

GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST, SERVANT OF GOD

1. THE PERFECT SERVANT!

- A. MARK 9:2- 15 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." ²AFTER SIX DAYS JESUS TOOK PETER, JAMES AND JOHN WITH HIM AND LED THEM UP A HIGH MOUNTAIN, WHERE THEY WERE ALL ALONE. THERE HE WAS TRANSFIGURED BEFORE THEM. ³HIS CLOTHES BECAME DAZZLING WHITE, WHITER THAN ANYONE IN THE WORLD COULD BLEACH THEM. ⁴AND THERE APPEARED BEFORE THEM ELIJAH AND MOSES, WHO WERE TALKING WITH JESUS. ⁵PETER SAID TO JESUS, "RABBI, IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE. LET US PUT UP THREE SHELTERS--ONE FOR YOU, ONE FOR MOSES AND ONE FOR ELIJAH." ⁶(HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY, THEY WERE SO FRIGHTENED.) ⁷THEN A CLOUD APPEARED AND ENVELOPED THEM, AND A VOICE CAME FROM THE CLOUD: "THIS IS MY SON, WHOM I LOVE. LISTEN TO HIM!" ⁸SUDDENLY, WHEN THEY LOOKED AROUND, THEY NO LONGER SAW ANYONE WITH THEM EXCEPT JESUS. ⁹AS THEY WERE COMING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, JESUS GAVE THEM ORDERS NOT TO TELL ANYONE WHAT THEY HAD SEEN UNTIL THE SON OF MAN HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD. ¹⁰THEY KEPT THE MATTER TO THEMSELVES, DISCUSSING WHAT "RISING FROM THE DEAD" MEANT. ¹¹AND THEY ASKED HIM, "WHY DO THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW SAY THAT ELIJAH MUST COME FIRST?" ¹²JESUS REPLIED, "TO BE SURE, ELIJAH DOES COME FIRST, AND RESTORES ALL THINGS. WHY THEN IS IT WRITTEN THAT THE SON OF MAN MUST SUFFER MUCH AND BE REJECTED?" ¹³BUT I TELL YOU, ELIJAH HAS COME, AND THEY HAVE DONE TO HIM EVERYTHING THEY WISHED, JUST AS IT IS WRITTEN ABOUT HIM." ¹⁴WHEN THEY CAME TO THE OTHER DISCIPLES, THEY SAW A LARGE CROWD AROUND THEM AND THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW ARGUING WITH THEM. ¹⁵AS SOON AS ALL THE PEOPLE SAW JESUS, THEY WERE OVERWHELMED WITH WONDER AND RAN TO GREET HIM.

I. SIX = MAN - THE PERFECT SERVANT

II. TRANSFIGURED = LIKE A WORM INTO A BUTTERFLY

- (1) **ROMANS 12:1-2** THEREFORE, I URGE YOU, BROTHERS, IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY, TO OFFER YOUR BODIES AS LIVING SACRIFICES, HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD--THIS IS YOUR SPIRITUAL ACT OF WORSHIP. ²DO NOT CONFORM ANY LONGER TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS--HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL.

III. MOSES - THE LAW GIVER

IV. ELIJAH - THE PROFIT

- (1) **MATTHEW 5:17** "DO NOT THINK THAT I HAVE COME TO ABOLISH THE LAW OR THE PROPHETS; I HAVE NOT COME TO ABOLISH THEM BUT TO FULFILL THEM.

- (A) **EXODUS 21:1-7** "THESE ARE THE LAWS YOU ARE TO SET BEFORE THEM: ²"IF YOU BUY A HEBREW SERVANT, HE IS TO SERVE YOU FOR SIX YEARS. BUT IN THE SEVENTH YEAR, HE SHALL GO FREE, WITHOUT PAYING ANYTHING. ³IF HE COMES ALONE, HE IS TO GO FREE ALONE; BUT IF HE HAS A WIFE WHEN HE COMES, SHE IS TO GO WITH HIM. ⁴IF HIS MASTER GIVES HIM A WIFE AND SHE BEARS HIM SONS OR DAUGHTERS, THE WOMAN AND HER CHILDREN SHALL BELONG TO HER MASTER, AND ONLY THE MAN SHALL GO FREE. ⁵"BUT IF THE SERVANT DECLARES, 'I LOVE MY MASTER AND MY WIFE AND CHILDREN AND DO NOT

WANT TO GO FREE, ' ⁶ THEN HIS MASTER MUST TAKE HIM BEFORE THE JUDGES. HE SHALL TAKE HIM TO THE DOOR OR THE DOORPOST AND PIERCE HIS EAR WITH AN AWL. THEN HE WILL BE HIS SERVANT FOR LIFE. ⁷ "IF A MAN SELLS HIS DAUGHTER AS A SERVANT, SHE IS NOT TO GO FREE AS MENSERVANTS DO.

