

## Mark Overview

This gospel bears the name of John Mark

- native of Jerusalem
- son of a Jewish woman named Miriam (Mary) and a Gentile father, name unknown  
(Acts 12:12)
- nephew of Barnabas, who accompanied Paul on his 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey... as did John Mark, until he returned home for unknown reasons  
(Acts 12:25, Col 4:10, Acts 13:13)
- subsequently rejected by Paul, causing a rift between him and Barnabas  
(Acts 15:37-40)
- was restored unto Paul  
(Col 4:10, 2 Tim 4:11)
- referred to as “my son” by Peter  
(1 Peter 5:13)

This gospel

- is thought to be the first Gospel account recorded, between 60-65 AD
- is the briefest of the four
- is one of the Synoptic Gospels
- is written to the Roman vs the Jew (perhaps while in Rome)  
(few OT references but explanations of Jewish customs)
- is widely thought to be based on Peter’s preachings and writings as recorded by Mark, who was a young boy when these events occurred
- presents Jesus as a Servant, the Son of toil, and as such, gives no genealogy
- is focused more on what Jesus did than said (Why 4 Gospels)
  - 0 discourses
  - few parables
  - 19 miracles
    - 8 showing His power over disease
    - 5 showing His power over creation (physical world)
    - 4 showing His power over demons (spiritual world)
    - 2 showing His power over death
- is characterized by “straightaway” (19 times) and “immediately” (17 times), words of action because that is what is expected of a servant  
Note: very Peter-like

Outline

- I. Introduction (Ch 1:1-13)
- II. Galilean Ministry (Ch 1:14 – 9:50)
- III. Jerusalem Ministry (Ch 10 – 16)

# Mark Chapter 1

## v1-13 Intro of Jesus

- Identity (v1)
- “Preparation” and baptism (v2-11)
- Testing/Proving (v12-13)

v1 the beginning of the “good message”, the “Good News” of Jesus Christ

John 1:17

Is 9:6-7

Note: Jewish caller from CA: child was King Hezekiah  
The promised Seed of the woman,  
the promised Son of David,  
the Holy One of Israel...  
The Son of God

Mark starts with a direct declaration of the identity of Jesus of Nazareth

“Son of God” appears once in OT (Dan 3:25) + 40 times in NT

(Heb 7:1-3, 1 John 4:14-15, 1 John 5:20)

the OT is the NT concealed and the NT is the OT revealed

the phrase appears in Mark 3 times, a testimony by

1. Mark, at the beginning of His ministry (Ch 1:1)
2. demon, during (Ch 3:11)
3. Centurion, at the end (Ch 15:39)

Other than those times, Mark declares the identity of Jesus of Nazareth by  
the works He did

in the white space between v1 and v2

- genealogies of Jesus
- birth of John the Baptist
- conception and birth of Jesus
- circumcision and presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- the visit of the magi
- the flight to Egypt to escape Herod
- Jesus “being about My Father’s business” in the Temple at age 12
- the years growing up in Nazareth

Mark just gets down to business...

v2-3 Now John the Baptist is introduced

1. The one foretold by the prophets
2. The messenger sent by God before the Messiah/the Lord, breaking 400 years of silence, to “externally” prepare His coming

**Mal 3:1**

God is speaking, “I send My messenger...before Me...  
the Messenger of the covenant that you seek”...  
I AM the Messiah.

3. The voice from the wilderness instructing the people to “internally” prepare their hearts for the promised Messiah/the Lord (“supreme authority, God) with the message of:

“Now is The Time! He is coming immediately!”  
 (“straight” = “immediately” in v12)

**Is 40:3**

the ministry of the Forerunner is 2 kinds of preparedness:

- external...the scene, in a broad sense
- internal fitness of the hearers, to each individual

v4 To whom was John sent to prepare?

The Jews

How were the people to become internally fit, to prepare their hearts for the Lord their Messiah?

By repenting of their sins and receiving forgiveness/cleansing of the heart  
(Forgiveness comes after confession and repentance)

**Matt 3:1-3**

What sins?

- the actions of lawbreakers  
(Rabbi Saul of Tarsus: **Gal 3:10-11, 22-24**)
- unbelief  
(John 5:45-47)

Hence, the baptism of water to reflect the mikvah of the heart, the cleansing bath of the heart before entering into the presence of the Lord

John (Jochanan anglicized) baptized in the Jordan River in the area of Jericho...  
a desolate area

v5-6 To this wild-looking man

- wearing a camel's hair suit and leather belt
- eating a "natural" diet
- not wearing the "official uniform" of the priesthood  
(representing man to God)
- not a pretty face wearing a \$1000 Armani suit like the modern-day  
"prophets" on Christian TV
- but speaking the message of the prophets ("Repent!")  
(representing God to man)

came

- common people  
acknowledging their unrighteousness and that they fell short of the  
glory of God  
coming to be baptized
- Pharisees and scribes (religious leadership) asking questions  
Are you the Messiah? (400 years of silence had been deafening)  
Are you Elijah? (Mal 4:5-6)  
Are you That Prophet (Deut 18:15-18)?  
Then who are you and why do you baptize?

v7-8 A: God's messenger and the voice crying in the wilderness...  
and the rightful priest to anoint the Messiah/King

Several hundred years prior, during the power vacuum left between the Greek and Roman Empires, the Jews asserted their independence, led by the Hasmonians, a line of Aaron

Background on the lines of Aaron:

The line of Aaron containing Eli's line was cursed

During the transition of power from King David to the rightful King Solomon, the cursed line of Eli the High Priest (one line of Aaron) was expelled and the righteous line of Zadok (another line of Aaron) was elevated to the "everlasting priesthood"

To consolidate their power, the Hasmonians combined the offices of High Priest and King, expressly forbidden by the Law

They removed their opposition, the line of Zadok, by force.

The line of Zadok fled for their lives to the wilderness.

Now, here is John, coming from the wilderness as a rightful priest to anoint the rightful King/Messiah

He confronts the usurping Pharisees by calling them "a generation of vipers"...

seed of the serpent opposing the Seed of the Woman (Matt 3:7)...

as will Jesus Himself in Matt 12:34 and Matt 23:33

John says of the King/Messiah/Lord Jesus

- He comes after me
- I am unworthy to even untie His shoes
- He will baptize with the Holy Ghost (foretelling of Acts 2)
- I must decrease that He may increase (John 3:30)  
The less I do, the more He does (He will not share His glory)  
Does NOT mean inaction on my part...  
it means growing dependence upon Him for everything I do  
(John 15:5)  
I am to be very busy about my Lord's business...  
but not by my own strength or leadership

e.g. cram over commentaries and give you what I got from those men...or be still, listen to the Lord teach me, give to you what I received from Him, and then only empowered by Him

v9-11 While John was baptizing and preaching, Jesus came to be baptized by him.

Why? Why not the other way around like John asked?

1. to fulfill all righteousness  
(Matt 3:15, rightful priest to anoint the rightful King)
2. Testimony: visual, of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus from above
3. Testimony: audible, of the Father above expressing His delight in His Son

The Father clearly says He has a Son!  
Rather than force-fitting the infinite God into the boundaries of our finite understanding,, what does the Word of God say?  
Scripture interprets Scripture...do you believe Him?

Is 42:1-9

Timestamp: When Jesus is 30 years old (Luke 3:23)

v12-13 immediately...”straight” in v3...the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted/tested/enticed by the deceiver

James 1:13-14

Heb 2:14-18

Heb 4:14-16

A very brief account...just the bottom-line, the end result of the work  
Having passed all tests, Jesus is waited upon by angels

Last time the Introduction...now the beginning of the LORD's Galilean ministry

v14-15 Before John was arrested, Jesus

1. is declared to be the Lamb of God by John the Baptist  
John 1:29
2. performs His 1<sup>st</sup> miracle, turning water into wine  
John 2
3. cleanses the Temple in Jerusalem when He goes there for Passover  
John 2
4. receives Nicodemus and teaches of being born again  
John 3
5. "presided" over baptism by His disciples, concurrent with John the Baptist  
John 3:22-24, John 4:1-2
6. has an enlightening conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well  
John 4
7. back at Cana, hears of the sick son of a nobleman in Capernaum, goes there, and heals him  
John 4:43-54

When John was imprisoned, Jesus remained in the Galilee,

forsaking the clamor of the city in favor of the quiet of the country

The Galilee: beautiful green rolling hills, fertile valleys, quiet villages

Away from the corrupt political and religious leaders, Jesus mixes with the common people in setting that is more conducive to hearing the voice of God

He starts preaching the kingdom of God in His hometown of in Nazareth  
(Luke 4:14-30, Is 6:1-12) then goes to the Sea of Galilee

His message:

1. The time is fulfilled....  
fulfilled: perfect passive participle...an action completed in the past but having existing results...  
"has been fulfilled...Now is the time"
2. The kingdom of God is near (Is 40:10-11, Zech 3:8, Zech 6:12)
3. Repent...the message of all prophets
4. Believe/entrust/have faith in The Gospel...the message of God  
(John 6:29)  
repent and believe: present imperative...a command to do something in the future which involves continuous or repeated action...be repenting and believing

Note: Why was John the Baptist arrested and put in jail?

Find out when we read the end of the story...Mark 6:14-28

v16-18 There at the Sea of Galilee, Jesus begins to choose His “12 disciples”...  
the men into which He would invest the most (John 15:16)

To Simon Peter and brother Andrew, who were casting their nets on the water  
(just as Monica and I saw done in Feb 1999), Jesus called:

- “Come here!”
- “I will”...His power, His work
- “make you to become”...transform you and conform you, as a Potter does clay
- “fishers of men”...a calling they could “relate” to

How did Peter and Andrew respond?

By immediately

- forsaking...leaving, giving up, abandoning...their fishing business
- following...as sheep hearing the voice of their Shepherd (John 10)

v19-20 Then he called James (Jacob) and John (Jochanan), the sons of a prominent  
business fisherman named Zebedee (John 18:14-16) who were perhaps in  
a boat like we saw at Ginosar

How did James and John respond to their calling?

They immediately dropped their nets and exchanged inheritances,  
forsaking their father for the Lord (Matt 10:37 in action)

Did you respond as did these 4 disciples when Jesus called you...  
by walking away from the world and giving Jesus your all?

Peter, Andrew, James, and John are object lessons in obedience:

- immediate
- complete
- by faith, not by sight

Luke 5:1-11 offers additional insight into the responses of these 4 disciples  
Jesus has given and continues to give us plenty of reasons to follow Him

Note: Later they “questioned their decision (Matt 19:23-29)  
Have you ever questioned your decision to follow Jesus?

v21 Then Jesus immediately went into the synagogue in Capernaum and taught the Word of God on the Sabbath

Capernaum became the HQ for His Galilean ministry...”His own city”

Why Capernaum?

- A busy commercial center...
- On a major trade route and highway... Via Maris
- Near a fresh water source...
- Near a border (Matt 4:12-16) with Is 42:6-7)

So it is only logical that we will find a

- tax collector (Matt 9:1, 9; Matt 17:24-27)
- Roman centurion (Matt 8:5-13)

At the time of Jesus, perhaps 750K people lived in the “greater” area...

a Jewish island in a Gentile “Sea”

Hebrew	was spoken by the learned Jews (leaders)
Aramaic	was used for legal documents
Greek	was the common language
Latin	was spoken by the Roman authorities

So...Capernaum is a “natural” choice for Messianic HQ  
(John 3:16)

The Temple in Jerusalem was the place of worship...

synagogues were for teaching and social interaction

Synagogues came into Jewish culture during the Babylonian Captivity

We have been to this synagogue...the original foundation can still be seen

v22 And there was a distinct reaction to Jesus’ teaching: astonishment

He taught

- The pure Word of God
- fresh, alive
- with power and authority...

radically different than the scribes, who taught

- commentaries: what Rabbi So-and-So said about the Word of God
- commentaries on commentaries: what other Rabbis said about what Rabbi So-and-So said
- stale, life-less
- without power



v23-24 in the synagogue there was a man with an unclean spirit...  
There are unclean spirits in the Church too!  
Not everybody in church is a born-again believer!  
Some may be there to disrupt the work or to cause division

Something truly remarkable happens.  
Jesus has been preaching and teaching with power and authority...  
Jesus has been performing miracles and healing people...  
His words and deeds proclaiming "I AM"...  
but mortal men do not hear the message  
(remember His reception in Nazareth?!)...

But...the demons KNOW Who He is...and cry out,

- "Leave us alone!
- What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?

No case of mistaken identity by the demons!

- Have you come to destroy us?

Come from where? Throne Room of God in heaven  
To where? This locality on earth  
They know their destiny  
What mere man could destroy demons?  
They fear Jesus of Nazareth, a mere carpenter's son?!

- I KNOW Who you are – the Holy One of God!"

Again, no case of mistaken identity by the demons!  
Messianic name that appears 42x in OT, 30x in Isaiah alone

Note: "we" speaks of a pack of wolves..."I" speaks of its leader

The demons know Who Jesus is...

Col 2:9-10

James 2:19

they are more orthodox than many "ministers" today!

but they do not know God's plan

Col 2:11-15

1 Cor 2:7-8

Healing #1 recorded in Mark: unclean spirit is purged (spiritual)

Why...are the demons are afraid of Jesus when He comes as the Suffering  
Servant/Lamb of God, yet they band with Satan to make war against the  
Lion of the Tribe of Judah when He returns as Conquering King?

v25-26 Jesus rebuked the leader of the pack: “Muzzle your mouth and ‘get lost.’”

How did the unclean spirit respond to the “calling” of the Lord?

With obedience...even though kicking and screaming

- convulsed its “host” with an epileptic-like seizure
- cried/shrieked with a loud voice
- departed...as Jesus had commanded

v27-28 the people had a distinct response to this work of the LORD: amazement  
perhaps they had no spiritual discernment to recognize that this man was  
possessed by demon...  
but certainly they had no power over the demon to help him...  
so they discussed/reasoned amongst themselves about what Jesus of  
Nazareth did and how the demon responded...  
as an insubordinate to Jesus!

a new doctrine: new because the religious leaders had no such power or authority

it seems to me that the people heard the “testimony” of the demon in v24 but it  
didn’t register...because it did not match their preconceived idea of what  
the Messiah would look like and what he would do  
devoid of understanding and discernment, the people are blind and deaf to the  
LORD’s identity and message

Jesus preached a spiritual kingdom, the Jews wanted an earthly kingdom

Jesus commanded

- the sea, waves, and wind....they always obeyed immediately
- evil spirits....they always obeyed immediately
- man....they almost always rebelled

these people did not respond by the faith Job had and Habakkuk got

Hab 3:17-19

Nonetheless...and immediately...the word spreads like wildfire about this  
carpenter’s son from Nazareth

with the fame came a celebrity status...

- lusted for by American-Idol-wanna-be’s
- detested by the LORD

Henceforth we see Jesus surrounded by multitudes...  
with impure motives and unbelieving hearts

The message of this passage in Mark 1:

- Faith in Jesus and in His Word
- Responding to the call of the LORD by faith

How do you respond to The LORD's preaching at the beginning of His Galilean ministry:

- The time is fulfilled...finished.  
fulfilled: perfect passive participle...an action completed in the past but having existing results...  
"has been fulfilled...Now is the time"
- The kingdom of God is near
- Repent...
- Believe/entrust/have faith in The Gospel...  
repent and believe: present imperative...a command to do something in the future which involves continuous or repeated action

Have you...are you...will you...respond as did

1. the citizens of Nazareth when the Word of God is preached
  - wrath
  - desiring to drive Jesus "off the cliff"
2. these 4 disciples when Jesus called you...
  - immediately
  - completely
  - by faith, not by sight
  - by walking away from the world and giving Jesus your all
3. the unclean spirit
  - defiant
  - having knowledge but no faith
4. the common people of the Galilee
  - wonder
  - impure motives
  - unbelieving

Last time:

The faith of

- citizens of Nazareth
- the 4 disciples
- the demons
- the common people of Galilee

The journey continues...

v29 And forthwith...entered into the house of Simon Peter:  
immediately from the synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus and the 4 disciples  
go to Peter's house (Matt 8:14, Luke 4:38)

Peter at some point had moved to Capernaum from Bethsaida (John 1:44)  
Also living in Peter's house: his brother and his mother-in-law

v30-31 lay sick of a fever...ministered unto them:  
Peter's mother-in-law is sick and they immediately, as soon as He enters  
the house, tell Jesus.

Dr. Luke (Luke 4:38-39) says she had a "great" fever...was very ill

Jesus acts

1. came to her side
2. took her by the hand (Matthew says "touched" her hand)
3. Luke: rebuked the fever
4. helped her to her feet

Effects of Jesus' actions

- immediately the fever left her
- she serves Him

When is one who has been healed of a very grave spiritual illness  
"qualified" to serve the LORD?

Immediately

v32-34 possessed with devils...all the city...He healed:

That night, there at Peter's house, all the city gathered to be touched by Jesus

- All the sick/ill/diseased
- All the demon-possessed...a spiritual disease

Jesus healed

- Many who were sick
- Many who were demon-possessed

The text says "many"...not "all".

Were some cases too tough for Jesus to heal?

No! The LORD is Sovereign, healing those whom He will...  
when He will...how He will

We do not command Him to heal, He sovereignly heals and works  
all things for good

suffered not the devils to speak:

The LORD did not allow the cast-out demons to make a peep...because

- they knew Who He was
- He did not need their testimony
- He wanted His deeds to speak of Who He was to the people

v35 he went out...solitary place...prayed:

Observations:

1. Jesus had had a very busy day and night

We should never complain about how busy we are doing the LORD's work or how much time the ministry demands...  
We should imitate/follow Jesus by going to the Father for the strength we need to do the work He has given us

John 9:4

Phil 2:12-16

Martin Luther: "I have so much to do today! I must spend 3 hours in prayer."

2. Long before sunrise, Jesus is up and praying in a quiet place, a place where He can be alone for the energizing fellowship with the Father that He needs

If Jesus needed quiet time alone with the Father, how much more do I?!

Jesus, wholly man, needed sleep and did sleep, even in boats caught in violent storms

But He did not oversleep and waste time because time was so short.

He prayed more, did more, slept less

Do not overestimate how much sleep you need!

v36-37 Simon and they...followed after him...All seek thee:

Fishermen get up before sunrise, too...

which sheds some light on "a great while before day" when Jesus started His day

and it appears the whole city is up early, too...  
and coming to Peter's house again

So, they go looking for Him, find Him, and tell Him the whole city is looking for the healing service to continue

Q: Why were all looking for Him? Eternal needs or temporal needs?  
Temporal...impure motives still

v38-39 Let us go into the next towns:

Jesus does not say,

“OK. Let’s go back and finish the job.

There are some cases I did not get to last night.”

He said,

“Let’s move on.

I did all that I am going to do there at this time.

We have many other places to go.”

And so He went, throughout Galilee, preaching and purifying the region

v40 there came a leper to Him:

While Jesus is preaching and purifying, a leper

(Luke 5:12 full of leprosy)

1. approached Him
2. begged Him
3. worshipped Him (Matt 8:2)
4. professed, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”

Remarkable!

Leprosy was a hideous, horrible disease...

A skin disease...

yet a deep-seated malady much deeper than just “skin deep”

- nerve damage, causing a loss of sensation in the extremities of pain, touch, and heat or cold
- destroyed the flesh
- bone damage
- uncontrollable
- contagious
- incurable

The effects of leprosy were devastating

1. Physical

- raw flesh was exposed
- oozing sores that would scab/re-open
- hair fell out
- fingers and toes would decay and fall off
- gums would decay and teeth would fall out
- nose, eyes, and tongue were consumed...
- disfiguration and mutilation

2. Emotional/social

- socially reject and neglected
- isolated and separated (outside the city, leper colonies)
- abject misery and shame
- helpless and hopeless

Who would not fear and hate such a disease?

Leprosy is used by the Word of God as a picture of sin...  
producing the same spiritual effects as those manifested  
physically and emotionally

It is easy to see why God hates sin...for its devastation on His beloved  
Creature...now and forever (Is 59:1-2)

God hates sin...because He loves sinners  
And only He can heal a sinner

Which makes this encounter remarkable – the leper knew  
Only God could heal him  
Jesus could heal him...  
Jesus of Nazareth was I AM  
he had to approach I AM on faith



v41-42 And Jesus:

Jesus acts

1. moved with compassion (14 times in Gospels)
2. reached out to the leper...initiating action
3. touched the leper (he's contagious!)
4. said, "I AM willing, be clean."

Effects of Jesus' actions:

The leper was immediately...not gradually...healed and cleansed

Notice

- The leper was healed when Jesus spoke...
- Jesus touched the leper BEFORE He spoke...
- Disease...corruption of the flesh...had no power over Jesus

Jesus touches us sinners/lepers, they by His Word He cleanses us and restores us to a right position before the Holy God

v43-45 straightly charged him:

Jesus immediately instructed the healed man to

- keep it to himself
- present himself to the Hasmonian priesthood in Jerusalem
- give the offering specified in the Law...as a witness/testimony for the priests

Lev 14:1-32

v1-3 present himself to the priest for examination

v4-7 the cleansing

- 2 birds
- 1 killed in an earthen vessel (body) over running (living) water
- other dipped in the blood of the slain bird
- he cleansed of leprosy is sprinkled 7 times
- living bird is released

a picture of death and resurrection of One who pronounces as clean a leper (Mark 1:41)

v8-9 washing and shaving

v10-13 the offering

- 2 male lambs + 1 female lamb + flour
- The cleansed leper is presented to the LORD
  - Trespass offering
  - Wave offering
  - Sin offering
  - Burnt offering (completely consecrated)

v14-18 Blood and oil (Holy Spirit) applied by the priest (Jesus)

v19-32 Atonement made by the priest (Jesus)

all this to be a testimony to the false priests in Jerusalem...John 5:39

however, no doubt unable to constrain the joy and awe bursting forth in his heart, the cleansed man “talks it up “ vs “keeping it quiet”

there is no rebuke from the LORD...

but it affects His ministry...

