

GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST, SERVANT OF GOD
BATTLE OF THE KINGDOMS

1. A LOOK TO THE FUTURE?

A. **MARK 8:1-13** DURING THOSE DAYS ANOTHER LARGE CROWD GATHERED. SINCE THEY HAD NOTHING TO EAT, JESUS CALLED HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM AND SAID, ²"**I HAVE COMPASSION FOR THESE PEOPLE; THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN WITH ME THREE DAYS AND HAVE NOTHING TO EAT.** ³IF I SEND THEM HOME HUNGRY, THEY WILL COLLAPSE ON THE WAY, BECAUSE SOME OF THEM HAVE COME A LONG DISTANCE." ⁴HIS DISCIPLES ANSWERED, "BUT WHERE IN THIS REMOTE PLACE CAN ANYONE GET ENOUGH BREAD TO FEED THEM?" ⁵"**HOW MANY LOAVES DO YOU HAVE?**" JESUS ASKED. "SEVEN," THEY REPLIED. ⁶HE TOLD THE CROWD TO SIT DOWN ON THE GROUND. WHEN HE HAD TAKEN THE SEVEN LOAVES AND GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE THEM AND GAVE THEM TO HIS DISCIPLES TO SET BEFORE THE PEOPLE, AND THEY DID SO. ⁷THEY HAD A FEW SMALL FISH AS WELL; HE GAVE THANKS FOR THEM ALSO AND TOLD THE DISCIPLES TO DISTRIBUTE THEM. ⁸THE PEOPLE ATE AND WERE SATISFIED. AFTERWARD THE DISCIPLES PICKED UP SEVEN BASKETFULS OF BROKEN PIECES THAT WERE LEFT OVER. ⁹ABOUT FOUR THOUSAND MEN WERE PRESENT. AND HAVING SENT THEM AWAY, ¹⁰HE GOT INTO THE BOAT WITH HIS DISCIPLES AND WENT TO THE REGION OF DALMANUTHA. ¹¹THE PHARISEES CAME AND BEGAN TO QUESTION JESUS. TO TEST HIM, THEY ASKED HIM FOR A SIGN FROM HEAVEN. ¹²HE SIGHED DEEPLY AND SAID, "**WHY DOES THIS GENERATION ASK FOR A MIRACULOUS SIGN? I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, NO SIGN WILL BE GIVEN TO IT.**" ¹³THEN HE LEFT THEM, GOT BACK INTO THE BOAT AND CROSSED TO THE OTHER SIDE

- I. WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THE DISCIPLES HAVING WITNESSED THE FEEDING OF THE 5,000 HAVE SUCH A HARD TIME BELIEVING JESUS CAN SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THE 4,000.
- II. DO WE ACT IN THE SAME WAY WHEN WE SEE GOD PROVIDING IN ONE AREA OF OUR LIFE BUT NOT DEPENDING HIM IN ANOTHER AREA.
- III. WHAT DETAILS IN MARK'S ACCOUNT STRESS THE ADEQUACY OF JESUS' ABILITY TO MEET THE PEOPLE'S NEED?
- IV. JESUS SAYS HE WILL GIVE NO SIGN TO THIS GENERATION. WHAT DO YOU THINK HE MEANS IN LIGHT OF THE MANY MIRACULOUS SIGNS AND HEALINGS HE HAS ALREADY PERFORMED, NOT TO MENTION HIS COMING DEATH AND RESURRECTION
- V. "BEEN WITH ME THREE DAYS", ACCORDING TO ANDY, 3 HAS TWO SIMILAR MEANINGS, GOD, DIVINE FULLNESS, RESURRECTION POWER.
- VI. SEVEN EQUALS PERFECTION, COMPLETION
- VII. WHY DOES THIS GENERATION ASK FOR MIRACULOUS SIGN? THIS IS THE DIVINE PROBLEM WITH MEN, THAT OF GETTING THEM TO HAVE FAITH IN GOD AND THE DIVINE PLAN.