(i) JESUS HAD FULFILLED THE LAW, HE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO GO HOME.

1) BUT IF HE WENT HOME, HE WOULD GO HOME ALONE.

A) IN A PREVIOUS VERSE WE SAW SCRIPTURE POINT OUT TO US THE FAMILY OF JESUS.

V. HERE WE SEE THREE PROPHECIES THAT WILL BE FULFILLED

(1) THE SON OF MAN WILL RISE

(2) THE COMING OF ELIJAH TO RESTORE ALL THINGS BEFORE THE SECOND ADVENT. THIS WILL BE FULFILLED BY THE TWO WITNESSES.

(A) **MALACHI 4:5-6** "SEE, I WILL SEND YOU THE PROPHET ELIJAH BEFORE THAT GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD COMES. ⁶ HE WILL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THEIR CHILDREN, AND THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS; OR ELSE I WILL COME AND STRIKE THE LAND WITH A CURSE."

(i) THE LAST TWO VERSES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

(3) THE SUFFERING OF JESUS

2. POWERLESS FOLLOWERS - MIGHTY CHRIST

A. MARK 16-29¹⁶ "WHAT ARE YOU ARGUING WITH THEM ABOUT?" HE ASKED. ¹⁷ A MAN IN THE CROWD ANSWERED, "TEACHER, I BROUGHT YOU MY SON, WHO IS POSSESSED BY A SPIRIT THAT HAS ROBBED HIM OF SPEECH. ¹⁸ WHENEVER IT SEIZES HIM, IT THROWS HIM TO THE GROUND. HE FOAMS AT THE MOUTH, GNASHES HIS TEETH AND BECOMES RIGID. I ASKED YOUR DISCIPLES TO DRIVE OUT THE SPIRIT, BUT THEY COULD NOT." ¹⁹ "O UNBELIEVING GENERATION," JESUS REPLIED, "HOW LONG SHALL I STAY WITH YOU? HOW LONG SHALL I PUT UP WITH YOU? BRING THE BOY TO ME." ²⁰ SO THEY BROUGHT HIM. WHEN THE SPIRIT SAW JESUS, IT IMMEDIATELY THREW THE BOY INTO A CONVULSION. HE FELL TO THE GROUND AND ROLLED AROUND, FOAMING AT THE MOUTH. ²¹ JESUS ASKED THE BOY'S FATHER, "HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN LIKE THIS?" "FROM CHILDHOOD," HE ANSWERED. ²² "IT HAS OFTEN THROWN HIM INTO FIRE OR WATER TO KILL HIM. BUT IF YOU CAN DO ANYTHING, TAKE PITY ON US AND HELP US." ²³ "IF YOU CAN'?" SAID JESUS. "EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR HIM WHO BELIEVES." ²⁴ IMMEDIATELY THE BOY'S FATHER EXCLAIMED, "I DO BELIEVE; HELP ME OVERCOME MY UNBELIEF!" ²⁵ WHEN JESUS SAW THAT A CROWD WAS RUNNING TO THE SCENE, HE REBUKED THE EVIL SPIRIT. "YOU DEAF AND MUTE SPIRIT," HE SAID, "I COMMAND YOU, COME OUT OF HIM AND NEVER ENTER HIM AGAIN." ²⁶ THE SPIRIT SHRIEKED, CONVULSED HIM VIOLENTLY AND CAME OUT. THE BOY LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE A CORPSE THAT MANY SAID, "HE'S DEAD." ²⁷ BUT JESUS TOOK HIM BY THE HAND AND LIFTED HIM TO HIS FEET, AND HE STOOD UP. ²⁸ AFTER JESUS HAD GONE INDOORS, HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM PRIVATELY, "WHY COULDN'T WE DRIVE IT OUT?" ²⁹ HE REPLIED, "THIS KIND CAN COME OUT ONLY BY PRAYER." **MARK 9:29** AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, THIS KIND CAN COME FORTH BY NOTHING, BUT BY PRAYER AND FASTING.