- the leper who could not enter into the city and was sent out to the wilderness is healed and enters the city proclaiming what Jesus of Nazareth had done for him...
- and now the Healer is unable to enter the city.
- The Healer has taken the place of the leper
- Yet because of His work on the behalf of a helpless and hopeless and unclean man, people from all over throng to Jesus

Matt 11:28-30

John 5:24

I am that leper, you are that leper

Jesus

- had compassion
- reached out...
- touched...
- and declared me clean

the power of sin is broken

Rom 5:6-11, 20-21

Rom 6:3-14, 22-23

Is 18:18-20, 28

Therefore, Joshua 24:13-15

Serve God (submission, humility, faith)

vs

Serve Self (pride, defiance, sight)

## Mark Chapter 2

In Ch 2:1 – 3:6, The Holy Spirit gives us 4 distinct episodes in the ministry of Jesus...  
4 “run-ins with the religious leadership of the Jews that teach us:

1. Jesus knows all
2. Jesus hears all
3. Jesus is LORD of all
4. Jesus is angry with the hypocritical and self-righteous “shepherds”

The Message throughout: Jesus is I AM

v1-2 many were gathered...he preached the word:

Returning from His “tour of Galilee”, Jesus returns to Peter’s house in Capernaum.

Word on the street quickly spread that He was back in town and...  
immediately...

the people were packed like sardines in Peter’s house.

What does Jesus do?

Preach the Word of God...shared the Good News!

Jesus’ #1 Priority is the Word of God

v3-4 one sick of the palsy:

4 friends or brothers bring to Jesus a man to be healed who is  
paralyzed/incapacitated/unable to help himself

They know Jesus can heal their friend/brother

But they can’t get anywhere near Jesus because of the multitude crammed  
in Peter’s house

Not deterred or discouraged, they persisted by removing part of the roof  
and lowering their friend/brother down to right where Jesus is

these are devoted friends

bearing him

lifting him up

lowering him down before Jesus

willing to make a personal sacrifice (time and money)

so that he would be healed

v5 When Jesus saw their faith:  
Faith: the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...  
belief in action  
Whose faith? 4 + 1 = 5 (grace)

Son, thy sins by forgiven thee:  
How old was this paralytic?  
Given the effort to bear, lift him, and lower him, the 5 are not  
likely to be young boys, but grown men.

Jesus is about 30 years old..."Son" hints at the origin of Jesus...eternity

Micah 5:2....out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be  
ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from  
everlasting.

The man with a physical malady is given, by grace thru faith,  
a spiritual healing...

Hab 2:4 with Rom 10:17 and Heb 11:6

Which is why the Word of God is Jesus' #1 Priority

v6-7 scribes...reasoning in their hearts...who can forgive sins:  
Some of the "sardines" packed into Peter's house are scribes...those who

- copied the Word of God
- taught what the rabbis taught about the Word of God.

They just heard the direct Word of God...and some number of them at the  
same time and independently, started analyzing what they just  
heard in light of what they have copied (Ps 32:1-2a)...

*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is  
covered.*

*Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity*

"What!? This man says he is forgiving sins but only God can forgive sins!  
He's claiming to be Jehovah God! This man speaks blasphemies!"

100% correct on one count...Jesus is claiming to be God (I AM)

Bingo!

Jesus is "connecting the dots" for them...

revealing Scripture to them...

declaring "I AM" to them...

but their spirits are deaf and blind because of unbelief

100% incorrect on the other...the man speaks blasphemies

God cannot lie...The Word of God is truth

v8 Jesus perceived in his spirit:  
 Jesus knew their thoughts...Jesus knows all.

And then He questions them about their thoughts.  
 The scribes are “busted”...not having uttered a word

Their reaction is not recorded but it should have been,  
 “Who knows our hearts but God only?”  
 Jer 17:9-10  
 1 Chron 28:9 (David turning the reigns over to Solomon)

v9 Whether it is easier to say:  
 “Which is easier? A physical healing or a spiritual healing?”

The physical is easier,

- Jesus has healed many already
- it is manifestly evident to all with eyes and ears

Yet Jesus did the harder, the spiritual healing...

- not visible to any but God
- something, in fact, that only God could do

v10-12 But that you may know:  
 “But so that you know that

1. I AM the Son of man, the Messiah
2. The Son of man, the Messiah is the LORD God Himself, who alone can forgive sins
3. I have authority...I AM Lord...on earth to forgive sin
4. I AM

let Me also do the physical healing.”

Jesus healed the man of his palsy and commanded him to depart...

The incapacitated man no longer is, and obeys...

All present...including the scribes...

are witnesses of a miracle of the LORD God

are amazed

glorify God

are filled with fear (Luke 5:26)

proclaim, “We have never seen anything like this before!

“We have seen strange things...extraordinary things...

things contrary to our expectation!” (Luke 5:26)

- Jesus of Nazareth knows the hearts of men...God does
- Jesus of Nazareth forgives the sins of men...God does
- Jesus of Nazareth has power over disease...God does

In Episode #1 we see

- men of faith...  
4+ 1 = 5 examples of Gal 6:1-2 (love and grace)
- men of unbelief...  
”blown away” by things contrary to their expectation...  
yet unable or unwilling to set aside their expectation  
(the old, the preconceived) in order to receive by faith  
the new (John 1:14) in spite of all the evidence/prophesies

v13 He went forth again...taught them:  
Episode #2

Jesus goes to another location...one with more room...  
and the crowd again gathers to Him  
And He goes right back to the Father’s business...He taught them...  
His #1 Priority is the Word of God  
Since He is The Word of God, He is revealing Himself to them

v14 He saw Levi...Follow me:  
Jesus saw Matthew (Matt 9:9) at his work...as a tax collector

Tax Collectors

locals, agents of Rome given a revenue target  
any thing above that target was all theirs  
despised and considered to be traitors by the people oppressed  
by Rome  
very prosperous

To a tax collector Jesus says, “Give up your worldly prosperity and follow  
Me...and be prosperous in the Kingdom of God.”

A diametrically opposed message to that of today’s health-and-wealth  
preachers who are fleecing the flock and enriching themselves,  
just like Rome’s tax collectors did

Matthew abandoned his worldly business...left his prosperity...  
to follow Jesus

This is how we are to respond to the call of Jesus:  
forsake the things of the world and follow Him,  
Who leads us by example

The 12 Apostles (including a tax collector and a Zealot!) were  
Follow-the-Leader leaders

v15 many publicans and sinners...followed Him:  
At Matthew's house is another gathering...of many  
tax collectors and sinners...the social lepers...  
who have learned a life-cleansing lesson:

Life is better when you give it up...(Matt 16:24-26)  
Life is better when you forsake the world and follow Jesus

Who follows Jesus?  
Only forgiven sinners.  
Who does not follow Jesus?  
Unforgiven sinners (Eph 2:8-9)

v16 the scribes and the Pharisees:  
This gathering elicits 2 reactions...  
neither of them "direct" but "back door"

Reaction #1:  
by the religious leadership...the scribes and the Hasmonian  
priesthood...  
and they challenge Jesus' disciples about Jesus' associations

"If he were a righteous man...a man of God as he claims...he would not  
commune with these contemptible losers."

Note: Got a problem with someone?  
Be a "man" and go directly to them!

v17 When Jesus heard it:  
They were not speaking to Him but...Jesus hears all  
Busted! Without speaking a word to Him

His response to the "policemen and judges" who condemned the people:  
"I, the Physician Who heals, call not the blameless and innocent to  
repentance but the vile and guilty."

The Good Shepherd loves the sheep...the hirelings despise them

Of course, the religious leadership fall into the "sinners" category...  
But they see things differently...

v18 disciples of John and of the Pharisees:

Reaction #2:

by the followers of John the Baptist and the followers of the  
Hasmonian priests...  
they question Jesus about the actions of His followers

v19-20 they cannot fast:

Jesus' response...relating to them in terms they would understand:

“It is not possible for them to fast! The children of the bridechamber  
(bridal room used by the Bride) celebrate rather than mourn as  
long as the Bridegroom (I AM the Bridegroom) is with them.  
When the Bridegroom is ‘lifted off’ (literally!), then they shall fast and  
mourn.”

They should have listened to their follow-the-Leader leader

John the Baptist said, John 3:25-30

v21-22 new cloth...new wine:

“You guys...the old...fast. These guys...the new...celebrate then fast.

You do not repair a torn, old, shrunken garment with a patch of new  
cloth...because the new cloth will shrink and make the tear even  
worse.

You not put unfermented wine in stretched-out wineskins because the  
fermentation process will destroy the wineskins and the wine will  
be lost.”

What is Jesus talking about?

Jer 31:31-33

John 1:17

His #1 Priority...

Preaching and Teaching the Word of God

The Father's business...

seeking and saving lost sheep



Last time,

2 of the 4 “run-ins with the religious leadership of the Jews that teach us:

1. Jesus knows all
2. Jesus hears all

v23 corn fields on the Sabbath day:  
Episode #3

Where is Jesus and His followers going?

Doesn't say

The rabbinic interpretation/teaching on the Sabbath included:

No man shall walk in a field to do services for himself on the Sabbath.

He shall not walk more than a thousand cubits [= 500 yards] from his town.

No man shall eat on the Sabbath day except what was already prepared. Nor from what was lost in a field.

And he shall not eat and drink except in the camp...

[Dead Sea Scrolls, Damascus Covenant \(CD\) 10.20-23](#)

"And one may pluck (grain) by hand and eat,  
but only if one plucks without a utensil;  
and one may rub [*matal* = "husk"] and eat,  
but only if he does not rub a lot in a utensil."

[\(Rabbi Judah \(ben El'ai\)](#)

"One may rub with the tips of his fingers and eat,  
but only if he does not rub a lot with his hands  
in the way he does on a weekday."

[Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat<sup>h</sup> 128a](#)

Are Jesus and His followers

walking further than a Sabbath's Day walk? (500 yds, 1/3 mi)

Yes, because the followers get hungry and eat

eating something other than what had already been prepared?

Yes

eating outside the camp?

Yes

reaping “a lot” in the way one does on a week day?

That's subject to interpretation

v24 the Pharisees said unto Him:  
the Hasmonian priests object to the followers of Jesus violating the Sabbath...

Q: In all the ways just mentioned or just in selective ways?  
They do not elaborate on their charge...their words are more of a  
“broad brush” accusation of Ex 31:14-16

Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it *is* holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth *any* work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Six days may work be done; but in the seventh *is* the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth *any* work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for* a perpetual covenant.

Q: According to what authority has the Sabbath been violated?

- the Word of God...the Spirit of the Law
- the traditions of men/rabbinic teachings...the Letter of the Law

Q: Why are the Pharisees following Jesus? As “disciples”?  
No, as “bookkeepers.”  
They are “keeping book” on Him, looking for justification to neutralize the threat posed by this itinerant preacher

Q: Since they are following Jesus, are they also guilty of walking further than a Sabbath walk?  
Yes!  
They are not able to even keep their own standard, let alone God’s  
(Rabbi Saul of Tarsus wrote about that in Rom 2)

v25-26 Have ye never read:

Jesus responds not with the Letter of the Law but in the Spirit of the Law.  
He cites the written Word of God because Scripture interprets Scripture,  
man does not...the Holy Spirit is the Teacher, man is not

the response is very interesting and piercing in  
what is said  
what is not said but most certainly implied

What is said...an application of God's love and provision for His anointed

1 Sam 20 David is fleeing King Saul, the people's choice

1 Sam 21 David came to the priest Ahimelech...  
takes the showbread to feed his men...

What is not said...the rest of the story

1 Sam 21 and is seen by/ratted out by Doeg the Edomite

1 Sam 22 King Saul kills the priests of God  
Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech the son of **Ahitub**,  
escapes with the ephod (worn only by the  
High Priest) and flees to David...  
rightful priest and rightful king, together

2 Sam 8:17 David is King, reigning in judgment and justice  
The priests are **Zadok** (son of **Ahitub**) and  
**Ahimelech** (son of Abiathar son of  
Ahimelech son of **Ahitub**)

"Abiathar was a rightful priest...you are usurpers, false priests!"  
"I AM the Son of David and I will reign in judgment and justice."  
(later...Ch 11:27-33)

v27 the Sabbath was made for man:

a "T3"...Jesus teaches the teachers how to interpret Scripture

The Sabbath came into being for the benefit of man...

- to give him a much needed physical rest
- to refresh him spiritually
- to refocus him on the LORD

Man, created in the image of God, was not created for the benefit of the  
Sabbath

he was created BEFORE the Sabbath...therefore is "greater"  
beloved creature is more important than a dimension (time)  
of the physical creation

v28 the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath:

“The Son of man...the Son of David...the Messiah...is Lord

- Master of
- Supreme Authority over
- greater than
- above

man...as well as the Law.

I AM the Lawgiver.”

Jesus knows all

Jesus hears all

Jesus is LORD of all

Next, Episode #4...

## Mark Chapter 3

v1 He entered again into the synagogue:  
Episode #4

again, Jesus goes into the synagogue in Capernaum, the “religious place”  
thought to be the “home court” by the Pharisees

there was a man there with a withered hand:  
present in the synagogue was a man with a shriveled hand

Everybody knows this man, everybody knows his need.  
His affliction did not happen today, he’s had this condition for some time.  
Who will come alongside to help him?

v2 they watched him:  
the Pharisees, aware of the afflicted man, are instead watching Jesus  
“inspecting, insidiously and scrupulously”...  
watching meticulously with the harmful intent to entrap

Jesus is being “set up”...trapped by the wolves

What is the trap?  
Will Jesus heal this man on the Sabbath?

Why is this a “set up”?

- The Pharisees know Jesus of Nazareth can heal this man...  
they are well aware of His healing ministry to date  
(there are NO healing ministries on TBN, only circuses)
- The Pharisees know Jesus of Nazareth will heal this man now,  
on the Sabbath...
- And, since it is illegal to heal on the Sabbath, they will  
“have Him”, they will be able to bring a legal charge  
against Him with witnesses

(On the Sabbath) one is not to work on an infant or set a  
fracture. If one dislocated his hand or foot, he may not  
pour cold water on it; but he may wash it in his (usual)  
way. And if he is healed, he is healed.

[Mishna, \*Shabbat\*<sup>h</sup> 22.6](#)

However, also proven/established:

Jesus of Nazareth knows the hearts and thoughts of men

So...the Pharisees...the wolves in sheep's clothing...are absolutely irrational in their "stalking" of Jesus!

How can men who are surprised and amazed (Mark 2:12) ever expect to surprise/spring a trap on Him who knows their very thoughts?

v3-4 Stand forth:

Sure enough, without them speaking a word, Jesus knows what they are up to, what they are thinking.

Never One to

- turn His back on someone in need
- pass over a teaching moment
- not rebuke evil

Jesus tells the afflicted man to "Stand in the midst" of all present in the synagogue

Is it lawful:

Then, He asks the religious leaders a simple, straight forward question:

"On the Sabbath day, is it legal

To do good...help others who need help...

or

to do evil...help yourself at the expense of others?

To save life...to heal, protect, preserve, and deliver...

or

to kill...destroy?"

Their answer is stony silence, which in this case, is not golden

Their silence is not based in the conviction of their heart but in their defiance

self-righteousness

hatred of Jesus of Nazareth

v5 looked round about on them with anger:  
He knows their hearts...they don't know His

What is in Jesus' heart?

- compassion for the man with a shriveled hand
- anger...ire...for the legalists who have no compassion

Jesus looked every person right in the eye...and was angry because of their callous, unloving, hypocritical, and self-righteous hearts... they had the heart of wolves

Jesus is angry with the heart of the false shepherds toward His flock...

- He defies their legalism
- He is angry with their hypocrisy

Matt 12:9-13

Answer: all of them would lift it out

Yet the rabbis taught:

No man shall help a beast give birth on the Sabbath day; and if it falls in a pit <sup>14</sup> or a hollow, he shall not lift it out on the Sabbath.

[Dead Sea Scrolls, Damascus Covenant \(CD\) 11.13-14](#)

Woe!

Matt 11:28-30 vs Matt 23:1-15, 23-28, 33

Warning: the leaven of the Pharisees is widespread in "the Church"

Stretch forth:

His attention back on the man in need, Jesus commands a simple act...  
"Stretch out your hand...show everybody your hand."

Whoa!

The man obeys by faith...  
and by the spoken Word of God his hand is completely healed...  
"bara-like"

Jesus' answer to His question:

It is legal to do good and to save on the Sabbath

v6      Pharisees...took counsel...destroy him:  
          The Pharisees immediately conspire with the Herodians  
          (enemies except when it came to Jesus because both were  
          threatened by Him)  
          on a way to kill Jesus...

          The Pharisees answer to Jesus' question:  
          It is better to kill those who threaten your luxurious and  
          influential lifestyle, even if that One has the power to

- heal every disease
- cast out demons
- hear the thoughts of men
- know the hearts of men
- forgive the sins of men

Clearly those who oppose the love and grace of Jesus Christ are not in their right mind

Jesus

1. knows all (Episode #1)
2. hears all (Episode #2)
3. is all (Episode #3)
4. is angry (Episode #4)

The Jews (self-righteous religious leadership) take issue with Jesus  
forgiving man's sins (2:5-11)  
the company He kept (2:14-17)

- violating the Sabbath (2:23 – 3:6)

The issues start with the forgiving of sins and end with the violations of the Sabbath...  
the Jews never forgave Jesus...they never let it rest

Their

- Position of power and influence
- Wealth

are threatened by Jesus of Nazareth

Thus, their conclusion: Jesus must die



Thus, the beginning of a very intense conflict between the

the Good Shepherd and the wolves

the usurpers who would unlawfully be both priest and king and the Way, the Truth, and the Life Who alone is the Rightful King and our High Priest

the “keepers of the Law” who used the Law as a great weight with which to burden/control the people and the Lawgiver Who gave it to protect His flock and to point them to Him

The beginning of a bitter conflict of hearts that ends with

the false shepherds saying, “Let His blood be on us and our children.”

The Good Shepherd saying, “Father, forgive them. They know not what they do.”

v7-8 But Jesus withdrew Himself:

After the Pharisees fled from him to go conspire with the Herodians on how to kill him,

- Did Jesus follow them?
- Did He seek to get them before they got Him?
- Did He pursue vengeance at that time?

No...Jesus walked away...

He has the Father's will/business to do...  
and Scriptures must be fulfilled

So He takes His "learners" to the Sea of Galilee

and a great multitude from:

a great crowd of all types of people from all over the region flock to Him

- Galilee
- Judea (south)
- Jerusalem
- Idumea (south of Jerusalem)
- east of the Jordan River
- Tyre and Sidon (north...Gentile lands)

a great multitude when:

Why did they come from all over?

Because they had heard what wonderful things He has done...

"I want some of that" folks vs "learners"

v9-10 a small ship should wait on him:

The multitude pressed upon Jesus, desperate to "grasp" Him and be healed by Him as had so many others

Note: Jesus had a genuine "healing ministry."

There are no such things on TBN, only circuses.

So large was the crowd, so great was their crush upon Him that the disciples put Jesus on a boat like the one at Ginosar.

From upon a boat on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus taught/spoke to His disciples

v11-12 unclean spirits...fell down before Him:

Included in the great crowd were some who were demon-possessed.

When the demons saw Jesus...they knew Who He was

When they just looked upon Him...

they must have been able to see the glory of God

muffled to human eyes by a body of clay,

except once when Jesus' Inner Circle was given a glimpse

(Matt 17:1-8)

they fell down before Him.

They are not falling down in worship/devotion/adoration but

because they must...

they have no choice but to submit to His Lordship and prostrate

themselves in His presence...

(Just as must every unbeliever; Phil 2:9-11)

They proclaimed that which they knew...and Jesus then shuts them up...

because the revelation of Who He is comes by the Holy Spirit

(1 Cor 12:3), not by unclean spirits

v13 calleth whom he would:

From there, Jesus went to an unspecified mountain (Mount of Beatitudes),  
inviting those He chose.

He did not summon the great multitude, He did not invite everyone...

only those determined by His will

And those who were called accepted the invitation

v14-15 he ordained twelve, that:

Of the followers, Jesus chose (John 15:16) 12 that

- He would have accompany Him...  
to hear and learn (eyes, ears, hearts)
- He would sent...to do (feet, hands, mouths)
  1. Preach the Good News – forgiveness of sins, saved by  
grace thru faith in Jesus of Nazareth
  2. Heal sicknesses – physical healings by His power
  3. Cast out demons – spiritual healings by His power

These chosen 12 were to be doers of the Word, not just hearers only...

as written by James under inspiration of the Holy Spirit after the  
revelation of Who Jesus is to His half-brother (post-v21, 31-35)

v16-19a His chosen are:

Simon aka Peter: “author” of this, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gospel (1<sup>st</sup> written)  
Why is he listed first?

Because he has the strongest faith?

No, he cowered before a servant girl and denied the  
LORD 3 times

(John may have been the most spiritually attuned)

Because he was first sequentially?

No, his brother Andrew and another disciple of  
John were (John 1:35-42)

Because he was sovereignly chosen to be first?

Yes

James: Jacob

John: Jochanan, brother of Jacob, author of the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel  
aka “sons of commotion”, Sons of Thunder

Andrew: Andreas, Simon Peter’s brother

Philip: “Show us the Father” (John 14:6-11) and  
sent to the Ethiopian eunuch once persecution began in  
Jerusalem (Acts 8)

Bartholomew: “son of Tolmai”

Matthew: aka Levi, tax collector and author of the 1<sup>st</sup> Gospel

Thomas” “Doubting” “twin”

James son of Alphaeus: another Jacob

Thaddaeus: Lubbaeus aka Thaddaeus (Matt)  
Judas son of James (Luke)  
Judas not Iscariot (John)

Simon the Canaanite: 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon, a Zealot (Luke);  
“Canaanite” = zealous, Zealots were super patriots  
Jesus is LORD! A Zealot and a tax collector were  
“brothers-in-arms” for Jesus!