2. IS YOUR HEART HARDENED?

A. **MARK 8:14-21** ¹⁴THE DISCIPLES HAD FORGOTTEN TO BRING BREAD, EXCEPT FOR ONE LOAF THEY HAD WITH THEM IN THE BOAT. ¹⁵"**BE CAREFUL,**" JESUS WARNED THEM. "**WATCH OUT FOR THE YEAST OF THE PHARISEES AND THAT OF HEROD.**" ¹⁶THEY DISCUSSED THIS WITH

ONE ANOTHER AND SAID, "IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE NO BREAD." ¹⁷AWARE OF THEIR DISCUSSION, JESUS ASKED THEM: "WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HAVING NO BREAD? DO YOU STILL NOT SEE OR UNDERSTAND? ARE YOUR HEARTS HARDENED?" ¹⁸DO YOU HAVE EYES BUT FAIL TO SEE, AND EARS BUT FAIL TO HEAR? AND DON'T YOU REMEMBER? ¹⁹WHEN I BROKE THE FIVE LOAVES FOR THE FIVE THOUSAND, HOW MANY BASKETFULS OF PIECES DID YOU PICK UP?" "TWELVE," THEY REPLIED. ²⁰"AND WHEN I BROKE THE SEVEN LOAVES FOR THE FOUR THOUSAND, HOW MANY BASKETFULS OF PIECES DID YOU PICK UP?" THEY ANSWERED, "SEVEN." ²¹HE SAID TO THEM, "DO YOU STILL NOT UNDERSTAND?"

I. WHAT IS THE YEAST OF THE PHARISEES AND THAT OF HEROD?

(1) TEN THINGS WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL OF!

- (A) FORGETTING GOD
- (B) PROVOKING GOD
- (C) FORGETTING THE POOR
- (D) FALSE DOCTRINE
- (E) FALSE PROPHETS
- (F) COVETOUSNESS
- (G) WICKED MEN
- (H) SCRIBES
- (I) REJECTING SUPER NATURAL SIGNS
- (J) BACKSLIDING

II. SEVEN REASONS THE BIBLE IS NOT UNDERSTOOD

- (1) REASONING - IMPLYING DOUBT AND UNBELIEF
- (2) LACK OF PERCEPTION - IMPLYING DULLNESS
- (3) IGNORANCE - IMPLYING LACK OF INTEREST AND STUDY
- (4) HARDNESS OF HEARING - IMPLYING STUBBORNNESS AND REBELLION
- (5) DULL EYES - WILLFUL BLINDNESS TO THE TRUTH
- (6) DULL EARS - WILLFUL REJECTION OF TRUTH
- (7) DULL MEMORY - WILLFUL FORGETFULNESS

(A) ALL THESE REASONS ARE WILLFUL. PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO REASON, DOUBT, QUESTION, HARDEN THEMSELVES, BE DULL OF SEEING AND HEARING, OR BE FORGETFUL. THERE WAS NO EXCUSE FOR THE DISCIPLES TO BE IN THIS CLASS BECAUSE THEY HAD SEEN THOUSANDS FED, HEALED, AND DELIVERED FROM EVERY KIND OF DESTRUCTION AND CURSE. THEY SHOULD HAVE HAD FAITH ENOUGH IN CHRIST BY NOW TO MEET EVERY PROBLEM.

3. BLIND MAN HEALED

- A. **MARK 8:22-26** ²²THEY CAME TO BETHSAIDA, AND SOME PEOPLE BROUGHT A BLIND MAN AND BEGGED JESUS TO TOUCH HIM. ²³HE TOOK THE BLIND MAN BY THE HAND AND LED HIM OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE. WHEN HE HAD SPIT ON THE MAN'S EYES AND PUT HIS HANDS ON HIM, JESUS ASKED, "DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?" ²⁴HE LOOKED UP AND SAID, "I SEE PEOPLE; THEY LOOK LIKE TREES WALKING AROUND." ²⁵ONCE MORE JESUS PUT HIS HANDS ON THE MAN'S EYES. THEN HIS EYES WERE OPENED, HIS SIGHT WAS RESTORED, AND HE SAW EVERYTHING CLEARLY. ²⁶JESUS SENT HIM HOME, SAYING, "DON'T GO INTO THE VILLAGE."

