were not cheering. They were scheming. Their position and their authority were at stake and they were not ready to give Jesus a chance. Jesus knew it and He is not going to miss an opportunity to face His opponents or teach His friends.

Information – Mark 11 - Mark 12: 12 – One question for the disciples and 3 for the Temple leaders

Observation - As you think about these questions, consider the following:

- What are the circumstances and the reasons that Jesus asked this particular question?
- Can you re-write the question in your own words?
- What was the response from the person? From the observers, if any?
- How did this question impact people?

1. Question #35 – Mark 11: 3 (Matt. 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19)

2. Question #36 – Mark 11:17 (Matt. 21:12-17, Luke 19:45-48, John 2:13-22)

3. Question #37 – Mark 11: 30 (Matt. 21: 23 – 27 and Luke 20:1 – 8)

4. Question #38 – Mark 12: 9 (Matt. 21: 33-46 and Luke 20: 9 – 19)

Meditation

1. The other Gospels add many interesting details to that Sunday morning event as Jesus entered Jerusalem for the final days before the crucifixion. How did this time impact the disciples and those who were following Him?

2. Why do you think the money changers were allowed to work in the temple courts?
Isaiah 56: 17 Jeremiah 7: 11

3. Authority – Jesus has been making it clear in every event and speech that He has made. Why did the scribes and Pharisees miss it so completely?

4. Two great communication techniques – answering a question with a question and telling a story to illustrate truth. In what ways do you admire how Jesus responds to His enemies?

Invitation – Right in the middle of the crisis events and opposition, Mark records for us some important information about faith, forgiveness and prayer that He is teaching His disciples. (Mark 11: 22 – 26) What truths do you think He is wanting you to understand more clearly – right now in the midst of the stress and turmoil of your life?

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LESSON !0 – TRICKS and TRAPS

“Jesus replied, ‘Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scripture and you don’t know the power of God.’”

Mark 12: 24

It must have been very impressive to the disciples as they watched Jesus interact with crowds of people wherever He went - both the antagonists as they came to harass Him and those who came to listen to Him. He could have walked right by the individuals who had specific questions, but He never did. He could have ignored the insignificant widow with her gift, but He never did. It’s so clear – He came to serve and not to be served, and He came to fulfill what His Father had sent Him to do. What impression does this make on you?

Information – Mark 12: 13 – 44 – Three events with 2 questions in each of them.

Keep adding to your list of events in the life of Jesus.

Observation – It seems like the religious & political leaders are getting desperate to trap Jesus in one way or another. His responses to them are always clear, concise, and not defensive. As you ponder His questions and the reasons behind them, think about His attitude toward people.

- What are the circumstances and the reasons that Jesus asks these questions?
- Can you re-write the questions in your own words?
- What was the response from the person(s)? From the observers, if any?
- How did this question impact people?

1. Questions #39 & 40 – Mark 12:15- 16 (Matt. 22: 15 – 22, Luke 20:20-26)
2. Questions #41 & 42 – Mark12: 24 & 26 (Matt. 22:23-33, Luke 20:27-40)
3. Questions #43 & 44 – Mark 12: 35 & 37 (Mat. 22:41-46, Luke 20:41-44)

Meditation

1. The Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees and scribes had a variety of leadership and teaching positions. They were all anxious to find a way to have Jesus arrested. What are the errors that Jesus finds with these men?
2. In what ways is Jesus continuing to establish His identity, His authority, and His mission? What else do you think He is accomplishing during His final days in Jerusalem?
3. Compare Jesus’ response to the question of the scribe (Mark 12: 28 – 34) with His other responses. Why did He encourage rather than rebuke Him?
4. In the economy of “the kingdom of heaven”, the widow gave more than the rich. What does Jesus mean? Mark 12: 41 – 44 (Luke 21: 1 – 4)

Invitation – You are not just lost in the crowd either. Jesus invites you to come and ask Him your questions and tell Him your concerns. He is waiting to fellowship with you.