Judas Iscariot: Jesus chose him?!  
John 17:6-12

v19b in that little white space on the page between “him” and “and” is the SOM  
(Matt 5-7), arguably the LORD’s most important teaching

Thus far today teaching

- from a boat on the Galilee
- on the Mount of Beatitudes

Jesus continues in a house, probably in Capernaum (Peter’s?)

v20-22 And the multitude...his friends...the scribes:

There are 3 reactions to the teachings of the LORD

the multitude that can to “grasp” Him:

they reconvened in such force that Jesus and his disciples  
were unable to even eat...

packing this house like sardines just like they did Peter’s  
house in Ch 2

notice that Jesus does not say, “Excuse me, could you call  
back after dinner or come back when I’m not  
busy?”

they are more important to Him than the meal He no doubt  
needed

“his own people”/family:

they went to retrieve Him, thinking He was out of His mind  
(they show up in v31)

the scribes:

not thinking clearly and making an inflammatory statement,  
say He

- is possessed by the “dung god” aka Satan
- casts out devils by the power of Satan

v23-27 How can Satan cast out Satan:

Jesus, once again, reasons with the scribes

“How does that work?

Is Satan able to do that?

If he is, why would he?

Does what you say even make sense?

Let’s think people. Think.”

The LORD makes His point by making 3 comparisons

1. a kingdom in opposition to itself will surely fall
2. a family opposing itself will disintegrate
3. Satan opposing himself will lose his kingdom

To the contrary, rather than casting out demons by the power of Satan,  
Jesus declares that He

- has tied up and bound Satan...  
is stronger than the strongman!
- is now attacking his world ie. taking back those who  
rightfully belong to Him

v28-30 All sins shall be forgiven:

Now directly addressing the scribes and their inflammatory charge, Jesus zeroes in on “the unpardonable sin”

ALL sins will be forgiven

- pardoned, paid for by the blood of the Lamb of God Who came to take away the sins of the world
- including blasphemies against the Father and the Son

EXCEPT blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

What is the “unpardonable sin”?

What sin did Jesus not die for?

What sin cannot be covered by the blood of the Lamb?

Unbelief in Jesus Christ, the Son of God

The payment for that sin must be paid for by the blood/eternal life of the one who refuses to believe

The “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit” is understood by seeing the shadows in Gen 24...

choosing to refuse the invitation of the unnamed Servant...

- Who was sent by the Father
- Who testified of the Son
- Who issued a marriage proposal of the Son
- Who is the Servant of the Father and the Son

responding to the Holy Spirit with,

- I reject the offering of the Son as my substitute.  
(Gen 22)
- I will NOT go with the Father’s servant.  
(Gen 24:58)
- I choose to remain in this distant land forsaken by the Father.

choosing to refuse

the testimony of the Son

joint-heirship with the Son

the words of the Son...proclaiming I AM

the works on the Son...proclaiming I AM

Unbelief in Jesus Christ is the unforgivable sin

v31 Then came his brethren and his mother:

Who is Jesus with in the house?

His disciples/followers/”learners”

Who now appears outside the house?

His mother Mary and her other children...

His “half-brothers and half-sisters”

Brethren:

- brother from the same womb
- the children of Joseph and Mary...

Mary is NOT the “Ever-Virgin” as Roman Catholic Church teaches

That dogma was contrived by goddess worshippers who magnified Mary to Queen of Heaven

v32-33 Who is my mother and brethren:

Jesus of course knew what His half-siblings thought about Him  
now (v21)  
for some time yet to come (John 7:1-8)

Always teaching, when His earthly family's arrival is announced,  
He asks a simple question...

v34-35 whosoever shall do the will of God:

“You all are My mother and My brethren!”

Note: brethren = brother and sister...by the same mother

Jesus redefines the word “family”...those

- not those related by Adam's blood but those related by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam's blood...
- born of the Spirit, not of the flesh...
- born of the will of God, not the will of men...
- whosoever chooses to the Father's choice...  
and His name is not Joseph, it's YHWH
- whosoever believes in Jesus becomes a son of God and will not  
perish but have everlasting life
- whosoever accepts the marriage proposal of the Son and  
follows the unnamed Servant

“My family are those who love My Father....

those who hear and do...obey My commands...are in My family.”



## Mark Chapter 4

After teaching about

- blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, the unpardonable sin
- the true definition of “family”

...

v1-2 again to teach...many things by parables:

His manner of teaching is repeated –

from a boat on the Sea of Galilee to a multitude onshore to maximize the number who could hear Him

His method for public instruction now changes –

It started with the “unforgivable sin” (Ch 3:23)...

Jesus now teaches publicly primarily in parables (v33-34)...

What is a parable?

A fictitious comparison of spiritual things to common things

Jesus taught 38 parables

- 20 of which are recorded in Matthew
- 9 in Mark
- 27 in Luke

4 of the 9 in Mark are in this chapter

Parables are very much like metaphors and similes

- metaphor: You are the light of the world (a “statement”)
- simile: as a lamb before her shearer is dumb (“confined” comparison)
- parable: a “long”, detailed simile, almost a short story

Purpose of a parable:

1. To instruct truth in a very memorable way (His disciples)
2. To obscure truth (His enemies “auditing” His class)

How to interpret parables:

- Context, context, context
- Scripture interprets Scripture
- Where symbolic language is used, the LORD defines the symbols

v3-9 Parable of the Sower

Starts with: “Hear!”

Comparison: Sower to sow...casting seed (demonstrate)

The seed landed on 4 kinds of soil

the wayside/road

no soil...only the hard pavement  
birds descend  
devoured all the seed sown there

stony soil

shallow soil  
conducive to quick germination  
insufficient soil for sustained, enduring growth  
with arrival of lots of heat, is scorched and withers  
away...dead

thorny soil

- germination
- but growth is choked out by the sturdy, hearty thorns
- bears no fruit

good soil

- germination
- sustained, enduring growth
- fruitful

Ends with:

- “Hear!”
- The “signature” phrase of Rev 2-3 and other important teachings of Jesus

The “alpha” and “omega” is both a command and a warning:  
Understand!

We are accountable to know what this parable means

v10 when he was alone:

After the public teaching, in a more private time, His disciples and those with them who heard the parable and its warning but did not understand...ask Him to explain it

v11-12 Unto you it is given to know...but unto them that are without:  
Jesus begins His explanation/teaching by explaining why He is now  
teaching in parables:

To fulfill Scripture...Is 6:9-10

the purpose of parables

1. to reveal truth, to teach the believer

“You...who hear and follow Me...are given the gift of  
knowledge and understanding of the Kingdom of God.”

Mystery: something heretofore kept secret now being  
revealed...a silence broken

Entrance into the Kingdom of God requires:

- Faith in Jesus Christ...God our Savior  
(remember the man afflicted with palsy and  
his 4 friends...sins forgiven)
- Conversion/healing...born again of the Spirit
- Forgiveness of sins...cleansing and restoration  
(remember the healing of the leper)

2. to conceal truth, to confound the unbeliever

“They...who do not hear and follow Me...will not

- understand
- put their faith in Me
- be healed (spiritually...forgiveness of sin)
- be given entrance into the Kingdom of God.”

Who are the “they”?

- most of the multitude  
(“I want some of that!” vs “learners”)
- the religious leadership  
(keeping book on, challenging, slandering Jesus)
- the estranged, those not in His family  
(who do the will of His Father)

v13 Know ye not:  
the foundation being laid, Jesus now teaches the importance of this particular parable, the Parable of the Sower

“If you do not understand this parable, you will not understand anything I teach from here on.”

this parable is the key to understanding all the parables...therefore the symbolic language is explained by Him and established here

v14 sower soweth the word:  
Sowers sow seed...seed = the Word of God  
Regenerative Life in is the seed (Gen 1:11-12), the Word of God

v15 by the way side:  
Soil #1 is actually the road...  
the hard pavement where nothing grows but weeds

birds = Satan and his demons  
hearts = soil  
devoured it all: without hesitation, demons swoop down to “eat” that which would produce faith in any who hears it (Rom 10:17)...  
Satan snatches away the seed before it ends up in good soil

2 Cor 4:3-4  
1 Cor 1:18a

v16-17 stony ground:  
Soil #2  
shallow soil = heart with not much depth, no room for strong, stabilizing, nurturing roots for the seed  
conducive to quick germination = an emotional experience  
but insufficient soil for sustained, enduring growth:  
due to the lack of depth for a root structure, nothing of substance grows from the seed and the experience is short-lived  
with arrival of lots of heat, is scorched, withers away, dies:  
when the promised “intense heat” of trials, tribulations, and persecutions by “Adam’s family and friends” comes, they fall away...are apostate, denying His Name and His Word

v18-19 thorny soil:

Soil #3

- thorns = sign of the curse (Gen 3:17-19)
- germination: they hear the Word...even respond to it
- but growth is choked out by the sturdy, hearty thorns that enter into the heart:

cares of this world: worries and distractions of fleeting things

Matt 6:25-33

deceitfulness of riches: delusion of money

Matt 6:24

1 Tim 6:6-10

lusts of other things

James 1:8, 13-18

James 4:3-4

1 John 2:15-17

- bears no fruit: the heart is a barren wasteland where the Word is choked by the flesh and the world before it can blossom and bear fruit

John 15:1-2a, 6

Mark 11:12-14, 19-22

Matt 7:16-27

v20 good soil:

Soil #4

- germination: hear/understand...receive/believe...hear and do  
James 1:22
- sustained, enduring growth: Is 55:10-11
  - a. guarding their heart and mind from the flesh, world, and Satan (Rom 12:1-2)
  - b. governed by what they know vs what they feel (1 John)
  - c. endure the intense heat of trials and tribulations and persecution (Matt 5:10-12)
  - d. steadfast, grounded, faithful to His Word and His Name
  - e. in the world but not of the world
  - f. learned to be content
  - g. faithful steward

- bears much fruit...abiding in Jesus

John 15:4-5

Gal 5:22-24

Why some 30, some 60, and some 100?

Time as a born-again Christian?

Not necessarily...consider

Long-time carnal vs new “on fire”, sold-out

Sovereignty of God?

Yes

Degree of submission to LORDship of Jesus Christ?

Yes, degree of John 3:30 and Matt 16:24

How many of the 4 kinds of soil are really saved?

Only the good soil are His mother and brethren, His family (Ch 3:31-35)

- hear...understand
- do...receive
- bear fruit

The hard pavement, the stony soil, and the thorny soil are His footstool  
(Ps 110:1)

Can you put a face on these 4 kinds of hearts?

the wayside/road...the hard pavement

- “Adam’s family and friends”
- people at work...in the neighborhood
- some who come to church...can see their heart in eyes and nervous fidgeting
- foul, obscene people
- “normal” people
- good, moral people...hell is full of good people who never accepted Jesus as LORD and Savior

Rom 3:10, 23

1 Cor 6:9-10

Rev 22:15

Matt 12:30

stony soil

- those who show up here...touched and are all excited... proclaim they certainly will be back next week... never see them again
- those who come for a few weeks...and just drift away because life is still hard and “being a Christian” got too “hot”
- those not grounded in...governed by...the Word of God but just “playing church” and giving Jesus “lip service” vs “heart service”
- I believe a great many who call themselves “Christians”

thorny soil

- ditto stony soil...but were drawn away by money and the materialism of the world
- I believe a great many who call themselves “Christians”

good soil

- do not forsake the assembly of the faithful
- growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ
- hungry and thirsty for righteousness
- build with gold, silver, and precious stones  
(1 Cor 3:10-12a)
- those whose Christian walk is flat and smooth in spite of “roller coaster” circumstances

Where can you see your face?

As a child of God, I grieve over those who choose to be His footstool

- aggressively or passively reject the love and grace of God
- lip-servers not grounded in the Word
- chose to allow the flesh and the world to choke out the Word

But...I was one of those lost people for 34 years

So we keep sowing the seed and watering it

Luke 13:6-9

Acts 2:47, Acts 16:5

As a Pastor, I grieve the most over those in the Family who

- are inconsistent and undependable in their walk with the LORD
- run hot and cold and lukewarm, depending on the circumstances of their lives (governed more by their emotions than by the Word)
- know the power and glory of Jesus Christ yet do not depend on Him
- are still babes in Christ in spite of all the meals they have eaten here (1 Cor 3:1-3a) i.e. not much fruit
- are foolish builders (1 Cor 3:10-15)
- are not sold-out and on-fire...have more “decreasing” to do

So I keep working the soil, sowing the seed, and watering...because

- Jesus builds His Church
- The increase belongs to God (1 Cor 3:6-7)
- God conforms his children into the image of His Only Begotten Son
- God has started a good work in each of us and is faithful to complete it

What kind of soil is your heart?

Are you saved?

Do you hear?

Do you do?

Are you fruitful?

Are you sold-out?

Are you allowing the LORD to change your heart...to pull out the stones and thorns in order to bear fruit in your life?

Will you hear:

- Matt 7:23...because you have deceived yourself into thinking you are OK when you really are not?
- Matt 25:21, 23...because hear and do, bear fruit?



v21-23 Parable #2: the Light  
candle = "light"

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5)

Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12)

What is the purpose of a light?

- To be controlled and distributed for gain?  
(bushel = a measure of dry goods)

No...it is to be unrestrained and shared liberally with all

- To be hidden (under a bed)?  
No...to chase away the darkness

It is foolish to try to hide a light...light cannot be hidden  
The light will burn the bed (straw)

- To chase away the darkness and reveal things hidden?  
Yes

The Light of the World reveals all things hidden

The darkness in a man's heart

Jesus has already repeatedly revealed the unspoken  
thoughts of men

Jesus has already taught that motives count (SoM)

Heb 4:12      discerner of the thoughts/intents of heart

The Father to man

Matt 11:27

John 14:6-11

The true nature of our walk with Him

1 John 1:6-8

Therefore, there are no secrets from the all-knowing, all-seeing God

Luke 12:2-3

There is no such thing as a "secret sin"

Man tries to hide his sin...

given a conscience by God, he knows what is right  
and what is wrong.

But sin cannot be hidden.

We are all naked before our Creator.

Perhaps you can hide from man, but not from God! (Num 32:23)

Secrets are a deception of Satan

v23-25 We have been warned...we all have ears

The Lord takes this opportunity to issue a warning to those who have heard His words

“Listen carefully. You are now accountable for what you know. The more you receive (believe), the more you will be given. If you do not receive, all will be taken away.”

Matt 7:24-27

Luke 12:42-48

We have been given much...

We are now accountable for understanding these parables... for we have ears and have heard

On the flip side...

the Lord gives to those that desire...and liberally, in greater quantity than they desire.

e.g. wisdom (James 1:5), faith, understanding

v26-29 Parable #3: The Seed

Scripture interprets Scripture

Understanding of the Parable of the Sower “reveals” the other parables

Seed = The Word of God

Regenerative Life is in the Seed

The “DNA” coded by the Creator

Ground = soil, man’s heart

How does the Seed “work”?

A man (Sower) casts it (shares it) into the ground (soil, of which there are 4 types)

The man carries on his other duties day after day, not knowing what is happening with the seed hidden in the soil...

But that does not mean nothing is happening (Is 55:10-11)

- Buried in the earth, the seed dies...is “at rest”
- The LORD sends the rain to water it
- Life springs forth from it (germination)

The New Life

- Sprouts
- Continues to grow...also requiring water
- Bears fruit

When it has born fruit, the Sower harvests the yield

- Cut
- Separate the fruit from the chaff
- Burn the chaff
- Bring the fruit into his house

Note: a warning regarding the harvest: Gal 6:7-8

Who does the work...the sower or the Creator?

Matt 16:18

1 Cor 3:7 it’s all Him!

Yet the Sower is The Creator is The Seed is the Harvester

Luke 3:16-17

the mystery of spiritual growth before the harvest:

1. planted
2. watered
3. death
4. life...even abundant life
5. fruit

v30-32 Parable #4: Mustard Seed

“To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God?”  
comparison = “parable”

mustard seed: a tiny seed, the smallest of seeds  
mustard:

- an erect, branched plant, usually from one to three feet high
- an herb used as a spice and in medicinal ways
- NEVER grows as large as a tree, NEVER sturdy enough to house “guests”

birds: demons (also Eph 2:2)

lodge: “inhabit”

shadow: literal or figurative...”darkness of error”

The Kingdom of God:

Luke 17:20-21

Rom 14:17

The Church, the Family of Jesus Christ by faith in Him, is compared to a mustard plant that became a tree housing demons...  
a corruption of what God intended

1 Tim 4:1-5

- lies of hypocrisy: the traditions of men making void the Word of God
- forbidding to marry: celibacy of the priesthood (resulting in a lust covered up)
- abstain from meats even though God has cleansed it: Lent (prior, every Friday)

The Roman Church is NOT Biblical Christianity...  
it is a corrupted form of it

v33-34 Henceforth, the LORD’s M.O. for His public ministry

Those who had ears to hear heard the explanation of these things

v35-36 Let us pass over:

At the end of the day that He taught the Kingdom Parables...  
and every kingdom has a King...  
Jesus directs His disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee...  
from the north shore to the east shore

Jesus is already in a boat, where He has been teaching the multitude.  
So the disciples push off...followed by a little armada

v37-38 arose a great storm of wind:

this happens frequently on the Sea of Galilee, where cool winds from  
Med Sea meet the hot winds of the Jordanian desert  
The professional fishermen have experienced such a thing countless times  
(we have too!)

This storm is not like one of those...this one is of such a fury  
(great = "mega")  
that the boat is filling with water...  
and the professional fishermen are fearing for their very lives!

Where is Jesus?

- In the stern of the boat...
- Sound asleep on a seat cushion, exhausted from the work of His ministry to the needy multitudes

What is happening?

Attempted Murder

The opportunistic destroyer (Eph 2:2) is trying to murder  
the Seed of the Woman and His followers

But the disciples are not spiritually discerned...

they are simply terrified of this overwhelming, killer storm

Can you relate to the disciples?

Have you been going somewhere with Jesus when a violent storm  
surprises and overwhelms you?

- Being served divorce papers
- Losing a job
- A fire or a tornado destroys your home
- A heart attack
- A diagnosis of cancer

"Lord! Wake up! How can You sleep at a time like this?  
Do You not care that this is killing me?!"

v39 He arose, and rebuked:

Notice that Jesus does not wake up “with His hair on fire.”

Calmly, Jesus got up and rebuked

- the wind...the prince of the power of the air who was assaulting His friends
- the sea...that had been whipped into a frenzy by the wind and they were calmed...  
as calm as He, the Creator

instantly...the raging sea was like a pane of glass...a sea of tranquility

How?

Merely by His spoken Word

Peace: “an involuntary stillness”

Contrary to the will of satan, the wind was hushed

How is the violent storm that has besieged you calmed?

By the Word of God

Jesus was calm here and in complete control...and He still is!

v40 Why are ye so fearful:

“Why are you faith-less?

How is it that you can have no faith?

Do you not remember

- the healing of the leper and ALL who were sick?
- the casting out of demons?
- the knowing the thoughts of men?
- the forgiveness of sins?
- The LORD of the Sabbath?
- all the teachings?

All those words and deeds say that neither physical world nor spiritual world is greater than Me.”

“Do you not remember My last command (v35)?”

- us...you and Me, not Me without you or you without Me
- over...not part way, only to meet a life-ending disaster

“Do you think I would let anything happen to you but that which I allow?”

In the midst of your storm, remember

- How the LORD saved you from death and hell
- The previous storms in your life He has calmed
- His promise to never leave you nor forsake you
- His Word to you, "Peace. Be still and know that I AM God."  
(Ps 46:10)...same word spoken to the wind and the sea

fear is a corrupted faith...believing the circumstance is bigger than God  
fear and faith cannot co-exist...a choice must be made

- fear is an emotion...what you feel...fleeting and deceptive
- faith is what you know by the Word of God, Who cannot lie and is unchanging

v41 they feared exceedingly:

Did the LORD's words calm his disciples as they did  
the wind and the sea?

No!

What He just did "rocked" their world...  
and they are not yet able to process what He said!

Their question is of paramount importance to every man...  
What manner of Man is this?!

- Like them  
100% man  
Hunger...thirst...weariness/exhaustion  
Physical, tangible  
(Phil 2:5-8, John 1:14, 1 John 1:1)  
If cut, He bled
- Radically different than them  
100% God  
Creator  
(John 1:1-3, Col 1:15-17, Heb 1:1-3, 8-9)  
Without sin  
(Heb 4:15, Is 59:1)  
Fear-less and in complete control of all things  
Knows the hearts of men  
Never sleeps, is not slack (Ps 121:4)  
Lawgiver  
LORD God Almighty  
I AM  
Jehovah  
the God of AI&J

Had the disciples been more familiar with, intimate with, the Word of God, they would have realized that they were the very fulfillment of prophesy!