- I. THIS IS A TEACHING FOR US ON THE PASSION OF GOD. IT IS ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL VERSUS THE COMMUNITY.
- II. THE FIRST CLUE WE HAVE, [SOME PEOPLE CAME TO JESUS BEGGED HIM TO TOUCH THE BLIND MAN]
 - (1) THIS SHOWS THEY HAVE A UNDERSTANDING ABOUT JESUS.
 - (A) HE HAS HEALED OTHERS, HE HAS THE POWER TO HEAL THIS MAN.
- III. BUT WHY THE BEGGING?
 - (1) **MATTHEW 11:21-24** "WOE TO YOU, KORAZIN! WOE TO YOU, BETHSAIDA! IF THE MIRACLES THAT WERE PERFORMED IN YOU HAD BEEN PERFORMED IN TYRE AND SIDON, THEY WOULD HAVE REPENTED LONG AGO IN SACKCLOTH AND ASHES. ²²BUT I TELL YOU, IT WILL BE MORE BEARABLE FOR TYRE AND SIDON ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT THAN FOR YOU. ²³AND YOU, CAPERNAUM, WILL YOU BE LIFTED UP TO THE SKIES? NO, YOU WILL GO DOWN TO THE DEPTHS. IF THE MIRACLES THAT WERE PERFORMED IN YOU HAD BEEN PERFORMED IN SODOM, IT WOULD HAVE REMAINED TO THIS DAY. ²⁴BUT I TELL YOU THAT IT WILL BE MORE BEARABLE FOR SODOM ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT THAN FOR YOU."
 - (A) JESUS HAS ABANDONED BETHSAIDA TO JUDGMENT.
 - (i) HE LED THE MAN OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.
 - 1) HE WOULD NEITHER HEAL IN THAT VILLAGE NOR PERMIT FURTHER TESTIMONY TO BE GIVEN THERE.
 - (B) ALTHOUGH THE VILLAGE IS ABANDONED GOD, JESUS WILL RESPOND TO THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF A MAN.
- IV. WHAT HE DOES AND HOW HE GOES ABOUT IT HAS MEANING ALSO.
 - (1) HE SPIT ON THE MANS EYES.
 - (A) HE CLEANED HIS SIGHT.
 - (i) PETER AT THE LAST SUPPER
 - 1) MAN AS TREES - PEOPLE SEE JESUS IN MANY WAYS; KING, PROPHET, TEACHER
 - (B) THE MAN COULD SEE SOME WHAT.
 - (i) BUT HE NEEDED MORE THAT HIS SIGHT CLEANED.
 - 1) JESUS LAID HANDS ON HIM AGAIN.
 - A) REPEAT CLEANSING BY THE WORD.
 - 2) AND THE MAN SAW CLEARLY
 - A) MEN AS MEN - HE COULD LOOK ON JESUS AND SEE THAT HE WAS HIS SAVIOR

4. PETER'S CONFESSION

- A. **MARK 8:27-30**²⁷JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WENT ON TO THE VILLAGES AROUND CAESAREA PHILIPPI. ON THE WAY HE ASKED THEM, "WHO DO PEOPLE SAY I AM?" ²⁸THEY REPLIED, "SOME SAY JOHN THE BAPTIST; OTHERS SAY ELIJAH; AND STILL OTHERS, ONE OF THE PROPHETS." ²⁹"BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?" HE ASKED. "WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?" PETER ANSWERED, "YOU ARE THE CHRIST." ³⁰JESUS WARNED THEM NOT TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT HIM

- I. WITH THIS QUESTION AND ANSWER COMES AN END TO THE BIG PICTURE OF WHO

JESUS IS IN THE BOOK OF MARK. NOW ENDS THE CONFIRMATION OF WHO HE IS.