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LESSON 11 – A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Mark 13: 31

Have you ever thought about what the temple in Jerusalem looked like? It must have been an amazing structure. It was built by Herod the Great in 20 B.C. and completed by his descendents in the decades to follow. The 20 acre site was the most prominent landscape in all Jerusalem. The architecture was impressive with enormous white marble stones, gold ornamentation, walkways and courtyards. There was no other place like it in the entire world. It must have seemed permanent and stable to Jesus’ disciples, but once again Jesus surprises them with a question and some very puzzling but important information.

Information – Mark 13 – One question introducing a long speech – “The Olivet Discourse”.

Observation – It is late in the day on Tuesday. Jesus knows that there is very little time left before His betrayal and crucifixion. There is still some very crucial things that He must tell His dear disciples so that they will be prepared for what is ahead of them. Put yourself in their place as you sit with Jesus on the Mount of Olives and look out at the temple and the city.

- Question #45 – Mark 13: 2 (Matt. 24: 1-2 and Luke 21: 5 – 6)

Meditation – As you read Mark 13, focus on the information that you can understand and do not be distracted by the information which seems puzzling or confusing.

1. What are the topics that Jesus wants His disciples to consider with Him?
2. What are the warnings that Jesus gives to His disciples?
3. Jesus refers to some prophecies made by Daniel – Dan. 9:17, 11: 31, 12:11
What period of time do you think that he is describing?
4. What does Jesus teach about His second coming?
For more information read – I Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11 and II Peter 3: 8 – 18

Bonus information – Only John gives additional information which must have been so reassuring and comforting to the disciples as the intensity of the opposition grows and the future seems so formidable. How does Jesus help them? John 14 – 17

Invitation

Do you have questions? Do you have concerns? Jesus will be as responsive to you as He was to His disciples. Sometimes the answer will surprise you and sometimes the answer may leave you with more questions, but – you can be sure that He is listening to you and that He will respond to you in love and tenderness. So – ask Him and then listen – to Him and to His promises to you in His Word. It’s His open invitation to you and to me.

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LESSON 12 – “THE SCRIPTURES MUST BE FULFILLED”

“And Jesus said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.’”

Mark 14: 36

What would you have been thinking that night at the home of Simon the leper? How would you have felt when Jesus announced that someone would soon betray Him? If you had been walking with Jesus to the Mount of Olives, what do you think your reaction might have been? Would you have been able to stay awake and pray? Would you have been the “brave one”, like Peter, or fled with the others? And when you heard “the rooster crow”, what would you have done? Real people. Real choices. What can you learn from them?

Information – Mark 14 – Four questions on Wednesday night and Thursday
Be sure to record these shocking events on your list.

Observation – During His final with the disciples, Jesus continues to prepare them for His destiny.

- What are the circumstances and the reasons that Jesus asks His questions?
- Can you re-write the questions in your own words?
- Was there a response from someone? From the observers?
- How did this question impact the people or individual?

1. Question #46 – Mark 14: 6 (Matt. 26: 6 – 13 and John 12: 1 – 8)
2. Question # 47 – Mark 14: 14 (Matt.26: 17-29, Luke 22:7-23, John 13:21-30)
3. Question #48 – Mark 14: 37 (Matt. 26: 36 - 46, Luke 22: 39 - 46)
4. Question #49 – Mark 14: 48 (Matt. 26:47-56, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1 – 11)

Meditation

1. What do you think caused the women in Bethany to show such extravagant love and devotion to Jesus that night?
2. Two suppers – one the traditional Passover for the people of Israel and the second celebrating a new covenant and another miraculous event. What does I Corinthians 11: 23 – 26 add to your understanding of the importance of “the Lord’s Supper”?
3. Jesus retreated to a garden to pray just before His betrayal. Did the disciples understand the depth of His sorrow and distress? As they remembered those hours, what do you think they learned from the experience? Do you think they talked about it the next day?
4. Where were the other disciples while Peter was in the courtyard? Why were they so timid? Peter failed but what do you admire about him?