Ps 107:21-30

If we are more familiar with, intimate with, the Word of God, we would realize that also

There is no greater power on earth than the Word of God...  
why are we so fearful?  
Because we listen to and give way to our emotions

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, satan desires to murder you also  
But he can't touch you because you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit of God

However...storms are allowed by God to test and grow our faith in Him.  
In the midst of storms we learn that Jesus is our strength, peace,  
fortress, life  
Jesus is with us in the midst of every storm.  
No storm is greater than Jesus

Peter would later write

1 Peter 1:3-7

1 Peter 5:6-10

[ testimony ]

- LASD (sales cycle, control...)
- Louis Neely (terminal cancer, felt His touch, 0.00016%)

Jesus Christ is able to calm the storms  
Other times, He walks above the storms and invites us to walk with Him



## Mark Chapter 5

What happens next...after calming the wind and the sea...

should leave absolutely know doubt as to the answer to the question in Ch 4:41

v1 came over unto the other side:

now sailing on smooth waters, the little armada reaches the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee...the region called the Gadarenes

v2-5 a man with an unclean spirit:

the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, like the western shore, is characterized by steep hills (the other side of the Rift Valley)

at one place on the eastern shore there are caves...tombs

Jesus and his men are immediately greeted by a demon-possessed man coming out from one of those caves

Matthew's account says there were two such men (Matt 8:28-34)  
The Bible contradicts itself? No

- Where there are 2 there is also 1
- Mark/Peter and Luke focus on the most severely afflicted of the two...and records the effect of his encounter with Jesus (Matthew makes no mention)

The demon-possessed man:

1. lived in the caves
2. had been frequently bound with shackles and chains because of his "madman" condition
3. had repeatedly, with superhuman strength, broken (pulled in pieces) those chains and shackles  
(In Mark 3:27, Jesus referred to Satan as the Strongman)
4. ripped off his clothes also (nakedness = shame)
5. was wild and utterly uncontrollable...  
as if he were a 5'5" King Kong or a "Tasmanian devil"
6. was tormented day and night...screaming and a bloody mess  
(basalt stones – very hard and sharp volcanic stones)

v6-8 ran and worshipped...cried:

The demon-possessed man sees a small group of men disembark from their boats on “his” territory  
Probably poised to attack them, he suddenly recognizes their Leader – the Son of God!

The man would have no idea Who that Man was...  
but the demons inside him knew beyond the shadow of a doubt

Therefore, rather than attacking the intruders, the man runs (not walks) toward Jesus (the others with Him are unimportant) and, falling prostrate before Him, worships Him

The demons...spiritual creatures...

- are God’s unmitigated enemies
- recognize their Creator, even from a distance
- dare not attack their Creator
- fall at His feet and worship Him, in complete submission!

Men...the physical/spiritual creatures...

- are God’s beloved
- did not recognize their Creator, even when standing right next to Him
- will refuse to worship Him
- would so dare to attack Him, in consummate rebellion

Jesus commands the demons to come out of Him  
Clearly, the Creator recognized them also!

Jesus is now on the scene...who is tortured now?

The demons are now the ones who are tormented and they/the man scream...  
loud enough for all the Jewish men with Jesus to hear...

- “What business do I have with You, Jesus  
(no introductions have been made)
- Son of the most high God  
(Gen 14:18-24, Dan 3:23-28)  
a highly charged Title to Jewish ears
- Swear to God that you will not torment me!”  
(they know their eternal destiny and Heb 10:31)

v9 My name is Legion:

“My” (possessive pronoun, singular) name is Legion,  
for “we” (personal pronoun, plural) are many.”

a Roman Legion varied in size, between 3,000 and 6,000

There are several thousand demons in this man!

Yet there is one voice...organized with leadership/ranks

v10 besought him much...not send them away:

With thousands of demons screaming in the background....

the voices of whom could only be heard by Jesus methinks...

their leader begs the Son of God to not send them into the abyss...

their feared destination of eternal torment (no parties there!)

Knowing that He has the power and authority and the “right” to send them

to the abyss, they plead with their Creator to allow them to remain

in a body on earth (“ease” and freedom to destroy)

rather than to be

disembodied in hell (bound and tormented)

v11-12 a great herd of swine:

obviously not Jewish territory but Gentile

The unclean see nothing unclean in the unclean so all the demons beg the

Son of God to send them into the pigs instead of the abyss

They know they MUST obey The Son of God

v13 the herd ran violently down:

Jesus consents and gives the demon leave.

The demons rush out of the man, rush into the pigs...who rush down the  
steep hill, over a cliff, and into the Sea, where they drown.

The 2,000 pigs are “spooked” by the 3,000 to 6,000 demons.

The herd of pigs become “devilish ham”...

wild and utterly uncontrollable...as was the man

The tormented man tried to kill himself..

the pigs succeed, committing “suicide”

As a result, there in the Sea of Galilee with no live bodies to possess, the  
unclean spirits go to the abyss after all...

Whose will was done?

v14-15 they that fed the swine fled:

Although pigs are smarter than sheep, the herd of pigs was not unattended. When the pig farmers saw the herd suddenly go bonkers and stampede off the cliff to their deaths, they freak out too.

Then, those who heard the pig farm report went to check it out. Surveying the scene, they saw

- 2,000 floating pig corpses...and...
- Jesus (they don't have any idea Who He is)
- the demon-possessed man
  - calmly sitting...not running around like a wild man
  - clothed...not naked
  - in his right mind...not ranting/raving like a lunatic

And the scene terrifies them...  
they are the ones not in their right mind

What is the difference between these Gentiles and Jesus' disciples (Ch 4)?  
No difference –

- both have fear and no faith
- neither know Who This Man is

v16 told them how it befell to him:

Then they heard to whole story from eyewitnesses (farmers or disciples)

- arrival of Jesus and the men with Him
- the crazed dash of the wild man toward Jesus
- the falling down before and pleading with  
“the Son of the most high God”
- the conversation of Jesus and the demon-possessed man
- the pigs go crazy and storm off the cliff to their death
- and this guy is “normal”...

v17 pray him to depart:

“What manner of man is this that even the spirits obey him?  
You make us very uncomfortable...we are even afraid of you.  
Please leave us!”

The demons to Jesus: “Don't send us away!”  
The men to Jesus: “Go away from us!”

This is mind-blowing!  
Yet did each of us not repeatedly say the very same thing to Jesus!?

John 1:10-13

v18 prayed him that he might be with him:

What does Jesus do?

Leave.

The LORD does not impose Himself on any man...He

- presents every man with a choice
- provides more than enough evidence to make the right choice
- asks every man to make a choice
- then He honors the choice.

He will go thru that cycle an unspecified number of times.

But if a man persists in rejecting the good choice, the LORD then establishes his choice...and a soul's eternity is set.

As Jesus is preparing to leave, the healed man begs to come with Him.

Every man in his right mind would, too!

v19 Jesus suffered him not...tell them how:

While all the other men were begging Jesus to leave them, this man begs to go with Him.

Yet Jesus says, "No."

Thus far, He has commanded all demons to be still about Who He is... now, He commands this man to go tell everyone the Good News

- Who He is...the Lord...the Son of the most high God
- what He has done for him...  
no man could tame him but the Lord freed him...  
and now he is "tame"
- the Lord's compassion...His heart toward the lost,  
wild and uncontrollable men

v20 began to publish in Decapolis:

The freeman does just that throughout the region of “Ten Cities”,  
with great passion, sharing all he knew – his personal testimony  
And all who heard it marveled

As a baby Christian I marveled at this passage!  
All men were blind to what was patently and painfully obvious to the  
demons

Yet in it I see the framework for an oft repeated personal testimony

Before Jesus set us free, we were all wild and uncontrollable and  
tormented

Before Jesus set us free, we were all slaves to sin...that

- takes us further than we wanted to go
- keeps us longer than we wanted to stay
- costs us more than we wanted to pay
- is insane

Now...we are free indeed...tame and at peace...in our right mind

Such is the power of a personal testimony...

Because every changed life is a miracle of the compassionate God  
Who came to seek and save the lost

Jesus changes everything...

- He makes all things right
- He invites men to either sit at His feet or to be His footstool

The only sane place in the universe is at the feet of Jesus...

John 8:32, 36

2 Tim 1:7

2 Cor 5:17

Yet...nearly all men say to Him, “Get away from me!” [ CNN ]

Nonetheless...share Jesus Christ and what He has done for you...

share the love and grace of God with the wild and uncontrollable  
and tormented

And...if you have not yet accepted the love and grace of God

- you are crazy...how many more opportunities do you have?
- you are tormented and miserable...why stay there?
- you do not know what even demons know...

Jesus of Nazareth is LORD, Son of the most high God

v21 Jesus was passed over again:  
Having sent the healed demoniac to spread the Good News (to Gentiles),  
Jesus gets back on board the ship and He and His disciples go back  
to Capernaum...  
where the multitude is waiting for Him

v22-23 one of the rulers of the synagogue:  
One person in the multitude is a person of high social standing and  
spiritual influence...  
Jairus, the Director of Services at the synagogue

He is most certainly aware of Jesus of Nazareth, Who has made his city  
His base of operations.

He has been watching His ministry, perhaps even listening to His  
teaching.

He has seen the miracles and heard the claims...

He has considered them in his mind...but his heart has been hard.

He has not been willing to approach Jesus...until now.

His little girl is on the verge of dying...she's just barely hanging on.

His heart is breaking...as mine would be if Kathryn was dying.

We don't know how long she has like this...

but in context of the healing (v42), it seems the girl has suffered a  
slow deterioration for quite awhile

And nothing the father has done has helped...

his religion has not healed his baby....

because his religion has no power over death.

Maybe the father, out of options, and his daughter had a talk:

“Sweetie, there is a Man in town. He is from Nazareth.

His name is Jesus.

I have heard Him teach.

I don't understand some of the things He teaches, but He teaches  
with great power and authority.

And I have seen Him heal **ALL** who come to Him.

I believe He can heal you, baby.”

“Daddy, I believe Jesus can heal me and I want Him to.

Please ask Him to come.”

And so this man of position comes to Jesus...interrupts Him...

- in humility, falling on his knees before Him
- broken, helpless, hopeless, desperate
- vehemently and passionately pleading with Jesus of Nazareth, "Just touch my baby! She will be healed and live."
- by faith...he has no doubt Jesus can, he knows only Jesus can ...he's only asking if Jesus is willing to.

v24 Jesus went with him:

Jesus is willing...Jesus is compassionate...Jesus can be interrupted

The multitude presses in on every side and follows Him.  
While in route, Jesus is interrupted again

v25-26 a certain woman:

Also in the multitude is a certain "woman"... "wife"... who has

- suffered an issue of blood for 12 years
- spent all her resources...  
checking and savings accounts, 401K...  
on every possible treatment...  
every available physician...

And nothing has worked.

Instead, her condition has become more aggravated at the hands of  
"human healers"

Worse yet, she is "unclean"...

Lev 15:25



v27-28 When she heard of Jesus:

A resident of the area, she has also heard about this Jesus of Nazareth,  
what He has done and what He has said.  
She too has considered all these things in her mind...but her heart is soft

So now, when she hears the buzz that “Jesus is here!”, she approached  
Him from the rear, so as to not be seen

She knows that if she can but touch the hem of his garment  
(Matt 9:20, Luke 8:44), she will be healed.

Not maybe...will!

Hers is an awesome faith, refined by years of trial

Unbeknownst to anyone, she reaches out and merely does that...  
just touches the hem of His garment

What would make her think such a bizarre thing?  
Has her desperation clouded her thinking?

Quite the contrary! She is thinking very clearly!  
She is obviously a woman in the Word of God...  
who believes the Word of God

Num 15:37-40

Mal 4:2

She touches the hem of Jesus’ garment by faith...knowing

1. Who Jesus of Nazareth is...the LORD, the Messiah
2. God cannot lie
3. that she will be healed

Take notice of this woman...Activate your faith!

v29 straightway the fountain of blood was dried up:

The “wife” knew the Truth...and the Truth set her free!

She was immediately healed...while her hand was still on the hem of His  
garment, she felt God’s healing touch

Just as did Louis Neely did of God’s healing touch of his leukemia

v30 Jesus, immediately knowing...Who touched my clothes?:

At the very same instant, Jesus felt miraculous power leave His body.

Turning around in the throng, He asks who touched his garment.

Does He not know?

v31 seest the multitude:

His disciples hear the question and answer,

“What? What do you mean, ‘Who touched your garment?’  
Who hasn’t touched you?”

Good question.

Why is it this woman alone is healed, when Jesus is being  
pressed upon by every side?  
She alone has faith in Him

The disciples are wondering...doubting...

how Jesus could discern one touch among thousands...  
and that a single touch of the hem of his garment

How could He discern such a touch?

Ask the woman – “Because He is LORD.”

v32 he looked round about to see her:

Jesus is turning around, looking...for her!

He knows it was her, even though she came up from behind in the midst of  
a crowd.

“There you are!”

v33 fearing and trembling, knowing:

The woman’s emotional condition is

- awe-struck
- joyous
- excited
- alarmed at being noticed!

The woman knows:

- she has been healed...as promised by the Word of God
- she is known by Him Who healed her

The woman responds by

- falling down before Jesus...prostrate, worshipping
- confessing all she did
- professing all she knew

v34 Daughter, thy faith has made thee whole:  
Jesus addresses this woman...this “wife”...

“Daughter”?  
Who is Jesus?  
John 1:12-13

“Your faith”  
in the Word of God  
in the Promised Messiah  
in Jesus of Nazareth  
Acts 22:6-9, 14

“had made thee whole”  
healed  
relieved  
restored  
comforted  
strengthened

v35 there came from the ruler...house:  
As Jesus is sending the woman away in peace, a servant from Jairus’  
house came running with the worst possible news –

“It’s too late.  
Your little girl is dead.  
There is no reason to further trouble the Rabbi.”

Consider Jairus:

- his heart sinks, then implodes
- his breathing stops, as if punched in the stomach
- his mind is numb yet racing thru time
- his soul is on fire...panicked, fearful, in excruciating pain

Note: In His healing ministry thus far, Jesus has not yet raised one from  
the dead  
Neither the ruler nor the multitude have a frame of reference for  
this “reality”

v36 Be not afraid, only believe:  
Jesus...the God of all comfort...hears the report and offers words of  
comfort and strength:

“Fear not. Have faith.  
It’s going to be OK.  
You believed in me, otherwise you would not have come to me.  
Now, trust me.  
It’s not too late for I AM.  
Let’s keep walking...by faith.”

I think the LORD’s

- words
- tone of voice
- calmness and control
- look in His eyes

had a calming effect on the storm raging in Jairus’, body, mind, and soul.

v37 suffered no man to follow him save:  
Jesus commands the multitude to stay put and not follow.  
He proceeds from this point with only the ruler and His Inner Circle.

v38-39 seeth the tumult...why make ye this ado:  
Approaching Jairus’ house, Jesus sees a great disturbance in and around it  
– a throng of mourners “raising the roof”

“Why are you making such a clamor? The girl is not dead, only asleep.”  
death = separation  
1. spirit from body  
2. spirit from God

unbelievers...experience the 2<sup>nd</sup> death...are dead  
believers...experience only the 1<sup>st</sup> death...are asleep

thinking back to that possible conversation between father and daughter...

v40 they laughed him to scorn:  
The mourners making a tumult mock Jesus.  
So the LORD throws the unbelievers out of the house and takes the girl’s  
parents (where did the mother come from?) and His Inner Circle  
into the house.

Another separation: Unbelievers outside the house...believers inside

v41-42 Talitha cumi...arose and walked:

Gently, lovingly taking her hand...the hand He designed...in His,  
the Creator speaks to His beloved creature.  
And she immediately stood and walked...  
two things she has not done in quite a while it seems.

Interestingly, the Holy Spirit here tells us that Jairus' daughter was  
12 years old...alive as long as the woman had an issue of blood.  
Coincidence? No such thing.  
What is the significance of that?  
Is the woman her mother who appears in the text just as Jesus  
arrives at the house?

Until we know, we do know that the girl's parents are amazed with  
"ecstasy"...speechless...stunned...deliriously joyful

Note: Having faith does not preclude being astounded when the Lord  
acts.

v43 charged them straightly:

Their daughter having died and then being risen from the dead by  
Jesus of Nazareth, the joyous parents...  
and the astounded-all-over-again Inner Circle...  
are given strict orders to

- not tell anyone  
How does prominent man in the community keep  
his vibrant 12 yr-old girl a secret?
- give her something to eat...  
to nourish and strengthen her healed body

Why this command?

- Jesus knows how the people will react to this miracle...  
they are already thronging to Him in multitudes to receive  
the blessings rather than to embrace the Blesser
- It is not yet His hour to be hailed as King...  
Jesus still has healing and teaching...and dying...to do
- He came to do the will of the Father...  
Whose ways are not our ways

Jesus is

- compassionate
- interruptible
- calm and in control of all things
- the God of all comfort
- able to heal you

## Mark Chapter 6

v1 he went out from thence:

After

- healing the woman with the issue of blood...  
making her unclean for 12 years
- raising from the dead the 12 year old daughter of Jairus
- 2 prime examples of faith in Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus leaves Capernaum and returns to Nazareth, his hometown

Pilgrims, close your eyes....Jesus walked

- past Arbel
- thru the valley, past Cana
- to Nazareth on the eastern cliffs overlooking the  
Valley of Armageddon

v2-3 when the Sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue:

Just as He did to begin His public ministry

Luke 4:16-30

Is 61:1-2a...leaving off “and the day of vengeance of our God”

The people wanted to throw Him off the cliff after that.

Jesus is back, giving the Word again to His hometown.

astonished...these things and what wisdom:

His teaching had the same authority in Nazareth as it did earlier on the  
Mount of Beatitudes (Matt 7:28-29)...

but here the people have “an edge about them”...

an edge of unbelief and contempt

The Word of God says (in light of Ps 19)

Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of  
knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and  
instruction

Prov 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom:  
and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

Prov 15:33 The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom;  
and before honor *is* humility.

The folks of Nazareth do not receive the “fear of the LORD” from Jesus

Why not?

Is not this the carpenter, the son...the brother:

They think they know Him...to them He is nothing more than

1. the carpenter
2. the son of Miriam...who was an ordinary citizen  
Notice that Joseph is not mentioned!  
Joseph had died already
3. the brother of 4 brothers and an unknown number of sisters...  
ordinary citizens all

By the rules of language and junior high school algebra...

if  $A = B$  and  $B = C$ , the  $A = C$

those so identified are equal...children of Mary

Jesus is the son of Mary...

James, Joses, Juda, and Simon are sons of Mary...

the sisters too...

from the same womb...all the children of Miriam

The Roman Church bows down before Mary...

and has concocted dogma contrary to the Word of God

The perpetual virginity of Mary	553 A.D.
Prayer to Mary, the saints and angels	600 A.D.
Praying the Rosary	1090 A.D.
The Sinlessness of Mary	1547 A.D.
Mary being the Co-Redeemer with Christ	1891 A.D.
Mary being caught up to heaven in bodily form	1950 A.D.

they were offended at him:

“This fella grew up in our midst, lived here for 30 years.

He was a nice kid, a very good carpenter, a model citizen.

He really didn't stand out as anything special, but now he is saying things  
and doing things all over the Galilee that say He is Someone

VERY special...The Messiah!

We just cannot accept these things.”

The people wondered about the source of Jesus' wisdom and works....

They did not realize, nor were they open to the fact, that He is the Source

The citizens of Nazareth stumbled over an apparent contradiction...

Who they thought Jesus was vs Who Jesus said He was

They could not “get over” what they knew of Him in order to truly know  
Him.



v4

A prophet is not without honor:

Jesus heard them talking amongst themselves about Him...  
He knew the thoughts in the heart, for that matter

To which He responds:

- To the townsfolk of Nazareth

“A prophet is not despised, except in his own hometown,  
and by his relatives, and by his own family.”

Jesus identifies Himself as a prophet...THE Prophet

Deut 18:15-19

And declares that That Prophet will be despised by those to  
whom He was sent...even by His own family

Mark 3:21

Application: Families are very difficult to witness to.  
They knew they way you were; you are “set” in  
their minds.

They stumble on what you now say and do...  
and do not receive it.

Pray. The LORD may have to use another  
instrument to cut open their hearts.

- To His disciples when He sent them (in a parallel passage)

Matt 10:34-41

Application: Beware the Laodicean Church all around us!

Note: When HoF resumes...

1. Roman Catholicism
2. Laodicean Church

v5     could there do no mighty works, save that:  
          Because they were offended by Him...  
          could not believe what He was teaching...  
          Jesus could only do a few miracles in their midst.

Not that Jesus could not do miracles unless they had faith...  
Because they were offended, they wouldn't even come to Him to  
receive the touch of God upon their lives

He wanted to touch them but they did not want Him to touch them.

A note about miracles...

The issue at hand is not miracles.  
The issue is life, eternal life.  
Eternal Life requires faith (Hab 2:4) and miracles do not produce faith in  
the heart of one who chooses to not believe

Luke 16:27-31

The man who says, "If I could see a miracle, I would  
believe," is self-deceived.

John 5:39-47

The Jews did...and still do...believe the Messiah will be a  
man, merely a man

They do not believe that The Messiah is the LORD Himself  
OT, the Hebrew Scriptures

Is 7:14

Is 9:6

Micah 5:2...

NT, the Greek Scriptures

The entire counsel of God

They stumble on The LORD their Messiah dying...  
for their sins

Dan 9

Is 53

v6 he marveled because of their unbelief:  
Unbelief (“unfaithfulness, disobedience”) in the light of

- Scripture
- Being ear/eyewitnesses to all Jesus has said and done

is profoundly irrational...  
enough to make Jesus “scratch His head” in wonder.

“What must be done...what must I do...  
for you to believe...  
for you to come to Me?”

Of course, He knows what He must do and will do...  
and even that will not be enough for those who refuse to believe.

Moses was sent to the Jews...  
the prophets were sent to the Jews...  
The Son of God was sent to the Jews...  
yet they believed none of them.

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus also marveled...but at the faith of a Gentile!  
Luke 7:1-9

Jesus marveled at the faith of “strangers” and marveled at the complete  
absence of faith in His brethren...

He went round about the villages, teaching:  
Jesus does not stay where He is not welcome.

So He leaves Nazareth to go to the surrounding “neighborhoods” to teach  
the Word of God...His #1 Priority

The LORD always initiates the revelation of Himself to man...  
He does not wait for men to come to Him

v7 he called the twelve: .

Having set aside His glory and willingly confining Himself in space and time to one place at a time, how is Jesus going to reach the surrounding neighborhoods?