(1) WHAT DIFFERENT ANSWERS DO PEOPLE GIVE TODAY ABOUT JESUS?

II. BEFORE WE LEAVE THIS SECTION, A QUICK REVIEW ON THE QUESTION, WHO IS THIS JESUS!

(1)

GOD DECLARED IT	MATTHEW 3:17 AND A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAID, "THIS IS MY SON, WHOM I LOVE; WITH HIM I AM WELL PLEASSED."
JESUS SAID IT	MATTHEW 27:43 HE TRUSTS IN GOD. LET GOD RESCUE HIM NOW IF HE WANTS HIM, FOR HE SAID, 'I AM THE SON OF GOD.' " JOHN 10:36 WHAT ABOUT THE ONE WHOM THE FATHER SET APART AS HIS VERY OWN AND SENT INTO THE WORLD? WHY THEN DO YOU ACCUSE ME OF BLASPHEMY BECAUSE I SAID, 'I AM GOD'S SON'?"
DEMONS DECLARED IT	MARK 5:7 HE SHOUTED AT THE TOP OF HIS VOICE, "WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME, JESUS, SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD? SWEAR TO GOD THAT YOU WON'T TORTURE ME!"
GABRIEL, THE ARK ANGLE	LUKE 1:32-35 HE WILL BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH. THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID, ³³ AND HE WILL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER; HIS KINGDOM WILL NEVER END." ³⁴ "HOW WILL THIS BE," MARY ASKED THE ANGEL, "SINCE I AM A VIRGIN?" ³⁵ THE ANGEL ANSWERED, "THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU. SO THE HOLY ONE TO BE BORN WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD.
THE ROMAN CENTURION	MATTHEW 27:54 WHEN THE CENTURION AND THOSE WITH HIM WHO WERE GUARDING JESUS SAW THE EARTHQUAKE AND ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED, THEY WERE TERRIFIED, AND EXCLAIMED, "SURELY HE WAS THE SON OF GOD!"
JOHN THE BAPTIST	JOHN 1:34 I HAVE SEEN AND I TESTIFY THAT THIS IS THE SON OF GOD."

MARTHA	JOHN 11:27 "YES, LORD," SHE TOLD HIM, "I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, WHO WAS TO COME INTO THE WORLD."
THE EUNUCH	ACTS 8:37 AND PHILIP SAID, IF THOU BELIEVEST WITH ALL THINE HEART, THOU MAYEST. AND HE ANSWERED AND SAID, I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.

WHY DID JESUS COME?

5. SUFFERING AND GLORY?

- A. **MARK 8:31-33.** ³¹HE THEN BEGAN TO TEACH THEM THAT THE SON OF MAN MUST SUFFER MANY THINGS AND BE REJECTED BY THE ELDERS, CHIEF PRIESTS AND TEACHERS OF THE LAW, AND THAT HE MUST BE KILLED AND AFTER THREE DAYS RISE AGAIN. ³²HE SPOKE PLAINLY ABOUT THIS, AND PETER TOOK HIM ASIDE AND BEGAN TO REBUKE HIM. ³³BUT WHEN JESUS TURNED AND LOOKED AT HIS DISCIPLES, HE REBUKED PETER. "GET BEHIND ME, SATAN!" HE SAID. "YOU DO NOT HAVE IN MIND THE THINGS OF GOD, BUT THE THINGS OF MEN."
- I. HE THEN BEGAN TO TEACH.
- (1) AS SOON AS HE WAS RECOGNIZED AND THE SON OF GOD HE BEGINS THIS TEACHING.
 - (2) RIGHT AFTER HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN.
 - (A) SO WHY THE STRONG REACTION OF PETER
 - (I) AND THE STRONGER REACTION OF JESUS TO PETER.
 - 1) WHAT DOES THIS SHOW US ABOUT THE SOWER AND THE FIELD