Invitation – The old hymn reminds us – “For **me**, it was in the garden, He prayed, ‘Not My will, but Thine.’ He had no tears for His own grief, but sweat drops of blood for mine. How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be. How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior’s love for me! What is your response? He is listening to you.

The Questions Jesus Asked

A study of the Gospel of Mark

LESSON 13 - WHY DID HE HAVE TO DIE?

"It was the third hour when they crucified Him."

Mark 15: 25

A thousand years before, Psalm 22 was written by David – a profound and prophetic Psalm which pointed clearly to the experience that Jesus would have at His crucifixion. Like David in His darkest hours, Jesus rested in the confidence that God was still "MY God." What made it possible for Jesus to endure the pain, to survive the mockery and shame, and to willingly submit His will to the will of His Father? Your answer to this question will determine your destiny. By the way, what is your answer?

Information – Mark 15 – One big question!

Be sure to add these events to your diary of the ministry of Jesus.

Observation – It's Friday morning and the Jewish religious and political leaders have cleverly decided to take Jesus to Pilate so that He will have to face the merciless Roman authorities. The drama and hysteria of the crowd totally overwhelms the possibility of a rational decision. The crowd does not represent 100% of the people, however. There are the faithful few who watch, who trust, who demonstrate courage, and who do not lose hope.

- Question #50 – Mark 15: 34 (Matt. 27: 45 – 56, Luke 23: 44 – 49, and John 19: 28-30)

Meditation

1. This is not a television drama or the story of injustice in the courts, or an ordinary event. It's early in the morning. Feeling the emotion is integral to your understanding of these events. Describe how you think the following people were feeling at that time.
 - The religious & political leaders -
 - The crowd -
 - Pilate -
 - Barabbas -
 - The soldiers -
 - Simon, a Cyrenian -
 - Jesus -
2. Do you think that the chief priests and other tormentors would have believed if Jesus had responded to their taunting ideas? Why or why not?
3. It's only 9 o'clock in the morning and Jesus has been crucified. The other Gospels tell us some statements that Jesus made just before His death, but Mark focuses only on His question? What does this question tell you about the "extent of Jesus' love"?
4. By 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the reality of Jesus' death was staring into the faces of those who had loved & cared for Him. How do you think they were feeling? To what could they cling?
 - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James & Salome
 - The women -
 - Joseph of Arimathea
 - The Centurion
 - Any one else?

Invitation – All too often we rush on to the "final chapter", to the Good News of the resurrection. Jesus would invite you to linger at the cross, to walk with Mary and the other women to the tomb, to contemplate the promises that He had shared with you and to grasp what it meant for Him to die in your place. Linger and listen. What is it that He wants you to believe?

The Questions Jesus Asked

A study of the Gospel of Mark

UNBELIEVABLY GOOD NEWS - "HE HAS RISEN!"

Where do you think you would have been on that Sunday morning? How do you think you would have been feeling? What kind of plan would you have been making? Can you begin to imagine the shock and joy that the followers of Jesus must have felt when they realized that Jesus was really alive?

Information – Mark 16

These are the final events in Mark's Gospel to add to your list!

They are just the introduction to the "rest of the story" which is still being written today.

Observation –

What details do the other Gospel writers add to Mark's account?

Matthew 28: 1 – 10

Luke 24: 1 – 12

John 20: 1 - 20

Meditation –

1. How do the following verses help you to think about the death and resurrection of Jesus?

Acts 4: 8 – 12

Acts 10: 34 – 43

Romans 3: 21 – 26

Ephesians 2: 1 – 9

Colossians 1: 15 – 23

Titus 3: 3 – 8

I John 3: 1 – 2

2. What were Jesus' final instructions to His disciples? How are you involved in carrying out these commands today?

Mark 16: 15 and 16

Matthew 28: 19 – 20

Invitation –

This would be a great time to consider Paul's prayer for the Ephesians – Ephesians 3: 14 – 21.

His deep desire was for them to experience God's resurrection power in their own lives.

Will you take time to re-write this prayer and make it your own?