He is going to use mortal men, whom He, in this sequence

1. calls
2. equips
3. empowers
4. sends

When Jesus calls, He wants to send you...

and He will equip and empower you before sending you.

What then is needed from those He calls?

Faith

v8-9 take nothing...save a staff...sandals:

“Take nothing, except

1. a staff
  - to help you walk
  - a tool of a shepherd

2. sandals for your walk of faith

Eph 6:15      And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Is 52:7      How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

3. a covering

Don't take on a burdensome “pouch” of food and clothes...

Don't strap on a money “belt”...

I know what you need (SoM)...

I AM your provision, your Provider.”

v10 there abide till ye depart:  
“Wherever you are invited into a house...  
where I will provide for your needs via the gift of hospitality...  
stay there until it is time to move onto the next place.”

v11 whosoever shall not receive you:  
“Do not stay where you are not welcome.  
Do not attempt to ‘force feed’ the Good News.  
Just move on...after giving a testimony against them.”

The scribes and the Pharisees taught that the dirt...even the dust...  
from heathen lands was impure and was not to be brought into the  
“Holy Land”

By so doing in the “Holy Land” before Jews who refused to believe,  
the disciples of Jesus would make a very clear statement...  
those who rejected the Gospel were unclean to the LORD

Acts 13:44-52

Paul in Antioch in Asia

A testimony that would be understood beyond any doubt by all...  
to which the LORD added another statement:

Their judgment will be worse than the judgment of S&G...  
because Luke 12:48

Note: Imagine how horrible will be the day of judgment for USA!

v12-13 they went out, and:

The LORD initiates...He

- calls
- equips
- empowers
- sends

Man must

- respond to the call
- step out in faith

The men Jesus called, equipped, empowered, and sent

1. responded...went out into the surrounding neighborhoods  
because time is short  
because the Kingdom of God is at hand
2. preached repentance  
the message of all the prophets  
the message of the last prophet, John the Baptist  
the message of THE Prophet, Jesus Himself  
a vitally important, life-changing message because  
“your iniquities have separated between you and  
your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you,  
that he will not hear.”
3. cast out devils  
2 Tim 1:7
4. healed the sick  
because the LORD is full of compassion and mercy

This what the LORD wants do to with me...  
and with others in this fellowship

- Egypt
- Radio (other markets)
- Internet (incl. Podcasting, Webcasting)
- Bible studies into the neighborhoods

Now, it's a matter faith

- Will I respond?
- Will others?

Last time: The LORD

- called
- equipped
- empowered
- sent

His men into the surrounding neighborhoods with the Gospel and His healing touch

v14-16 Herod heard...John the Baptist was risen from the dead:

When King Herod, one of the surviving sons of Herod the Great, heard about Jesus of Nazareth and His ministry, he believed Jesus was John the Baptist resurrected (he believed in resurrection)

Others believed Jesus was Elijah resurrected...

as foretold in [Mal 4:5-6](#)...

before the 400 years of silence broken by John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus

Still others believed Jesus to be a separate and distinct prophet

Note: Both Jesus and His disciples heard the “buzz” (Matt 16:13-15)

Herod stood his ground, in his own mind thinking himself right... based on his own “haunting” personal history, not on the Word of God

v17-18 For Herod himself...John...prison:

v17-29 is “parenthetical history” of the martyrdom of John the Baptist

It all started when King Herod lusted after his brother’s wife, Herodias. She divorced Philip to “improve her lot” by marrying Herod.

John, not lacking for boldness, came and rebuked the king and his wife for committing adultery...an offense of the Law of God worthy of death by stoning

v19-20 Herodias had a quarrel against him...Herod feared John:  
Convicted of their sin, Herod and Herodias have two different responses

Herodias: "held a grudge"...was embittered...wanted to kill John  
but it was not in her power or means to do so

Herod: fear...a just and holy man he had been watching had rebuked him

So...there is contention between husband and wife over John the Baptist

The wife with a murderous heart does not just let it go, she nags and  
pushes her husband to get her way

The husband fears John but methinks also fears his wife...  
so he "compromises" by arresting and imprisoning John the  
Baptist in order to appease his wicked wife

During John's imprisonment, Herod would call for him because he liked  
listening to him...

Yet his heart was not changed any more than Festus's heart was by his  
frequent conversations with a prisoner named Paul

v21-23 Herod on his birthday:

In time, Herod has a birthday and this self-important man throws himself a  
party, inviting all the region's "rich and famous",  
"movers and shakers" to a feast...  
characterized by free-flowing wine in typical Roman fashion

When he and his guests were good and "primed", Herod invites his sexy  
step-daughter to dance for them.

Very shameful behavior by all involved

Today, we call it child pornography

Eccl 1:9        there is nothing new under the sun

She so "pleased"...excited, aroused...him with her erotic dance that he,  
in his well-lubricated condition, offers her anything she wants,  
up to a half of his kingdom

Intoxicated, Herod says something stupid...and it will haunt him



Alcohol, the result of a corruption by a leaving agent  
(leaven puffs up...a picture of pride and sin), makes one stupid

- rational thought is impaired
- self-control is compromised, then lost altogether
- the “high” comes from a depressant...

Prov 20:1

Prov 23:29-30, 32

Prov 31:4-5a

In a recent conversation about choices, my 14 year old son said,  
“It is not a sin to drink.”...

which led to another conversation:

1. Where did you hear that?  
Who were you talking to...and about what...that that you  
would “learn” that?
2. Legalistic remark...followed by a search for loopholes
  - True: drunkenness is a sin, drinking is not
  - False:
    - a. Drinking is illegal for everyone under 21 yrs
    - b. Where is the line that is crossed to make  
“drinking” “drunken”?

What is the “crossing guard” of that line?  
Rational thinking and self-control.  
What does alcohol impair?  
Rational thinking and self-control.

So that which is most needed to “sin not”  
are the very things weakened starting  
with the very first swallow.

This is the very definition of  
“folly” and “self-defeatism”

- c. If anyone younger in the faith, regardless of age,  
is stumbled by the “freedom” of a mature  
believer, it is sin (Law of Love)

(my son was stumbled, as evidenced by the  
length and difficulty of the  
conversation, so sin is involved)

v24-25 went forth...came in:

Given a “blank check”, the step-daughter goes running to mommy for guidance.

Seizing the opportunity to kill John the Baptist, Herodias instructs her daughter to ask for his head on a platter.

She eagerly does so...while the wine is still reigning... and asks that her wages be paid “instantly”

v26-28 the king was exceeding sorry:

Herod immediately regrets his foolish, “wine-liberated” words.

But he refuses to “lose face” to his illustrious guests.

So issues a command to have John beheaded.

Q: John the Baptist was a man of God doing the will of God.

Why did this happen, why did God allow it to happen?

A: Israel killed all the prophets, including this last one.

His ministry was over...he had prepared the way for the Messiah.

A man of God in the will of God is immortal...until his work is done.

It was time to go home i.e. the Sovereign God was in complete control

v29 took up his corpse:

the disciples of John, whom he had pointed to the Messiah, bury his body.

End of parenthetical

Now, back to Jesus and His disciples...

v30 apostles gathered together unto Jesus:

Jesus called, equipped, empowered, and sent them 2x2 into the surrounding neighborhoods to preach the Gospel and repentance, to cast out demons, and to heal the sick.

Now, they are back...all jacked up...and they gather around Jesus to give Him a Trip Report....about what

- they had done
- they had taught

These apostles, who are they?

v31-32 rest a while:

Jesus has heard their reports...

they got a taste of “His world”, His ministry

- “hand-to-hand” combat in spiritual warfare
- endless needs to be met
- indescribably demanding work that takes all one’s heart, soul, mind, and strength...work with an intensity not known by fishermen or tax collectors or salesmen, etc
- not a “union” job or a “corporate America” job with scheduled coffee and lunch breaks, designated days off, accrued vacation days/hours
- not a job for an “organization man” because the Church is an organism...with a Head!

After hearing their reports, Jesus does not hold an awards ceremony...

He calls His men to rest in a solitary place, because...

- Jesus cares more about the minister than He does the ministry
- Jesus wants time alone with His men...His men need Him
- The most important part of the ministry is the minister’s relationship with the LORD... NOT the things he does for the LORD

So The Good Shepherd leads his flock to a quiet place to

sit beside still waters and to lay down in green pastures

Luke 9:10 tells us it was in the environs of Bethsaida, NE of Capernaum

That’s what the Pastor’s Conference, Murietta is to me every year

v33 the people saw...ran afoot...and outwent:

However, the rest is short-lived.

The people, all of them needy, ran faster than Jesus and His men could row, and were waiting for them

v34 Jesus...was moved with compassion:

Notice that Jesus did not say:

“Come on!  
Give us a break!  
Don’t bother me, us, now.”

“I’m sorry...my appointment calendar is full.  
Come back later.

No, Jesus saw needy people...His sheep...n need of a Shepherd.  
His heart went out to them...and opened for them.  
Then He opened the Word for them.

Thus is the heart of our Shepherd:

- seeing the need
- being compassionate
- being self-less
- being accessible and available
- quick with the Word of God to meet the need...spiritual food

And His heart is to be the heart of a shepherd/pastor

v35-36 the disciples came and said:

What is the heart of the disciples?

“This is an isolated spot, it’s getting late.  
Dismiss (“divorce”) all these people so they can go fend for themselves.”

Not exactly the heart of a shepherd...

v37a Give ye them to eat:

The Good Shepherd responds...with the heart of a shepherd:

“You guys feed them.”

v37b-38a Shall we go and buy:

“Do you want us to buy enough food for all these people?  
Where?  
With what money?”

“Did I say ‘buy food’?  
I didn’t say anything about buying food.  
Listen carefully...how much food do you have?  
Go find out.”

v38b Five and two fishes:

These apostles, who are they?  
Foodservice inventory clerks

they found five loaves and two fishes...  
and that from a young boy who was sent out with a lunch bag  
(John 6:9), a boy willing to give his lunch to Jesus

v39-40 he commanded them to make all sit down:

These apostles, who are they?  
Maitre d's

And God is a God of order, all things being done decently and in order...  
He is not the author of chaos and confusion...because He is Sovereign,  
sitting on His Throne, in complete control

v41 looked up to heaven and blessed, and broke...and gave:

The Good Shepherd, Whose heart goes out to these poor lambs

- laid hands on the boy's lunch
- looked up to the Throne Room
- "praised" God...even for 5 loaves and 2 fishes!
- broke it
- gave it to his disciples to serve
- fed ALL the people

These apostles, who are they?  
Waiters

v42 did all eat and were filled:

With 5 loaves and 2 fishes...one little boy's lunch...  
Jesus Christ fed ALL the people...  
who ate until they were "gorged"

Jesus did not serve up a light snack, it was a full meal!

v43-44 twelve baskets full of fragments:

In fact, after 5000 males

(not to mention women and children, Matt 14:21)...

after perhaps upwards of 20,000 people were “gorged” on one little boy’s lunch...

there were enough leftovers to be picked up by the disciples to fill 12 baskets

Notice: The LORD wastes nothing...what about you and me?  
How much food do we waste? It’s shameful.

These apostles, who are they?  
Bus boys

Do you want to teach and preach and be used in a mighty way by the LORD?  
You must be willing to do even the most insignificant and undignified jobs

Luke 9:48b he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.

Do you want to serve the LORD, do you want a ministry?  
Start small

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Do you want to lead?  
You must selflessly follow

Matt 16:24-25 If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

The desire of my heart: You be the best fed, most loved flock in town

Why?

Jer 9:23-24  
2 Peter 3:18

Last time: The Feeding of the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fishes  
Now...some very important lessons

v45 straightway constrained his disciples to get into the ship:  
constrained = “compelled with force” as if the situation was suddenly an  
Emergency!

Why might it be urgent that the LORD separate His men from the  
multitude He just fed with 5 loaves and 2 fishes?  
Why must they head back to Capernaum RIGHT NOW?

John 6:14-15

The people wanted to make Him king!

But:

- It was not yet His time
- There will be no kingdom without the Cross

The LORD needed to “sanctify”...separate...His disciples from  
this poisonous, vomit-inducing, and unscriptural belief of  
“Kingdom Now”

v46 sent them away...to pray:  
Jesus has had a very difficult, demanding, and draining day:

- learned of the death of His cousin and Forerunner,  
John the Baptist (v14-29)
- had his “Men’s Retreat” preempted by the multitude of  
needy sheep (v30-34)
- had an Emergency to handle to protect His disciples

He desperately needs to rest, to be refreshed and strengthened  
So he catches a “power nap”, right?  
No! He prays!

More than sleep, He needs time alone with the Father

Strength comes from intimate communion with the Father  
Since Jesus needed the Father’s strength, how much more do you and I?  
We need to follow Jesus and guard our time alone with the Father

v47 when even...in the midst of the sea:  
by nightfall, the disciples had rowed between 3 and 4 miles

John 6:19 25-30 furlongs (furlong = 1/8 miles)

v48 he saw them toiling in rowing:  
From 3-4 miles away...at night...Jesus sees His men struggling

That night must have been a clear night with a full moon.

Still, what amazing eyesight by Jesus!

“Eagle eyes”!

An eagle can see a rabbit from 1 mile away

walking upon the sea:

Jesus sees their

- dogged obedience to His command...
- tortuous laboring...against resistance
- hardship...it was too much for them

as they “go against the flow”

Being a witness of Jesus Christ is a counter-culture walk...

And sometimes, as we obey the LORD and do what He has told us to do, the Christian walk entails hardship

Jesus comes to them in the 4<sup>th</sup> Watch

1. 6pm to 9pm
2. 9pm to midnight
3. midnight to 3am
4. 3am to 6am

So around 3am, Jesus comes to them while they are laboring to do His will

They have been rowing against the wind for about 9 hours!

They have to be exhausted...worn out...at the end of their strength

They need Him!

He comes to them walking on the water...

After they witnessed Him feed 5,000 – 20,000 with a little boy’s lunch, Jesus wants His disciples

- to know without a doubt Who He is
- to depend upon Him for all things



would have passed them by:

a very curious strategy of the LORD!

He was going to keep on walking...to let them keep struggling...  
had they not stopped Him

Jesus was testing them, looking

- for a response...
- for an invitation into their boat...
- to see if they wanted His help or not

Jesus depended upon prayer and upon the Father after a difficult and draining day...

After a similar night, His disciples are given a “dependence test”

Will they “suck it up” and independently accomplish their assignment?

Will they ask the LORD to help them...realizing they can do nothing without Him?

What will you do?

v49-50 when they saw him...cried out...were troubled:

the disciples see Jesus walking by...  
think they are seeing a spirit...  
and scream like schoolgirls!

They were as troubled as the sea their ship was on!

He talked with them:

“Oh, hi guys!  
Have courage!  
I AM!  
Don’t be afraid.”

The words of Jesus are encouraging and comforting ala Ch 5:35-36...  
they are not words of rebuke

Note: Between v50 and v51 is Matt 14:28-31

Jesus invites Peter to walk with Him...above the storm  
Peter walks on the water, too...as long as his eyes are on Jesus  
When his circumstances (fear) take his eyes away from Jesus  
(faith), Peter sinks...

At least he knows what to do – cry out to the LORD to save him!

Now, at this point, the disciples invite Jesus into their boat

v51-52 he went up unto them into the ship:  
And Jesus immediately accepts their invitation

As soon as you invite Jesus into the storm-beaten boat with you,  
He accepts  
And as soon as Jesus steps into the boat, the wind stops and the sea  
is calmed (Again. Remember? Ch 4:39-41)

Phil 4:6-9

How often does Jesus walk by us in the midst of a storm...  
and we never see Him, we never invite Him into the boat?

Note: When does Jesus show up, about to walk by?  
At the perfect time...not 9 hours late

sore amazed...wondered...considered not:  
the disciples were “blown away”...astounded and speechless.

Because they didn't “put together” the miracle of walking on the water  
and the miracle of feeding the 5000  
Because they just didn't get it...  
they have not learned the lesson regarding Who Jesus is

They saw the miracles but did not “see” them  
Man, are they dense, or what?!  
But...how many miracles of God are we blind to?!

The purpose for the trial allowed by God was that they would know Who  
Jesus is...yet their hearts are callous and blind.

They did not pass the test...so they will get it again in Ch 8  
They must learn this lesson!  
As must we!

v53-56 Gennesaret...besought him they might touch...as many as touched him:  
From Bethsaida (NE corner of Sea of Galilee), they moor at the  
NW corner...  
the area west of Capernaum and north of Magdala and Ginosar

Once He disembarked, Jesus is again recognized...  
and the people of the region scramble to bring to Him all their sick  
and afflicted

As for the people:  
theirs is an Active Faith, like the faith of the woman with an issue  
of blood (Ch 5:27-28)

1. knowing Jesus could heal
2. believing He will heal

As for Jesus:  
It's going to be another demanding and draining day for Jesus...  
But our compassionate Shepherd desires to heal them.  
He has come to do the will of the Father...and He never stopped

Considering Jesus being thronged everywhere He went...  
being constantly grabbed and touched...

How much patience do you have for constantly being touched?  
How much "personal space" do you have around you?  
At what point do you push everyone away and retreat into your  
own "space"?

Is your "space management" according to

- your will or God's will?
- the flesh or the Spirit?

And aren't you glad Jesus is not like you!  
You can go to Him anytime, anywhere, and grab onto Him,  
touch Him...  
and He will touch you according to your need

After this, John 6:25-71

- "I AM the Bread of Life"
- "Eat My flesh and drink My blood"
- Hard sayings that many disciples cannot accept and they drift away
- "Will you (His 12 men) also leave?"
- Peter: "Where would we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Lessons:

1. There is no Kingdom of God without The Cross, the Wondrous Cross!  
  
There are no shortcuts to the Kingdom...the Cross cannot be by-passed  
  
If I stop preaching The Cross in favor of Cross-less Christianity...  
If I start preaching “Kingdom Now” and that The Cross is not needed...  
you will be in an Emergency situation!  
Jesus will urgently move you to safer ground...obey Him and flee here
2. We have a dependence upon the Father and we need to commune intimately with Him in prayer...a dependence/need we so often and easily ignore
3. In the midst of a stormy trial,
  - Look for Jesus...He will come walking by
  - Invite Him into the boat!
  - If He calls you to walk with Him above the storm, keep your eyes on Him and not the storm
4. Perhaps you are experiencing this trial because
  - You do not see Jesus walking by
  - You will not invite Him in the boat with you because you want to do “it” yourself
  - You are toiling...and the LORD is trying to get your attention
5. Believe...
  - remember the feeding of the 5,000 and the 12 baskets of leftovers
  - have an Active Faith
6. Reach out and touch someone...especially Jesus!  
And see what God will do!

## Mark Chapter 7

Tradition!

v1 Then came together unto him:

Jesus has been consummately busy about His loving, compassionate ministry to the lost sheep of Israel...

the work the Father sent Him to do...

when some critics from "HQ" join the crowd around Him

- Pharisees: religious leaders, teachers, legalists
- Scribes: copyists and "lawyers"

v2 they found fault:

Sent by the powers-that-be in Jerusalem to observe Jesus and His disciples, the legalists saw some of the disciples eating with unclean hands...and found fault

It is very easy for the

- critical spirit (vs compassionate spirit)
- hard heart (vs soft heart)

to find fault

The Letter of the Law (which condemns) reveals faults...

The Spirit of the Law (which loves) covers faults

Prov 10:12 Love covers all sins

v3-4 holding the tradition of the elders:  
key phrase: traditions of the elders

the fault they found was that the disciples did not keep the religious traditions of “good Jews”

Traditions are behaviors and beliefs...a culture, if you will...  
passed down orally from generation to generation

For example:

- Family traditions:  
“Because my daddy always did it that way and his daddy before him and his daddy before him....”
- Corporate traditions:  
“We’ve always done it that way.” (resistance to change)
- Religious traditions:  
Attire of Orthodox/Hasidic Jews (black coat, fur hat) or Amish (talk with Lauren) or others

Here, the traditions of the elders mentioned are

- “cleansing” their hands by “scrubbing” them before eating (disciples were accused of violating)
- “baptizing” hands before eating if they have come from the market, a VERY public place
- “baptizing” cups, pots, other cooking/serving vessels, and tables

Are these traditions bad?

No. They pertain to cleanliness, which is healthy.

Note: End of Bubonic plague in Europe: follow the Law of Moses

But the problem is the legalistic, religious leadership upheld their traditions as the Oral Law...a law in addition to the written Law

The Oral Law:

Interpretations and instructions passed down orally from generation to generation from the time of Moses... and added to along the way

Mishna (“to repeat” in order to memorize):

the traditions of the elders...the Oral Law...organized into 6 categories or chapters and written down

Seeds: agriculture

Festivals

Women: marriage, divorce

Torts: civil and criminal law

Sacred things: Temple worship

Purity

Talmud:

rabbinic commentary on the Mishna

example from Moshe in Jerusalem:

“(Part of) the Talmud is based on a concept called Syagim or Fences. If G-d says not to light a fire on the Shabbat, we willingly accept another restriction on ourselves and will not touch a match on Shabbat. If I don't touch a match I will not make the mistake of going against G-d's wishes. Totally a man made restriction but done in order to not transgress a G-d made law.”

Both the Mishna and the Talmud are studied intensely by “observing Jews”

v5 Why walk not thy disciples:

In their legal mind, equating man's traditions with the Law of God, the Pharisees and scribes believed Jesus' disciples to be breaking the Law.

So they confront Jesus on it.

“Why do your disciples not live according to the traditions of the elders?”