II. THIS WAS THE 5TH PROPHECY OF MARKS BOOK

6. DISCIPLESHIP TESTED - THE VALUE OF A SOUL

- A. **MARK 8:34-9:1** ³⁴THEN HE CALLED THE CROWD TO HIM ALONG WITH HIS DISCIPLES AND SAID: "IF ANYONE WOULD COME AFTER ME, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME. ³⁵FOR WHOEVER WANTS TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR ME AND FOR THE GOSPEL WILL SAVE IT. ³⁶WHAT GOOD IS IT FOR A MAN TO GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, YET FORFEIT HIS SOUL? ³⁷OR WHAT CAN A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL? ³⁸IF ANYONE IS ASHAMED OF ME AND MY WORDS IN THIS ADULTEROUS AND SINFUL GENERATION, THE SON OF MAN WILL BE ASHAMED OF HIM WHEN HE COMES IN HIS FATHER'S GLORY WITH THE HOLY ANGELS." **MARK 9:1** AND HE SAID TO THEM, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, SOME WHO ARE STANDING HERE WILL NOT TASTE DEATH BEFORE THEY SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD COME WITH POWER."
- I. LIVING IN GODS\'S KINGDOM
- (1) **MATTHEW 10:32** "WHOEVER ACKNOWLEDGES ME BEFORE MEN, I WILL ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE HIM BEFORE MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.
 - (2) **MATTHEW 18:3** AND HE SAID: "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, UNLESS YOU CHANGE AND BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NEVER ENTER THE KINGDOM OF

HEAVEN.

- (3) **LUKE 14:26** "IF ANYONE COMES TO ME AND DOES NOT HATE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN, HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS--YES, EVEN HIS OWN LIFE--HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.
- (4) **JOHN 3:7** YOU SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT MY SAYING, 'YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.'

II. A CONTINUAL WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW JESUS

- (1) GIVE UP SELF-DEPENDENTS, SELF-INTERESTS, AND SELF PURSUITS WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
 - (A) **GALATIANS 5:19-24** THE ACTS OF THE SINFUL NATURE ARE OBVIOUS: SEXUAL IMMORALITY, IMPURITY AND DEBAUCHERY; ²⁰IDOLATRY AND WITCHCRAFT; HATRED, DISCORD, JEALOUSY, FITS OF RAGE, SELFISH AMBITION, DISSENSIONS, FACTIONS ²¹AND ENVY; DRUNKENNESS, ORGIES, AND THE LIKE. I WARN YOU, AS I DID BEFORE, THAT THOSE WHO LIVE LIKE THIS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. ²²BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, ²³GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL. AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW. ²⁴THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS HAVE CRUCIFIED THE SINFUL NATURE WITH ITS PASSIONS AND DESIRES.

III. AFTER THIS JESUS MAKES THIS STATEMENT, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, SOME WHO ARE STANDING HERE WILL NOT TASTE DEATH BEFORE THEY SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD COME WITH POWER."

- (1) NOW QUESTIONS FOR US ALL!
 - (A) WHO IS HE?
 - (B) DOES HE KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT?
 - (2) THIS IS THE 6TH NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY,
 - (A) IS JESUS A TRUE PROPHET?
 - (3) FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE LIFE OF JESUS THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ITS POWER IN HIS LIFE.
 - (4) NOW SOME HERE WILL SEE THE KINGDOM WITH NEW EYES, AND THEY WILL SEE HIS POWER WITH NEW EYES!
- B. AND I WOULD SAY IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS IS THE 6TH, THE NUMBER OF MAN, FOR IT WILL BE MEN AND WOMAN WHO WILL EXERCISE THIS POWER.

c.