I. JESUS DESCENDS THE MOUNTAIN AND RETURNS TO HIS OTHER DISCIPLES ONLY TO FIND THEM IN HOT DEBATE WITH THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW OVER THEIR FAILURE TO EXORCIZE A YOUNG BOY ROBED OF SPEECH.

II. HOW IS THE FATHER'S REQUEST SIMILAR TO AND YET DIFFERENT FROM THE LEPER'S REQUEST IN **MARK 1:40** A MAN WITH LEPROSY CAME TO HIM AND BEGGED HIM ON HIS KNEES, "IF YOU ARE WILLING, YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN."

- III. WHAT DO YOU STRUGGLED WITH MORE, CAN JESUS ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS, OR WILL HE ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS.
- IV. WHAT IS SAID BETWEEN THE FATHER AND JESUS THAT CAN HELP US IN OUR FAITH.
- V. YOU SEE THE CONCERN OF THIS FATHER, WHAT WAS THE HEAVENLY FATHER WILLING TO DO TO SEE THAT THIS CHILD WAS HEALED?
- VI. FAILURE TO WAGE A WINNING WAR AGAINST DEMONS, DISEASE AND SIN IS SEEN BY JESUS AS A SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS ON THE PART OF HIS DISCIPLES.
- VII. **"EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR HIM WHO BELIEVES BUT HERE IT TAKES PRAYER AND FASTING.**
- VIII. HELP ME OVERCOME MY UNBELIEF
 - (1) FAITH - EFFECTIVE FAITH THAT PRODUCES RESULTS
 - (2) TRUE FAITH IS NOT A BELIEF IN "FAITH" AS A FORCE OR POWER, BUT IT IS A "FAITH IN GOD"
 - (3) TRUE FAITH IS A WORK OF GOD IN THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN
 - (4) FAITH IS IMPARTED TO US BY CHRIST AND HIS WORD TO DEEPEN OUR COMMITMENT TO, AND CONFIDENCE IN HIM. IT SEEKS CHRIST AS THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH. HIS CLOSE PRESENCE AND OUR OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD ARE THE SOURCE AND THE SECRET OF FAITH.
 - (5) TRUE FAITH IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF A HOLY GOD

3. WHO IS GREATER

- A. **MARK 9:30-37** ³⁰THEY LEFT THAT PLACE AND PASSED THROUGH GALILEE. JESUS DID NOT WANT ANYONE TO KNOW WHERE THEY WERE, ³¹BECAUSE HE WAS TEACHING HIS DISCIPLES. HE SAID TO THEM, **"THE SON OF MAN IS GOING TO BE BETRAYED INTO THE HANDS OF MEN. THEY WILL KILL HIM, AND AFTER THREE DAYS HE WILL RISE."** ³²BUT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANT AND WERE AFRAID TO ASK HIM ABOUT IT. ³³THEY CAME TO CAPERNAUM. WHEN HE WAS IN THE HOUSE, HE ASKED THEM, **"WHAT WERE YOU ARGUING ABOUT ON THE ROAD?"** ³⁴BUT THEY KEPT QUIET BECAUSE ON THE WAY THEY HAD ARGUED ABOUT WHO WAS THE GREATEST. ³⁵SITTING DOWN, JESUS CALLED THE TWELVE AND SAID, **"IF ANYONE WANTS TO BE FIRST, HE MUST BE THE VERY LAST, AND THE SERVANT OF ALL."** ³⁶HE TOOK A LITTLE CHILD AND HAD HIM STAND AMONG THEM. TAKING HIM IN HIS ARMS, HE SAID TO THEM, ³⁷**"WHOEVER WELCOMES ONE OF THESE LITTLE CHILDREN IN MY NAME WELCOMES ME; AND WHOEVER WELCOMES ME DOES NOT WELCOME ME BUT THE ONE WHO SENT ME."**
 - I. WHAT IN THE BOYS HEALING PARALLEL THOSE IN JESUS' PREDICTION OF HIS COMING SUFFERING AND VICTORY?
 - II. LOOK AT THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS. THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND AND THEY DID NOT ASK. MUCH LIKE IT IS TODAY.
 - (1) THE REASON FOR THEM NOT ASKING, FEAR. WHAT IS THE REASONS TODAY.
 - III. THE NINETH PROPHECY IN THE BOOK OF MARK - THE LAST WILL BE FIRST.
 - IV. THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL BE GREATER IS STILL PRETTY IMPORTANT IN MANY PARTS OF CHRISTIANITY TODAY.
 - V. TRUE GREATNESS IS THE WILLINGNESS AND THE DESIRE OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO SERVE BOTH GOD AND HIS FELLOW MAN, AND A WILLINGNESS TO BE SEEN AS THE LEAST IMPORTANT IN GOD'S KINGDOM.
 - (1) GREATNESS IN NOT BECAUSE OF POSITION, OFFICE, LEADERSHIP, POWER, INFLUENCE, ACADEMIC DEGREES, FAME, ABILITY, GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR SUCCESS. IT IS NOT SO MUCH WHAT WE DO FOR GOD AS WHAT WE ARE IN SPIRIT