Unspoken:

“Why do you allow it?”

v6 He answered:

Jesus heard both the spoken and the unspoken questions...  
and answers the unspoken one addressed to Him personally

His answer is in two parts:

1. He quoted the **written** Word of God  
either in stone by the finger of God  
or on parchment by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Is 29:13

2. He calls the religious leaders hypocrites...  
"stage players", actors

Jesus has already taught against "playing righteousness for show" for the approval of men

Matt 6:1-4	alms
Matt 6:5-8	praying
Matt 6:16-18	fasting

v7 in vain do they worship me:

Jesus sums up the words given to and written by the prophets about the vanity... "folly, of no purpose"... of their relationship with Him

Isaiah:	vain	oblations (1:13)
Jeremiah:	vain	lives (2:5) thoughts (4:14) religion (4:30) copying of the Law of Moses (8:8) customs (10:3) works (51:58)

Ezekiel:	vain	visions (12:24)
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How is it all those things became vain in Israel?  
Because the religious leadership taught the "religious principles" of man  
instead of the Word of God

This should be a deafening siren of warning to the Church today!



v8-9 For laying aside the commandment of God:

Why did they teach the religious principles of man instead of the inspired Word of God?

To lay aside...forsake, cast off...the “authoritative prescription” of God

Principle: a basic standard or policy

vs

Prescription: a written order, the establishment of official laws and rules

Remember [John 5:45-47](#)

Jesus, confronted by the Pharisees and scribes, confronts them:

“You hold to the traditions of men so you can forsake the Word of God.”

“You elevate your time-honored (but not God-honored) traditions in order to relegate the Word of God to secondary importance.”

v10 For Moses said:

“For example, the written Word of God...

written both by the finger of God and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit...

says...”

Quoting [Ex 20:12](#) and [Ex 21:17](#)

v11-12 But ye say:

“But your tradition...

your oral law...your interpretation and instruction passed down from generation to generation, an unreliable transmission over time...

relieves a man of providing for his elderly parents if he gives the offering instead to the Temple treasury.”

The tradition of the elders opened a legal loophole whereby a man could side-step his responsibility to his dependent parents –

by giving an offering to the Temple treasury...

controlled by the elders...the religious leadership...

he would not have to give anything to his parents

i.e. they would

- keep the policy (v11)...the oral law, from the heart of man
- reject the law (v10)...the written Law, from the heart of God

v13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition:

The effects of the transmission of the traditions of men was/is to

1. annul the Word of God
2. usurp the authority of God over their lives
3. blind them to the Way, the Truth, and the Life...  
the Word of God that became flesh and dwelt among them

The traditions of men are still doing those things:

- Jews: “What do the rabbis say?”...Mishna and Talmud

(Did Tevia know what “The Good Book” said? No.)

They rejected the Law...the Letter of the Law...  
feeling its burden and condemnation

Thereby being blind to the Spirit of the Law...love and grace  
and embracing tradition

However, Scripture interprets Scripture...man doesn't

Since they did not believe the Hebrew Scriptures (“OT”),  
they do not believe the Greek Scriptures (“NT”),

*...we do not believe the New Testament to be the word  
of G-d though we do see G-dly things in the New  
Testament. (Moshe)*

So they are unable to correctly interpret the Hebrew Scriptures

(Gal 3:21-26)

But, the Spirit of God will lift this spiritual blindness that has  
happened to them

- Roman Catholic: Catechism, paragraphs 82, 95, 113
- Protestantism: Replacement Theology...and many other  
“pet doctrines” taken out of context and misinterpreted  
because they do not study the Hebrew Scriptures

The traditions of men are the points of division in the Body of Christ...  
why the Body is fractured into denominations instead of unified in  
Spirit and in truth

All these denominations have traditions that contradict the Word of God

Anglican  
Lutheran  
Methodist  
Presbyterian  
Episcopalian  
Baptist  
Pentacostals  
Etc etc

Hence, great effort and diligence in the Calvary Chapel movement goes toward fending off

- the natural tendency to complete in the flesh that which was begun in the Spirit (Gal 3:3)
- the slide into denominationalism

The LORD our God does not desire a legal relationship with us...  
but a loving relationship as Abba Father

That is possible only by His Spirit according to the written Word of God...  
it is not possible by man's own principles and traditions

Q: Is Truth illuminated by the Holy Spirit or by man/religion/Church?  
John 17:17  
John 8:32

Therefore, our focus at CCA is  
to teach the Word of God (Sola Scriptura!)  
by the power of the Spirit of God  
to equip the children of God  
to do the work of God

This ministry belongs to Jesus Christ...  
it is all about Him and no man...  
it is part of His continuing ministry

Jesus said

Matt 11:28-30

Matt 23:1-7

The Traditions of men are binding and burdensome...spiritual traps  
A heart given over to tradition and religion is a heart that is  
hard toward God.

## A lesson in Cleanliness

v14 had called all the people...hearken...understand:

Context: from v1-13

- disciples: accused of being unclean/defiled for not washing their hands before eating, according to the traditions of the elders
- legalists: called spiritually unclean by Jesus because they cast aside the Word of God in favor of the traditions of men, thereby making the Word of God of no effect in their lives

therefore, Jesus, always seizing the teaching moment, summons the people for a debriefing on the issue of cleanliness

Who? ALL the people

What? Hear, listen

Who? EVERY one

What? Comprehend this

Jesus makes a very strong statement, demanding everyone's attention

v15 nothing from without...but...which come out:

Nothing external to a man that is ingested can make him unclean/defiled/polluted...

that which comes out of him defiles him

Diet does not defile...not even McDonald's cheeseburgers or pork chops

Uncleanliness comes from the inside of man...from his heart

The nature of man is not good...

as religions would have you to believe

The Word of God says the nature of man is evil and depraved

Jer 17:9

Rom 3:10, 23

Gen 6:5 every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Cleanliness is a condition of the heart...

and natural man has an insurmountable problem

v16 ears to hear: let him hear:

A very strong statement of responsibility and accountability

This “ears to hear” warning is spoken by the Lord 14 times in NT

- 6 in the Gospels (2 times in each of the Synoptics)
- 8 in Rev

Note: right here is [Matt 15:12-14](#)

- The Word of God offends those who do not believe, it convicts and comforts those who do
- There is none so blind as they who refuse to see, those who love the darkness
- Both leader and follower are accountable for their blindness

v17 his disciples asked him:

Once they were alone with the LORD, removed from all the other people, Jesus’ disciples ask Him what he was talking about...

- Matt 15:15 says, “Peter asked”...  
He was their spokesman or just the first one to talk as was usually the case because of his pride
- Were they too proud to ask in front of all the people... seeing how they were His disciples, after all, and therefore should know more than the rest of the people?
- What made them think the teaching of Jesus was a parable (revealing a truth to the believer and hiding it from the unbeliever)?  
It sounds like a simple, direct teaching.

v18-23 Are ye so...do ye not:

Jesus seems astounded by the density of these guys who have been hanging out with Him, watching Him, listening to His teachings

- Are you so “unintelligent and foolish”?
- Do you not “exercise your mind”?
- (Are you blind too?)

So He spells it out to them:

A. It is impossible for food to defile a man...  
a man cannot be made unclean by

- the contents of his stomach or by the digestive process

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Rom 14:20 For meat destroy not the work of God.

- eating with unwashed hands (Matt 15:20)

B. A man's heart defiles him...for from that dark place emanates all hurtful things

1. depraved imaginations (Hollywood!)
2. adulteries (SoM)
3. all forms of harlotries
4. murders (SoM)
5. stealing (even from the super rich, like Microsoft)
6. covetousness...and greediness
7. all forms of depravity
8. deceit
9. lust
10. malicious mischief
11. blasphemy
12. pride
13. egotistic senselessness and recklessness

13 = satan

man without Jesus Christ is a child of the devil

The heart is revealed by the tongue and seen by the hands, feet, etc.

The battleground for the heart is the mind

God gives a man, a thinking being with a mind, witness of His glory and power and goodness (creation and conscience at the minimum)  
If that man stubbornly rejects the witness of God and sells out to the contents of his heart, God gives him over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are ungodly

Rom 1:18-32

Rom 8:7 the carnal mind is enmity against (hates) God

If that lost, double-minded man (James 1:8) receives by faith the witness of God, God saves him, giving him a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7)

Then, God begins to transform that man by the renewing of his mind (Rom 12:2, Eph 4:23)...changing even his thought life (Phil 4:8)

As we walk with our Good Shepherd, the temptations of the liar and slanderer enter our mind...warfare we face every day

If we harbor or entertain those thoughts, we walk in the flesh... and in frustration and defeat

If we walk in the Spirit we will

- not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Gal 5:16)
- cast down imaginations and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ... before it gets to the heart (2 Cor 10:3-5)

The place of victory...the first time and every day after that...is the Cross

So give Jesus your heart and He will clean it up

He moves into “ugly houses” and begins a major renovation

All you have to do is

- humble yourself
- believe
- invite Him in
- get out of His way until He is done

v24 went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon:  
Jesus purposefully moves on.  
From the Sea of Galilee north to...a Gentile land, modern day Lebanon

He wanted to come into town unnoticed...but that was not possible

v25-26 woman...heard of him:  
A Gentile woman of Syrophenician descent heard that He was in town...  
and she came and fell at His feet...  
the place of humility and surrender

Here it is helpful to go to a parallel passage...

**Matt 15:22**

She knew of the Jewish Messiah

- His lineage of the house of David (2 Sam 7)
- His works (for example, **Is 35:4-6** and **Zech 13:1-2**)

She has heard of Jesus of Nazareth and the things He  
has said and has done

Now, by faith, she

- hails Him by one of His Messianic Titles
- pleads with Him to do what only He can do...  
heal her demon-possessed daughter

**Matt 15:23**

Notice that Jesus did not correct the woman...

He did not deny His identity

Is Jesus being rude?

No, after a lesson on cleanliness being a condition of the heart,  
He is administering a heart test...for His disciples

Disciples Heart Test Results: Fail

Having

- heard this Gentile woman proclaim their Master to be  
the promised Jewish Messiah
- seen Him repeatedly cast out demons
- seen His heart of unending compassion

Jesus' disciples reveal the contents of their hearts –

- pride
- foolishness
- self-centered and uncaring



They do not understand

- The words/teachings of Jesus
- The deeds of Jesus
- The heart of Jesus
- Who Jesus is

But this Gentile woman did!

Now that they have revealed their hearts...  
now that they know where they stand...  
Jesus responds to the woman

**Matt 15:24**

His Mission Field – the Jewish Messiah is first sent to the Jews  
The Good Shepherd is ministering to His flock  
(but...John 10:14-16)  
Is Jesus trying to get rid of her?  
Is He not being compassionate to her because she is not a Jew?  
No, He is now testing her heart, the depth of her faith

**Matt 15:25**

She is a mother...she believes in the Jewish Messiah...  
she will not give up!  
She worships Jesus and cries out for His help...only He can help

v27 it is not meet to take the children's bread:

What?

Is Jesus being rude to her now?

No. He knows her heart but He continues to test her heart...

But for whose sake?

I think for the sake of his hard-hearted disciples watching and listening to  
this encounter

They heard Him teach John 6:35

They just failed their own heart test...

This is another teaching moment for the LORD,  
the Potter shaping the hearts of the men He has chosen

v28 Yes, Lord:

The woman agrees with the Lord ("supreme authority").

She does not want that which is not hers.

Yet she knows that children are messy eaters and that all her daughter  
needs is a "crumb of Jesus"

v29-30 For this saying go thy way:

Woman's Heart Test Results: Pass

In Matt 15:28, "Great is your faith!"

Without even needing to be present, without laying a hand on her, but merely by His spoken Word, Jesus casts out the demon and heals the woman's daughter

To conclude the teaching moment, Jesus may have looked over at His disciples with a "That's what I'm taking about" look.

Uncleanliness: man's natural state.

Cleanliness of heart is a supernatural gift of Jesus' heart

It's man's choice – to own his own heart or to give it to Jesus for major renovation

Never passing over a teaching moment...

every circumstance in our lives is a teaching moment...

the LORD may be currently administering a heart test on you and me!

Pride is almost always involved

Will you respond like

- these disciples...with an unclean and unsundered heart...
- this Gentile woman...with a clean and surrendered heart?

The battleground is our mind...

we need the Word of God to renew our minds so that we choose wisely

Let Jesus be the death of you...and live forever!

v31 departing from:

Having kept His appointment with the Syrophenician woman...

- to test His disciples hearts
- to test her heart
- to heal her daughter
- to teach His disciples about the heart of God and faith

Jesus leaves Gentile Lebanon and returns to the Sea of Galilee via the “Golan Heights”, the Gentile lands of the 10 cities on the east coast of the Sea of Galilee

Even His travel itinerary is a witness – the religious legalists would never have set foot in “Lebanon” or in the region of the Decapolis

John 1:17

What the Law cannot do, grace does...

forgive, say ‘whosoever will believe’

Another example of that which defiles a man (v14-23)

It’s not the dust on his feet, it’s the garbage in his heart

v32 bring unto him one that was deaf and had an impediment in his speech:

As soon as Jesus arrives, there is “work” to be done, needs to be met

We are a continually needy creature...

Jesus knows that (John 15:5)

Our pride blinds us to the utter dependency we have on the LORD

One of many needs in the multitude (Matt 15:30), this man is

- deaf
- “tongue-tied”

Why is this man this way?

Sin had corrupted God’s perfect creation.

THAT is the infirmity the Son of God came to heal...

by shedding His blood,

the ultimate act of love to be received by faith!

Those who brought this man to Jesus knew Jesus could heal the man by “laying hands on” him.

i.e. their prayer is: “Do my will, my way.”  
called “Directive Prayer”

v33-35 he took...put...spit...touched:  
Did Jesus heal the man?  
Obviously.

Did He heal him the way He was “directed”?  
No

Jesus healed the man by

- taking him aside privately...  
one-on-one
- putting His fingers in the man’s ears...  
not “laying hands on” him as directed
- spitting and touching the man’s tongue...  
Yuck! Unconventional to say the least!
- praying to the Father in heaven

The point being...do not give directions to God Almighty

Parents, how do you react when your children tell you what to do?

The LORD heals according to His will, not ours

- method...not always the same, never the way we direct
- timing...not usually on our schedule

The LORD cannot be

- confined to a box or to a list
- defined in a formula

v36 tell no man but:

Jesus tells the multitude...

including the man who can suddenly hear and speak clearly...  
to tell no one.

The healed man, when for the first time he can

- hear the voice of the LORD, The Word of God made flesh
- tell someone ANYTHING

is told to be silent!?

Why?!

Jesus knows the hearts of the people, how they would react.  
The will of the people and the will of His Father are different.

He came to do the will of the Father Who sent Him.

He was not sent to win a popularity contest.

He does not desire Fame...like man does.

And He still has much work to do.

But...the more He exhorted them to quietly ponder the glory of God in  
their hearts, the more they proclaimed the miracle.

Is this uncontrollable joy or malicious disobedience?

Methinks joy, even though the heart of man does contain:

“You don’t want me to do this? Then this is precisely what  
I am going to do!”

v37 beyond measure astonished:

The people could not keep still because they were amazed beyond measure

- by what they have witnessed

Matt 15:31

- by the implications of those things

Jesus did things only God Himself could do (I AM)

Ex 4:11

Is 42:6-7

Is 35:5-6

Is 29:17-19

Is 61:1...just as He said when He started His ministry in Nazareth

“Could this man, this Jesus of Nazareth, actually be...  
It’s unspeakable! It’s unthinkable! It’s unbelievable!  
It just blows my mind!  
But...PTL!”

Their praise of the God of Israel simply could not be restrained

The praise of the blind who now see  
the deaf who now hear  
the mute who now speak  
is exuberant and contagious!

The revelation of God in a person’s life makes the heart leap!  
Bonnie this past Sunday morning re brazen serpent  
(Gal 3:13, 2 Cor 5:21, John 3:14-17)

## Mark Chapter 8

Because the disciples

1. did not learn the Lesson (I AM) in Ch 6:34-52 via:
  - a. feeding the 5000
  - b. walking on the water
2. failed their heart test in Lebanon (Ch 7)

Jesus, Who is equipping His chosen men for the ministry, reinforces the lessons in Ch 6-7

He again reveals His heart of compassion and seizes another teaching moment

v1-3 I have compassion on the multitude:

The very needy multitude that thronged around Jesus upon His return from Lebanon has, after three days, run out of food.

The Shepherd loves His sheep...He has compassion for them.  
He knows they will not have enough physical strength to make it home if  
He dismisses them...

So He presents the issue to His disciples.

Their reaction/solution?

v4 From whence can a man satisfy:

Having

- watched Jesus perform miracle after miracle for three days
- heard the multitude praise the God of Israel

theirs is a self-centered reaction.

“What do You expect us to do about it?

How can we fill the need, how can any man way out here in the middle of nowhere?”

These guys may be the dullest of the sheep in the flock!  
(Which only brings further glory to Jesus!)

v5 he asked them:

All the food that remains is 7 loaves of bread...more than last time!

v6-7 he commanded...gave thanks, and broke, and gave:  
Just as when he feed the 5000, Jesus multiplies the bread and the fish...  
Just like last time, the disciples are waiters and bus boys.

v8-9 were filled...seven baskets...four thousand:  
This time, there are 4,000, which probably translates to 4,000 men and  
12,000 to 16,000 people in total.

As was the case the last time, every person ate until he/she was gorged...  
and there were leftovers!

So, that's Part 1 of the test:  
the demonstration of I AM,  
the demonstration of a heart filled with compassion

Next, Part 2: The test for learning

v10 came into the parts of Dalmanutha:  
a Chaldean word.  
In Matt 15:39, it is the region of Magdala...NE corner of Sea of Galilee  
the same place Jesus went with His disciples after the 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson  
(Ch 6:53)

But first, a subplot...and an opportunity to reinforce another lesson,  
another teaching moment for the men Jesus is training.

v11-13 the Pharisees came forth:  
The religious legalists who disputed with Jesus about the traditions of the  
elders show up again to dispute with Him about a sign to verify  
His lessons  
(they are understanding His message, but not believing it)

Q: How many miracles are needed to produce faith?  
How many miracles by Jesus do the Pharisees need to see before they  
believe He is the promised Messiah?

A: No such number exists. Miracles do not remove unbelief...  
His disciples are also proof of that!  
The Word of God changes the heart of man

Q: What makes the Word of God of no effect?

A: The traditions of man.  
That is another lesson the disciples must learn, and Jesus is diligent  
to reinforce it here



His answer: Matt 16:1-4

1. with the Word of God, discern the signs of the times
2. the only sign I will give is Jonah...  
a prophet of God proclaiming a central truth in the  
Word of God – resurrection from the dead

Lesson: The just shall live by...Faith vs “seeing is believing”  
Rom 10:17

Shutting down the Pharisees again, Jesus takes His disciples to the other  
side of the north shore (v22)  
Back to the other lessons that must be learned...

v14-15 Take heed, beware the leaven:

Getting on the boat, Jesus warns His disciples to beware of the leaven of  
the

- Pharisees...the self-righteous religious legalists:  
Lesson: the traditions of men that make the Word of God  
of no effect
- Herod...Herodians/Sadducees (Matt 16:6)...the secular  
politicians:  
Lesson: humanism is a “dead end”

The fruit of both Pharisees and Sadducees: unbelief

v16 we have no bread:

On the heels of the 2<sup>nd</sup> demonstration of I AM by the multiplying of scraps  
to feed many thousands and having a surplus, the disciples have a  
finite, helpless, selfish line of thought again

“Leaven is used in bread; this must be another parable.  
There is only one loaf here. It is not enough to go around.  
That’s what Jesus is talking about.  
Yikes! We forgot the bread!”

Duh! Jesus has proven twice that I AM could gorge many thousands with  
one loaf of bread!

Truly, these guys may be the dullest of the sheep in the flock!

All the lessons in Ch 6-7 have fallen on ears and hearts of stone.

They failed the test again...they have not learned what they must.

v17-18 perceive ye not:

Jesus knows their line of thinking...that's what He is testing for.

“Do you not exercise your mind instead of spitting out the very first thing that comes to mind? (Do you not think before you speak?)  
Are you petrified people and these lessons are bouncing right off you?”

Then Jesus quotes prophets of impending judgment of unbelief

- Jer 5:21...about foolish people  
Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:
- Ezk 12:2...about rebellious people  
Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they *are* a rebellious house.

v19-21 When I broke...and when:

Q & A time, Teacher and students interacting to review the test results.

“Don't you remember what happened a few days ago?  
Do you not remember what happened a few hours ago?  
Why do you not understand?!?”

What is the response of the disciples? Shamed silence.

Every man is accountable before God for the revelation God has given him, no man has an excuse before God for not knowing that revelation.

Issue: unbelief...the only sin the Son of God cannot cover with His blood.

What about you and me?

How many times must we re-take the same test before we learn?

1. The just shall live by faith vs “seeing is believing
2. The Word of God changes men's hearts...  
the traditions of men make the Word of God on none effect
3. Jesus of Nazareth is I AM

Without the Holy Spirit, we are “as sharp as a bowling ball” spiritually

PTL Jesus is not only for brain surgeons, rocket scientists, and spiritual giants!  
Jesus is for “whosoever believes.”

v22    hey bring a blind man:

Jesus takes his disciples from the NW corner of the Sea of Galilee to the  
NE corner, to Peter and Andrew's hometown

The people there brought Him a blind man and asked Him to heal him

v23-25    He took the blind man by the hand:

Notice:

1. Jesus is willing to heal
2. the tender and compassionate picture of the Good Shepherd,  
taking the blind man by the hand and leading him
3. Jesus lead the man out of town...His ministry is not a freak  
show, the healing touch of Jesus is not for public  
entertainment
4. there is no pattern to the healing miracles of Jesus Christ...  
He cannot be "formula-ized", there is no method-ology.  
The infinite God is not restricted in His work...  
not even by the "laws of nature"
5. this man was not blind from birth; his sight is "restored."  
Perhaps he gradually lost his sight through disease.  
The healing was gradual, blurred vision initially and then  
crystal clear vision after a second touch.  
Sometimes healing is gradual, both an event and a process

v26    Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town:

"Don't go back to town, don't even tell anyone in town."

Why not?

There is a problem in the town –  
unbelief based on pre-conceived ideas  
rather than  
belief based on the Word of God

hold that thought...

v27 Jesus went...Caesarea Philippi:

Jesus leads His men north...to a most interesting place

- about 30 miles north of Bethsaida
- at the base of Mount Hermon
- site of 2 of the 3 sources of the Jordan River
- site of a pagan temple originally built by Herod the Great and dedicated to Augustus Caesar...
- later enlarged by his son Herod Philip, and dedicated to Tiberius Caesar
- a very pagan site on the road to Damascus

[ describe pictures ]

By the road, Jesus and His disciples have a fascinating conversation.

Context: Multiple failed tests of the LORD's "I AM" Lesson

Content: A teaching to clearly establish the Central

1. Question every man must answer
2. Issue in Christianity
3. Person dividing life and death

Jesus initiates the teaching by asking a simple question:  
Who do men say that I am?

v28 they answered:

a debate heard in Ch 6:14-15

- John the Baptist...by Herod
- Elijah...by others...citing [Mal 4:5](#) in light of His miracles

(Note: a "case of mistaken identity" that perhaps is why Jesus had previously taught about John the Baptist in [Matt 11:7-15](#)).

But the "case of mistaken identity" persists)

- One of the prophets...by still others... including the Muslims today

v29 But whom say ye that I am:

Then Jesus asks The Central Question every man must answer...  
a question with an answer upon which rests eternal life or  
eternal death

And Peter responds with the 1<sup>st</sup> proclamation that Jesus is the Messiah

“You are

- The Christ...the Anointed One, the Messiah
- The Son of the Living God.” (Matt 16:16)

Where did Peter suddenly get this flash of brilliance?

Matt 16:17-19

a passage of Scripture tortured and misapplied by the hierarchy of  
the Roman Church to claim and exercise authority over the  
lives of billions

v30 tell no man:

Just as Jesus told the blind man He healed to tell no one of His healing,  
He now instructs His disciples to tell no one about the most  
important revelation in the universe!

Why?

For the same reason...unbelief based on pre-conceived ideas

Even though the Hebrew Scriptures spoke of both the Messiah as

- Suffering Servant
- Conquering King

the Jews could not reconcile the two sets of prophesy...  
how could he be both?

2 Appearances was not on their radar screen...

for no man could suffer and die and come back a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.  
This is reasoning from a false premise.

Thus, oppressed by the Romans, the Jews

- discounted the Suffering Servant
- looked eagerly for the Conquering King

Therefore, the more the people believed Jesus to be the Messiah, the more  
they would want to make Him King...

But that was not the Father's will...at this time

First, Jesus must defeat the power of sin and death and the devil...

He must set free whosoever believes

Then, He will return in glory to set up His kingdom

And in between those two appearances, God the Holy Spirit must be sent to direct the sharing of this most important revelation in the universe.

Zech 4:6

The work is all God's...

- it's all about Him
- He will do it according to His plan, not man's

Jesus then begins teaching His men about that plan

v31 He began to teach them:

This is a turning point in the ministry of Jesus – 1<sup>st</sup> teaching about

- why He came...
- what His mission was...
- what the plan of God is...according to the Scriptures!

The Son of man...a direct reference to Dan 7:13-14...must

1. suffer many things...suffer much and abundantly
2. be rejected by the Jews...the Jewish Messiah rejected
  - by the very people looking for Him
  - the very people to whom He was promised and sent
  - in the very center of Jewish culture, Jerusalem (Matt 16:21)!

another kind of blindness that “spit in the eye” won't cure...

3. be killed...as foretold in Dan 9:26, Is 53, Ps 22, Jonah, etc
4. rise again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day...like Jonah, the only sign given to this wicked and perverse generation

This is Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> teaching of

1. His death...the Cross
2. His Resurrection

The disciples should not have been surprised by the Lord's crucifixion because he told them the whole plan in advance.

(And it had been prophesied hundreds of years in advance)

They did not understand even “straight talk”...could not understand... because they had not learned the “I AM Lesson”

v32 spake that saying openly:  
This was most definitely NOT a parable...  
Jesus spoke frankly and plainly...a child could understand what He said

Peter took him, and began to rebuke him:  
Perhaps feeling like he was “on a roll”, proud Peter,  
the one with the always-engaged tongue,

- took Jesus aside...by Himself
- rebuked Him! (Matt 16:22, the ultimate in Directional Prayer)

Obviously, Peter

- has not learned the Lesson of “I AM”...been given the revelation in v29, yet was still without understanding
- does NOT know Who he dares to rebuke
- has the same pre-conceived ideas as the rest of the nation
- desires his will to be done, not God’s will to be done

v33 he rebuked Peter:

Turning around so all the disciples will be able to hear Him, Jesus

- rebukes Peter, who in this moment is more Satan’s disciple than His

What an alarming word for Peter to hear from Jesus...  
especially after the last words the Lord has spoken to him!

- seeks to dispel the pre-conceived ideas regarding the Messiah and highlights The Central Issue in Christianity – the Cross

God’s will is

- Is 53:5-10a
- repentance
- unity in Truth
- multiplication thru division

Man’s will is

- fame and fortune
- power and pleasure
- no Cross, no repentance
- unity at the expense of Truth
- multiplication thru addition

Is 55:8-9

The Cross is the Central Issue in Christendom today...

There is a movement in the Church today that is

- rapidly gathering momentum
- Cross-less
- ear-tickling
- lukewarm
- a feeder to One World Religion

It's called "The Emergent Church" and it is

- very appealing
- very "forward thinking"
- very subtle
- very dangerous to one's spiritual health

The roots are not from Biblical Christianity, the plan of God

The men influencing this movement sound very much like Peter in Matt 16:22, desiring to remove the Cross of Christ.

But to remove the Cross from the Gospel is to

- remove the place of repentance, which is necessary for salvation (prophets, John, Jesus, NT writers)
- arrogantly "veto" the plan of God

We will start examining this movement after Mark 8



Last time: Central Question and Central Issue

v34 called the people with his disciples:

Then Jesus summoned all the people around there to gather around Him and His disciples....

because they too must learn this next lesson: Central Person

1. whosoever will...any one who chooses...none excluded  
Jew or Gentile, male or female, bond or free
2. come after Me...live My way (selflessly)
3. let him deny himself...not self-denial but denial of Self

self-denial is man-centered  
denial of self is God-centered

become a bondservant:

- a willing servant
- bound by love for his Master
- no will, no possessions

all the “self” stuff are weights that burden me in my race...

I gotta let it all go

Heb 12:1

4. take up his cross...deny himself even unto persecution, suffering, and physical death  
“Not my will be done, but Yours.”
5. follow Me...because that is where I AM going (Phil 2:5-8)  
Jesus taught by example...He is the model of His teaching  
We follow Him by doing as He did...  
by the power He gives us to do it!

To do the above, you must be humble...a disciple of the unashamed  
(Last plea for Men’s Advance)

Christianity is not a religion...it is a lifestyle where

- Jesus is LORD and Savior...with the mind of a Servant
- His believers are followers...with minds of their LORD

the Lesson: I AM The Center

Jesus is the Central Person of all mankind...I’m not!

Everything is all about Him...not me!

v35 will save...shall lose...shall lose...shall save:

Whosoever will...any one who chooses: a choice must be made

“Whosoever will preserve his (selfish) life, cling to his will...will perish.  
But...whosoever will die to Self (become self-less) to follow Me and do  
My Father’s will...shall preserve his life.”

Jesus is the Center (dividing) line between life and death

- Eternal Life – die to self
- Eternal Death – live for self

The choice of Eternal Life is

- heard...by his answer to the Central Question (v29)
- seen...by his lifestyle of holding onto  
The Central Issue (the Cross) and  
The Central Person (Jesus)

The choice for Eternal Death is

- heard...by his answer to the Central Question (v29)
  - a good man
  - a prophet
  - a good teacher...a rabbi
  - Michael the Archangel
  - Satan’s brother
  - but NOT
    - The Christ
    - The Son of the Living God
    - The Word made flesh
    - I AM, the express image of God
- seen...by his lifestyle of
  - rejecting
    - The Central Issue (the Cross)
    - The Central Person (Jesus)
  - opting for
    - good works
    - self-indulgence
    - self-help
    - self-centeredness
    - a lie

Jesus Christ is the dividing line between Life and Death

v36 gain the whole world and lose his own soul:

What benefit is there in having EVERYTHING on earth, all of which

- is corrupted by moth and rust, breaks, is stolen
- gets left behind when you die/move out of this tent
- will burn

when your eternity (and every man has one) is described as

- “wailing and gnashing of teeth in outer darkness”
- “tormented in flame”
- a Lake of Fire

No amount of worldly wealth or power affects

- the day of a man’s death...it is appointed by God
- his eternal destination...is his own choice (Centrals)

Men who lived foolish lives

(invested all their time and possessions to getting more possessions on earth)

never express regret on their death beds for not having more worldly things...

They express regret over

- wasted time on things that turned out to be of no consequence
- not spending enough time with loved ones

Men who lived wisely

(invested their time and possessions in Jesus Christ and His work of seeking and saving the lost)

die in peace not because they got enough worldly wealth or power but because of the love in their lives...relationships

- of and for their LORD
- of and for their family

The time value of money spent on Self can be calculated.....

Zip, zero, zilch!

The time value of money invested in the Kingdom of God cannot be calculated in earthly terms....but it is radically multiplied!

Consider the Antichrist:

He does get everything on earth...  
and is then cast into the Lake of Fire by the Living God.

Consider the lessons learned by the richest man to ever live

- All that he sought...and where it left him (Ecc 2)
  - pleasure
  - wine and women
  - great works
  - possessions
  - knowledge/education
  
- Be very careful about what you think and say (Ecc 5:2)
  
- Man's riches and wealth come from God (Ecc 5:19)
- The eternal ROI of material wealth (Ecc 5:10, 15)
  
- The Bottom Line (Ecc 12:13-14)

We lose sight of these things in the daily struggle of a busy world  
The reminder is healthy

v37 give in exchange for his soul:

The universe belongs to God...  
It's all going to burn in fervent heat

My eternal soul is more valuable than the entire world

So what in the world is a fair exchange for Eternal Life?

It's not a commodity...it cannot be bought and sold  
It's a gift...a priceless gift

What is better:

1. Self-indulgent pleasure for a vapor of time,  
followed by an eternity of torment
  
2. Denial of self for a vapor of time,  
followed by an eternity of indescribable glory and joy

There is only one rational choice...

Jesus Christ, the Christ, the Son of the Living God,  
and Him crucified in my place

There is no better deal in the universe than the Cross of Jesus Christ

v38   ashamed of me and of my words...shall the Son of man be ashamed:  
While one still has breath in this life of probation, one's

1. answer to the Central Question
2. embracing of the Central Issue
3. proclaiming and submission to the Central Person

is to be public and bold and unashamed

Rom 1:16-17

1 Cor 1:18-24

2 Cor 2:14-16

If we are ashamed of Him, He will be ashamed of us  
Jesus is not ashamed to call us wretched sinners His brethren...  
how can we be ashamed of our LORD?

Men's Advance: discipleship of the Unashamed

Jesus lays out the cost of following Him...we must count it!

- denial of self  
(do not trivialize this cost)
- death of self  
(surrender of my will to the Sovereignty of Jesus Christ)
- uncompromising and bold witness of Jesus in a hostile world  
(Phil 1:27-29)

We must come to grips with the "facts of life"...this world is

- a temporary assignment
- a proving ground
- a sentence of probation
- a refining fire
- not our home

I want to hear, "Well done, good and faithful Servant. Enter into the joy  
of your LORD."

I do not want to hear, "I am ashamed of you because you were ashamed of  
Me and My words."

The difference...Victory...comes thru unconditional surrender

So I will

- occupy until He comes
- be busy about His business until He comes.
- be faithful to His name and to His Word (Rev 3:8)

and I will NOT

- be ashamed of the Cross
- fall away from the faith

Before Jesus returns, there will be a great falling away from the faith...  
a falling away from the Centrality of the Cross and of Jesus Christ

The Holy Spirit warned us about this so that we would not be caught  
unaware.

So we will take a closer look in order to be aware.

Because Jesus is looking to see if we will  
stand with Him...  
stand on Him...  
or not!

## Mark Chapter 9

Last time, the Centrality of the Gospel

1. Question: Who do you say that I AM?"
2. Issue/Truth: The Cross
3. Person: Jesus of Nazareth, the dividing line between life and death...  
the Jewish Messiah, the Savior of the world

Tonight,

1. The Kingdom of God will be seen (v1)
2. The Transfiguration of Jesus of Nazareth (v2-13)

v1 till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power:

Music to Jewish ears!

Finally, the promised return of the kingdom of David, Israel ruling over the nations instead of being oppressed by the nations!

Is that what Jesus is talking about? No

Now is not the time for that promise in the unfolding plan of God.  
He is not talking about an earthly kingdom but of a heavenly, spiritual kingdom.

“The kingdom of God is soon to be revealed.

So soon, in fact, that some standing here, living now, will still be alive when the kingdom is revealed...with the power of God.”

Jesus is talking about the Church, a spiritual kingdom headed by the King of kings

Ch 1:14-15

Luke 17:20-21

John 3:16

John 3:3-8

John 20:29

Luke 24:49

Acts 1:1-9

Acts 2:1-4, 37-42

Acts 20:28

1 Cor 10:32

repent and believe the gospel

a spiritual kingdom...throne is the heart

the Gospel

entry only be being born-again...

new creatures...by grace thru faith

Heb 11:1

the promise of the Father...power

power upon

the Church is born

born of the “Centrals” in Ch 8

a separate kind of people...of both people

by faith, His witnesses

btw... [Acts 14:22](#) Biblical Christianity is becoming “illegal”,  
attacked by other “Christians”

The Kingdom of God is the Church...  
the Faithful Church (Hab 2:4)...  
not Christian religion or Church-ianity

Note: Kingdom of God...is a monarchy  
not a republic/democracy/congregational rule,  
not a priestly aristocracy

Note: When Jesus Christ establishes His kingdom...  
The Church does NOT establish it for Him...  
Then the nation Israel will be placed above all nations as He rules  
from the Throne of David in Jerusalem

v2-3 he was transfigured before them:

6 days later, the Head of the Church reveals to His Inner Circle a glimpse  
of His Divine glory, briefly opening the veil behind which His is  
currently “hiding from His brethren”

(Joseph and his brothers)

This describes only His clothes...the only physical description of  
Jesus Christ is found in [Rev 1:12-18](#)

Jesus separates Peter, James, and John and takes them up to a high  
mountain

- Mt. Hermon: close to Caesarea Philippi (Ch 8)?
- Arbel: close to Capernaum?

There, He was “transformed” before their very eyes  
His common clothes became

- gleaming
- radiant
- blinding white (snow blindness)...  
the color of my sins now (Is 1:18) because of  
grace thru faith in the “Centrals”:  
Jesus and Him crucified (1 Cor 2:2)
- whiter than any earthly fashion designer or  
clothes maker could make  
i.e. supernaturally white



v4 appeared unto them Elijah and Moses:  
Elijah and Moses visually appeared to Jesus and His Inner Circle...  
this is not a vision

They are a very interesting pair:

Elijah represented the Prophets,  
Moses represented the Law

Elijah represented those who do not die physically (was raptured),  
Moses represented those who died (and resurrected)

Elijah “known” for

- stopping the rain for 3½ years
- calling fire down from heaven,

Moses “known” for

- turning water into blood
- the plagues of Egypt
- parting the Red Sea

Are they the “two men”, the Two Witnesses?

a) The glory and deity of Jesus Christ on earth (Transfiguration)  
Luke 9:28-31  
Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Law & the prophets...  
all 3 had unique exoduses

b) The resurrection of Jesus Christ  
Luke 24:1-7  
two men...does not say “two angels”

c) The ascension of Jesus Christ  
Acts 1:9-11

d) The imminent return of Jesus Christ to establish His earthly  
kingdom  
Rev 11:3-12

they were talking with Jesus:

Please notice, they were talking with Jesus...  
not with Peter, James, and John!

What were they talking about?

The “exodus” of Jesus Christ from earth...  
His suffering, death, burial, resurrection, ascension

v5-6 Peter answered:

Although he was not included in the conversation,  
Peter begins to speak...and that without thinking.

“Excuse me.

I know I am not a part of this discussion, but let me say this, Master.

It is a good thing James, John, and I are here!

The three of us can each make a booth for the three of you!

Good thinking, Master!”

Observations:

- There was recognition of Elijah and Moses,  
audibly by hearing the conversation
- The content of the conversation is the 2<sup>nd</sup> “teaching” that Jesus  
must suffer many things, die, be buried and rise again
- Peter offers his own works to be acceptable to his Master...  
contrary to the “Centrals” of Ch 8 (Eph 2:8-9)
- Peter, James, and John are “scared witless”
- They didn’t know what to say...so Peter starts talking when he  
should be quiet

Do you know anyone who likes to talk...

- just to hear themselves talk and because they  
can’t tolerate their own silence?
- when they are nervous or scared

Prov 10:19 In the multitude of words, there wants not  
sin, but he that refrains his tongue is wise

Ps 46:10 Be still and know that I am God

Lesson from Peter:

You do not need to talk!

Sometimes you just need to bite your tongue!

v7 a cloud overshadowed them:

When Peter is done chattering,

- a cloud envelopes them
- an audible voice speaks from the cloud
- in Matt 17:6, Peter, James, and John drop to their faces...silent

First, the cloud...the Shekinah glory of God that

1. led Israel out of bondage in Egypt  
Ex 13:21-22, Ex 14:19-31
2. filled the Tabernacle and led them in the wilderness  
Ex 40:17, 33-38
3. resided above the mercy seat  
Lev 16:1-2
4. filled Solomon's Temple  
1 K 8:6-11
5. left the Temple after Israel's prolonged/widespread apostasy  
Ezk 10:4, 18-19
6. how Jesus would return to heaven...  
Acts 1:9-11
7. and then back to earth  
Rev 1:7

Secondly, having seen a glimpse of the glory of the Son, the Inner Circle is enveloped by the glory of the Father, Who audibly speaks to them (as when Jesus was baptized, Luke 3:21-22)

- "This (Jesus of Nazareth) is my beloved Son/heir
- Hear Him...use your ears instead of your mouth."

v8 suddenly...saw no man any more:

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, those whom Peter, James, and John had literally seen and heard...were gone!

They had come out of eternity into space and time...  
and went back to eternity

v9-10 tell no man...till:

Going down from the mountain-top experience, Jesus tells  
His Inner Circle to keep to themselves all they had seen and heard

- His transformation and glory
- Elijah and Moses
- His conversation with Elijah and Moses regarding His exodus
- The voice of His Father in heaven

until He...the Son of man...and Son of God...was risen from the  
dead.

Note: the amazing truth is that Jesus is the Son of man!

Peter, James, and John kept it to themselves, discussing what Jesus meant.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> “teaching” on the LORD’s death and resurrection these  
three have heard...

and they still don’t understand because this scenario just doesn’t fit into  
their expectation of the “kingdom of God”...  
as taught them by the religious leadership

Jesus is speaking plainly and directly...

yet their hearts are still blind to the truth of His Word

v11-13 Why say the scribes:

The three disciples are discussing the words of Jesus.  
One “reasons with the Scriptures” about the return of Elijah

**Mal 4:4-6**

the last words of God before 400 years of silence...  
broken by John the Baptist

“Hey, we just saw Elijah and he left again.  
I don’t think that is what the prophet was speaking about.  
Let’s ask the Master about this “Bible difficulty.”

Jesus answer is very interesting...and probably kept the disciples  
scratching their heads  
(until such time as these things were revealed)

“Elijah does come first:

- to restore all things
- the Son of man must suffer many things and be despised

notice that the restoration of all things requires that  
the Son of man be despised, suffer, and die

Is 53, Ps 22

(4<sup>th</sup> teaching)

Elijah had already come

- And they knew him not (Matt 17:12)
- And he was treated like a prophet.”
  - persecuted
  - imprisoned
  - killed

The disciples did not understand all that Jesus said but they did understand  
that He was speaking of John the Baptist (Matt 17:13)

## A lesson in Faith and Humility

v14-16 the scribes questioning with them:

Jesus and His Inner Circle are now down from their mountaintop experience.

Approaching His disciples, Jesus sees the scribes “reasoning”, “disputing” with them...the scribes are hassling His disciples

The multitude sees Him coming and race over to Him.

“Wow! What perfect timing! Where did You come from?”

Jesus asks the scribes...belligerents to His message and ministry...

”What’s the problem here? Why are you hassling these people?”

v17-18 I spake to thy disciples...and they could not:

The man perhaps at the center of the dispute speaks up.

His son is possessed by an evil spirit, who

- holds the tongue of the son
- causes terrible seizures and convulsions
- foaming at the mouth
- grating of the teeth even to the point of not being able to eat

The man, the father, brought his son to Jesus’ disciples to have the demon cast out...

remember they had been sent out 2-by-2 and given power to do just that...

but they were unable to cast out this demon.

Therefore, the scribes were apparently taking the disciples to task and debating the validity of Jesus’ ministry with the multitude

v19 how long shall I suffer you:  
Coming off a glorious mountaintop experience with two humble and  
faithful servants...  
Now back in the valley of contentions and unbelief...  
Jesus is frustrated.

Certainly with the scribes, who opposed Him at every step.  
But perhaps also with the multitudes and/or His disciples?