BEFORE HIM.

- (2) GREATNESS IS THE WILLINGNESS TO LET CHRIST LIVE IN US, LEARN TO BE GREAT IN FAITH, HUMILITY, GODLY CHARACTER, WISDOM, SELF-CONTROL, PATIENCE AND LOVE. IT IS TO HAVE THE GREATNESS OF CHRIST, WHO LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED WICKEDNESS.

VI. GREATNESS IS BEING AWARE THAT WHATEVER WE DO, [EVEN WELCOMING A LITTLE CHILD], WE DO IT IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

4. SECTARIANISM REBUKED

A. MARK 9:38-50 ³⁸"TEACHER," SAID JOHN, "WE SAW A MAN DRIVING OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME AND WE TOLD HIM TO STOP, BECAUSE HE WAS NOT ONE OF US." ³⁹"DO NOT STOP HIM," JESUS SAID. "NO ONE WHO DOES A MIRACLE IN MY NAME CAN IN THE NEXT MOMENT SAY ANYTHING BAD ABOUT ME, ⁴⁰FOR WHOEVER IS NOT AGAINST US IS FOR US. ⁴¹I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, ANYONE WHO GIVES YOU A CUP OF WATER IN MY NAME BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO CHRIST WILL CERTAINLY NOT LOSE HIS REWARD. ⁴²"AND IF ANYONE CAUSES ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES WHO BELIEVE IN ME TO SIN, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO BE THROWN INTO THE SEA WITH A LARGE MILLSTONE TIED AROUND HIS NECK. ⁴³IF YOUR HAND CAUSES YOU TO SIN, CUT IT OFF. IT IS BETTER FOR YOU TO ENTER LIFE MAIMED THAN WITH TWO HANDS TO GO INTO HELL, WHERE THE FIRE NEVER GOES OUT. ⁴⁴ ⁴⁵AND IF YOUR FOOT CAUSES YOU TO SIN, CUT IT OFF. IT IS BETTER FOR YOU TO ENTER LIFE CRIPPLED THAN TO HAVE TWO FEET AND BE THROWN INTO HELL. ⁴⁶ ⁴⁷AND IF YOUR EYE CAUSES YOU TO SIN, PLUCK IT OUT. IT IS BETTER FOR YOU TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD WITH ONE EYE THAN TO HAVE TWO EYES AND BE THROWN INTO HELL, ⁴⁸WHERE 'THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.' ⁴⁹EVERYONE WILL BE SALTED WITH FIRE. ⁵⁰"SALT IS GOOD, BUT IF IT LOSES ITS SALTINESS, HOW CAN YOU MAKE IT SALTY AGAIN? HAVE SALT IN YOURSELVES, AND BE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER."

I. 10TH NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY IN MARK

II. ACCEPTANCE OF OTHERS WHO ARE DOING THE LORD'S WORK.

III. SOME CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS ARE HARD TO GIVE UP,

- (1) LIKE A HAND, YOUR WORK. MAYBE YOU NEED TO THINK CAN GOD BLESS WHAT I DO?
- (2) LIKE YOUR FOOT, THE PLACES WHERE GO, THE WAY YOU SPEND YOUR TIME. CAN GOD BLESS THESE?
- (3) YOUR EYE, THE THINGS THAT YOU WATCH, THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU. CAN GOD BLESS THESE?

IV. SALT IS A PURIFIER, HAVE ENOUGH IN YOURSELF TO PURIFY YOURSELF DO NOT LET THINGS THAT DESTROY UNITY AND PEACE COME BETWEEN BRETHREN.

- (1) SELF EXALTATION
- (2) BIGOTRY
- (3) OFFENSES
- (4) SINFUL LUSTS OF THE BODY.

V. TO BE GREAT, ONE MUST BE RIGHTEOUS.