“O faithless people/nation  
 (“generation” is not a period of time)...  
how long shall I be with you?  
 (Soon I will be returning to my place...Hosea 5:15).  
How long must I put up with you?  
 (When will you believe? When will you submit?)  
Bring him to Me.”

v20 the spirit tore him:  
The demon had been unphased by these “learners” of Jesus...  
but when it sees I AM, it is terrified,  
as seen in what it does to the son

- sent him into a severe epileptic seizure
- threw him to the ground
- cause him to roll around, frothing at the mouth

The demon clearly recognized the Creator and understood His power and  
authority  
(the scribes did not, the multitudes did not, the disciples did not)

v21-22 How long is it ago:

“How long has your son been possessed by this demon?”

“Since he was an infant.

And it has tried to kill him ever since...frequently by throwing him into the fire or into deep water.

If you are able to help us...please do! Have compassion on us.”

Last week on ABCNews.com, a lead article was on the Golden Gate

Bridge, a place often chosen by people desiring to commit suicide.

One segment interviewed a survivor of a suicide attempt.

His despair took him to this “favored place” of death.

He was very, and visually, upset...weeping etc.

No one bothered to help, even though he was praying that someone would.

A German tourist even asked him to take a picture of her and her husband.

Voices inside him told him to jump...but he kept hesitating.

Finally he took several steps back, ran, and jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge.

A millisecond after he did, he regretted it!

“I don’t want to die, I want to live!”

The rest of the article was about his survival;

nothing was said about his spiritual condition.

He needed help...there was none with any compassion.

He needed Jesus...and may still.

His struggle to live was like this man’s son.

v23 If thou canst believe:

“If you are able to believe I can help...

because all things are possible to those with faith in Me.”

The issue is faith in Jesus...

not man’s ability or strength or intellect or possessions

God can do anything...

except lie or anything else that would contradict His nature

Question: Do you believe it?

Mary did (Luke 1:37)

Salvation depends upon it (Mark 10:23-27)

The issue is faith in Jesus Christ.



v24 help thou mine belief:

Desperate and fragile and tired of the struggle, the emotional father cries,  
“I believe, Lord! Help me to believe! Relieve my doubts!”

A very honest and humble answer,

- acknowledging he had some doubts but not wanting any
- knowing he was powerless

v25-26 he rebuked the foul spirit:

Jesus responds to even the tiniest bit of faith.

Therefore, Jesus rebuked the demon, who perpetrated one more act of violence on the son on his way out...leaving the son exhausted by the life-long ordeal.

v27 Jesus took him by the hand:

This not a young boy...

otherwise Jesus would have picked him up in His arms.

Jesus gave him a hand and helped him to his feet.

A powerful mental picture for all who struggle with faith

Phil 4:13

v28-29 Why could we not cast him out:

Later, privately and not in public, the powerless disciples ask why they were not able to cast this demon out like they had others

Matt 17:19-21

Jesus responds by telling them that

- they lacked the faith to do it
- there are different kinds...orders, ranks...of angels and this one was of sufficient rank/power to require devoted, concentrated warfare (prayer and fasting)... which requires genuine faith

We are NOT powerless against demons!

We have the power of Jesus Christ to cast them out...in Jesus' name

(A frequent occurrence in the darkness of Egypt)

We often lose sight of the power of God and become fearful...

misplacing our faith

2 Tim 1:7

Jesus is bigger than any opponent, bigger than any problem/obstacle

Have I ever moved a mountain with my faith?

No...that insults my intellect.

So...how big is my faith?

Smaller than a mustard seed!

Now I see the wisdom...the honesty and humility...

of the father's prayer in v24!

Faith is not something I can manufacture...

because I would boast in it

Faith comes from God (Rom 12:3, Rom 10:17)...

when I humble myself before Him

Faith is mine to receive from, and to invest in, Jesus (v23)

v30-31 would not that any man should know:

With this key lesson in faith under their belt, Jesus and His disciples carry on...moving thru Galilee "undercover" while He

- gave them a message "for their ears only"...  
requiring great faith
- taught them another important lesson...  
humility

the message "for their ears only" was that of His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection

the 5<sup>th</sup> time He has given this lesson –

2<sup>nd</sup> time to all His disciples,

5<sup>th</sup> to His Inner Circle

the message is remarkable, requiring great faith

- The Son of man...that is the amazing truth –  
that the Creator would become The Son of man
- The Creator would surrender Himself to His creatures to be so spitefully treated
- The Source of Life would die
- And then defeat death because death could not hold Him down

Jesus Christ is the Creator of life...and death

Only faith in Jesus Christ is rational and rightly placed

v32 they understood not:

The message was way beyond their intellect.  
They were trying to understand...they were not believing

God's way and God's Word cannot be understood and then believed...  
it must be believed and then it will be understood

They discussed the teaching yet they were afraid to ask Jesus about their  
doubts and lack of understanding.

Why? Pride

"I don't want to look or sound stupid.  
I don't want anyone to know that I don't get it."

Do not be afraid to ask the Lord questions to clarify or reveal His Word.  
He already knows the question in your heart and mind,  
and He wants to teach you!

Are you afraid to look stupid?

Wanting to know and understand is never stupid  
We are all students, He alone is the Teacher  
Being ignorant later is truly stupid.

v33 What was it that you disputed:

When they get to their destination and are all gathered together,  
Jesus asks them what they were arguing about on the way.

Did He not know?

Of course He did...He knew their very thoughts.  
This is a "communal Gen 3 'Where are you'"

v34 they held their peace:

No one dares to answer...every one of them knows they were wrong to be  
discussing the issue at hand

Silence to a question asked is usually a sign of sin that does not  
want to be revealed

And what was the issue at hand?

Their positions in the kingdom of God...  
what "kind" each would be...the "kingdom pecking order"

What was the sin they desired to be left in darkness?

Pride...ugly pride

v35 to be first...shall be last of all and servant of all:  
Jesus knew the answer to His question...  
He wanted them to come clean and humble themselves...  
to be honest with Him like the father in v24

Thus, another important lesson is needed: humility

“If you want to be the most important person in the kingdom of God  
(a carnal desire),  
then you must be the least important person and the servant to all others.  
You must be emptied of Self, which is filled with pride.”

Rom 12:3

Gal 6:3

Rom 7:18

To our flesh, this is a harsh truth:  
we bring absolutely nothing acceptable or worthy to the table when  
we sit down with Jesus!

Pride is a revelation...as is all truth

We easily see pride in others...

But our own, masked by denial and false humility, is a revelation  
The LORD must reveal our pride to us

v36-37 he took a child:

Jesus drives the point home by using a little child as an object lesson

Holding this little boy in His arms (what a beautiful mental image!),  
Jesus teaches His disciples and us

- Where He wants us to be –
  - in His arms
  - all eyes and ears
  
- How He wants us to be –
  - innocent
  - pure of the world's ways
  - teachable and full of questions
  - trusting
  - “empty” and eager to be “filled”

“If you will be like this child...  
if you will accept being like this child...  
you will accept Me and the Father Who sent Me.”

What is required?

Faith and humility

He will do whatever it takes to teach us these lessons...

The proud will be humbled...the humble will be exalted  
A genuine faith produces humility...pride hamstring faith

Last time, Jesus

- again demonstrated His absolute power over spiritual realm...over all ranks  
(as has repeatedly demonstrated His absolute power over physical realm)
- taught His disciples about faith and humility...  
while holding a little boy in His arms

“If you will accept a child like this one...in My name...  
you receive Me and My Father.”

Tonight...a Lesson on unity and purity of heart...

Don't look any further than your own heart.

v38 in thy name...in my name:

So John, the most spiritually sensitive of the disciples, raises a question of  
clarification in the form of a statement...  
that reveals his heart and that of the other disciples

“We caught someone casting out demons...  
in your name (power and authority).  
He would not follow us or listen to us...  
he wanted to be an ‘independent.’  
So we told him to stop what he was doing...  
we did not receive him, we did not accept him...  
because he would not join our group.”

What happened in this situation?

John and the disciples were trying to organize

- a “religious workers union”
- a denomination

They “looked down” on this man who was not “with” them  
They could not discern the “spirit” of this man

v39-40 Forbid him not...no man...in my name:

Jesus clarifies...teaching on the unity of heart of true believers

“Leave that man alone; his faith is in Me....his heart is right with Me.

He is not manipulating men to gather them and their money unto himself.

No one who is used to accomplish a genuine supernatural work...  
in My name, My power and authority...

THE power over demons is My name...  
can quickly revile me.

The man that is not against us, he is for us....

he is a friend, not a foe...

we are in unity with that man.”

1 Cor 12:3 no man speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed:  
and no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

Mark 3:22-25

There are only 2 positions one can take regarding Jesus:

for Him...or...against Him

neutral = against

for Self using His name = against

Jesus calls, equips, empowers, and sends men to do His work

- speak the truth in love
  - set the captives free
- seek and save the lost  
do the will of the Father

There are “friends” who assist with and there are “foes” who oppose  
the work of Jesus

Jesus sent us The Holy Spirit to help us discern the difference

Friends have the right Jesus and the right Gospel...  
and do the Lord’s work

Foes have a false Jesus and a false Gospel...  
and do Satan’s bidding

2 Cor 11:13-15

Gal 1:6-9

Gal 6:10-12 with 2 Cor 4:3-4

Matt 7:21-23 true power (name), false heart (self)

v41 in my name...belong to Christ:  
In fact...

“Whoever...any of My sheep, not just these in this little group  
blesses you with a drink of water...not gall/vinegar  
in My name...on My behalf and to serve and honor Me  
because you belong to Me, the Good Shepherd...a pure motive  
will be rewarded and will not lose it.”

Matt 25:31-40

v42 offend one of little ones that believe in me:  
Still with the little boy in his arms,

“Anyone who deliberately  
entraps  
entices into sin  
cause to stumble and fall  
one such as this

- trusting and having faith in Me (Matt 11:6)
- innocent
- humble
- pure

(when you serve the LORD in the Children’s  
Ministry, one of the many blessings is hearing the  
purity of their prayers)

it would be better to be thrown in the ocean with a 500 pound  
millstone for a ‘life preserver.’”

i.e. his reward will be worse than this!

Those who so “work” will face an angry, holy, all-powerful God  
e.g JW at Pedro/Marisol’s door with his 2 granddaughters



v43-48 hell...fire...worm:

Jesus elaborates on the purity essential to enter into the kingdom of God...  
starting with the seriousness of sin (as did in SoM, Matt 5:29-30)

“If your hand causes you to stumble into sin, cut it off.  
If your foot does, cut it off.  
If your eye does, pluck it out.

(speaking figuratively to 2D physical man to teach literal spiritual  
realities beyond their dimensions of perception)

Better to enter the kingdom of God...eternal life...maimed or crippled  
than to go into

- hell (“*gehenna*”)...the garbage pit of eternal death
- the fire that will never be quenched (“*asbestos*”)...  
that burns perpetually, never running out of fuel

where

- their worm never dies  
rebels...characterized as being in God’s eyes like a  
maggot coming out of rotting flesh...  
are not consumed by the fire...  
are never annihilated, never cease to exist
- the fire of torment is never extinguished

Jesus Christ is figuratively teaching about the seriousness of sin to warn us  
of the literal destiny of all who die in their sins/impurity/corruption  
(unbelief)

The matters of sin and hell are VERY real!

God’s purity and holiness apart from sin is real

Is 59:2            your iniquities have separated between you  
and your God, and your sins have hid *his*  
face from you, that he will not hear.

God’s wrath against sin and the children of disobedience is real!

John 3:36        He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting  
life: and he that believeth not the Son shall  
not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on  
him.

Hell and the Lake of Fire are real places!

Luke 16:19-41 ...”I am tormented in this flame.”

The torment of unrepentant sinners is real...and forever

Rev 14:10-11

Therefore, a fear of God is very healthy!

Jude 23

Shuddering to be contrary to the holy and just God or  
to dishonor Him or to displease Him

Fear of God leads to

- confession
- repentance
- cleansing and purification
- holy living

We have lost the fear of God in our society...

Because the Church in our society has lost the fear of God...  
The Church is indistinguishable from society

The Church has widely stopped preaching and teaching

- sin
- hell
- repentance
- the exclusive and offensive Gospel of Jesus Christ

From a pastor's perspective, it is a frightful sin (James 3:1) to

- gloss over
- sugar-coat
- ignore
- deny

the realities of sin and hell...

just because it offends everyone and makes sinners  
uncomfortable!

PTL for the agitation and discomfort of sinners!

It may lead to eternal life!  
THAT is why we are here!

Those pastors who soft-sell a watered-down gospel (misnomer)...  
are they similar or dissimilar to the man in v38-40 who would not  
listen to John and the disciples?

Dissimilar...

theirs is not a cup of water healthy to drink (v41)...  
theirs is an emetic (causes vomiting)

v49-50 salted with fire...salted with salt:

Jesus continues His teaching on purity in the kingdom of God...  
in the life of a believer

the metaphors must be understood

- fire: a purifier
- salt: a preservative/purifier, a flavoring/seasoning

Every one entering the kingdom of God is purified with fire –  
to burn off the impurities (dross)

Every sacrifice (Lev 2:13, Rom 12:2) is purified with salt –  
to kill the surface bacteria and arrest the process of decomposition

If salt, which does a good work, loses its properties/nature/ability to do  
that work, it is worthless

(Matt 5:13...cast out and trodden underfoot)

Thus, the admonition from Him Who died to purify us from sin and to  
save us from hell:

- have a “salted” heart – purified, preserved from the decaying of  
the flesh
- be a purifying influence on the world...which requires the  
revelation of sin, death, and hell
- add a tasty flavor to all the lives around you
- have peace with one another...

Rom 12:18...(horizontal relationships)  
requires peace with God (vertical relationship)

which is based on

- repentance and cleansing/purity (Matt 5:8)
- order (1 Cor 11:3) and  
submission (Eph 5:15-21)

Submission is the foundation for healthy relationships  
(flavorful and peaceful)

- with the LORD
- with each other
  - at home
  - at work
  - at church

Don McClure: responses to “Let’s walk together”

rebellion

“I disagree. I know better. I’m staying put right here.”

A selfish response

obedience

I disagree. I’m walking but I’m staying put on the inside!”

A selfish response.

submission

“Let’s go. I will do anything I can to make this a fruitful walk.”

A self-less response.

It is possible to obey...and not submit.

And we frequently do!

It is not possible to submit and NOT obey

If you submit, you WILL obey

He Who is pure will purify His Body

1 Peter 1:7

1 Peter 4:12

A Lesson in unity and purity of heart...

Are you

“friend” or “foe” of the work of the LORD?

“salted” – purified and preserved from decay?

“salty” – flavorful and peaceful in the lives around you?

Even with those who are not flavorful and peaceful to you?

Even with those whom you do not like and disagree with?

That is the LORD’s will...will you submit to Him?

Or, perhaps, does your heart need some more fire and salt?

## Mark Chapter 10

Last time:

Lessons in Faith and Purity...requirements to enter the Kingdom of God

This time:

A New Order...natural man is put in his place (Is 55:8-9)

Lesson: Christian marriage

v1 he arose...was wont he taught:

Jesus leaves the Galilee and heads south to Judea on His way to Jerusalem,  
where the balance of His public ministry will take place...  
Jesus is closing out His Galilean ministry

In Judea, as in the Galilee, the people assembled around him and,  
as He was accustomed to, He taught them the Word of God

Jesus is the Teacher, we are His students.  
Jesus always feeds the spiritually hungry  
Be a “starving student” and eat heartily of the meat of the Word

v2 the Pharisees came to him:

Did they come up from Jerusalem?  
No, they were “bird-dogging” Jesus; a contingent of Pharisees followed  
Him everywhere He went, “keeping book” on Him

These “legal lords” over the people approach Him with a question about  
an inflammatory issue:  
Is it legal for a man to divorce his wife?

The Pharisees hoped to

- perhaps catch Him contradicting the Law of God...but
- embroil Him in the hotly contested debate among the Jews at  
the time about divorce:

“for any reason” (rabbinic interpretation)

vs

“only for adultery” (Law, Deut 24:1-4)

They wanted to make the very popular Jesus unpopular

v3 What did Moses command:  
Jesus' reference point or right vs wrong is the Word of God  
"What did Moses say? What does the Law say?"

The answer to your every question is...in the Word of God

v4 Moses suffered to:  
"Moses said we can divorce."

An incomplete answer by the legalists

Deut 24:1 says "she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath  
found some uncleanness in her"...

uncleanness = "shame, nakedness"...adultery

The legalists, who claimed to keep the Letter of the Law,  
ignored the singular exception..."uncleanness"  
to leave a gaping loophole..."found no favor"

v5 For the hardness of your heart:  
Jesus, the Word of God, explains why God allowed the singular exception  
for divorce

He Who knows the agony caused by the unfaithfulness of a beloved  
spouse allowed divorce in the case of adultery because of...  
the spiritual destitution and callousness of man

Meaning, if it were not for the hardness of man's heart, there would be NO  
valid reason for divorce

Now, Jesus gives the Pharisees the Spirit of the Law

v6-9 But from the beginning:

Marriage as designed by the Creator God (Gen 2:24):

leave and cleave

(glue like in the making of plywood)

two become one

(a foreshadow of John 10:30, Eph 5:32)

“yoked together”, inseparable

(linked with Matt 11:28-30)

a loving relationship

For man and wife who are born-again Christians...

new creatures in Christ with new hearts right with God...

there are no reasons to divorce, not even adultery

However, the lies of Psychology have infected the Church...which now

has the same divorce rate as the unbelievers

- Need to look out for #1...yourself
- Need to love yourself before you can love someone else
- The kids need Quality time

Psychology contradicts the Word of God

Every broken marriage is an opportunity to see

- the healing power of God's love and grace
- Jesus' ministry of reconciliation...

if man and wife submit to the LORDship of Jesus Christ

both are believers: 1 Cor 7:10-11

one is an unbeliever: 1 Cor 7:12-16 with Rom 12:18

When I understood this, the inspired and infallible Word of God...

after I had previously believed the lies of Psychology...

I told Monica that I would never divorce her...

for any reason (not to even insinuate she would ever give me one)

That was a landmark promise in our relationship because it gave Monica

security in my love for and commitment to her

Note: What else did Jesus do here?

Verify the historicity of the Creation account (vs Evolution)

v10-12 his disciple asked him again:

Hearing, and perhaps participating in, the social debate over divorce,  
the disciples are blown away and bring it up again

“Could you run that by us again?”

With

“for any reason”

and

“only for adultery”

in their minds, they hear Jesus say

“For no reason”

“For any reason” is nullified!

“Only for adultery” is radically reversed!

The sender is the adulterer!

And also causes the divorced spouse to commit adultery!

God knows the effects of “tearing plywood” –

destroyed families, scarred children, unstable societies

He hates divorce (Mal 2:16) because of what it does to His beloved  
creatures

Our culture’s “no fault” divorce makes easy that which God despises...

Ours is a society in Self-Destruct mode

Jesus puts lustful and selfishly manipulative natural man in his place

v13-14 brought young children to him:

As in the Galilee, little children are drawn to Jesus and seek His touch...

their hearts were soft and responsive to His love

Yet His disciples, acting as mediators between Him and the children,

rebuke the parents!

Jesus is indignant at their hard hearts and puts His disciples in their place.

After all the teaching they have heard...

even as recently as Ch 9:36-37...

the disciples just don’t get it

(I find that comforting...Jesus did not choose spiritual giants but ordinary  
men)



v15-16 not receive...not enter:

Jesus strongly and directly rebukes His disciples...  
both in words and in actions

Words: “Whosoever...including you guys...does not accept the Kingdom  
of God like a little child will not enter into the Kingdom of  
God.”

Entry requirement: the faith (Heb 11:6) of a child...manifested in  
undoubting trust  
humble dependence  
complete submission  
eagerness to please  
adoring, clinging love

Actions: He scooped the children up in His arms, embraced them, touched  
them, and blessed them

That is the nature of the relationship Jesus wants with us –  
loving vs legalistic, close to His heart

Jesus puts the proud and self-sufficient natural man in his place

Next week, Jesus will put the wealthy man in his place

Last time...setting everyone on their heels, Jesus gives an important Lesson on Marriage  
This time...an important message on Salvation that also sets everyone on their heels

The encounter with the “Rich Young Ruler”...in all 3 of the Synoptic Gospels

A striking conversation between

- a very wealthy young man of integrity with great promise
- an itinerant Prophet from Galilee

v17 Good Master:

Jesus continues His trek south toward Jerusalem when a man...  
a ruler (Luke 18:18), a man of position and influence...  
came racing to him, fell before Him, and asked,  
“Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal Life?”

i.e. “What must I do to save myself?”

Notice the young man’s

- eagerness and hastiness...came running
- humility...kneeled (in respect vs worship) before a poor man,  
but a man he knew was his spiritual superior
- courage...came in broad daylight vs at night like Nicodemus
- good intentions...seeking eternal life

v18 none good but one:

Jesus responds by first questioning the man’s salutation of “Good Master”

- to properly establish the two identities in the conversation...  
God and sinner
- to set the stage for the lesson about to be taught

“Only God is good.

All men are no-good sinners and fall short of the glory of God  
(Rom 3:10, 23).

(If you think I am Good, you think I AM God.)”

v19 knowest the commandments:

Then Jesus presents God’s standard for interpersonal behavior...  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Table of the 10 Commandments...  
those between ourselves and other men

v20 Master:

Hearing the unspoken comment by Jesus regarding his initial salutation,  
the man drops the “Good”...he does not believe Jesus is God

Then he proclaims his

- faithfulness and righteousness to the light shed upon him
- obedience to the Law, written in stone...

Perhaps this Judean man was not in the Galilee to hear SoM!

- adultery
- murder
- vows

The man before Jesus is a

- prosperous man...by the world's standards
- prominent man...among men
- sincere man
- honest man
- “good” man with high morals

He has everything going for him.

Surely he is a saved man, a man acceptable to God!

v21 beholding him loved him:

Jesus knew his thoughts and heart...

that he was all the things he thought he was...

and He “agaped” him; He did not contradict him

one thing thou lackest:

“But, if you want to inherit eternal life, there is a place where you  
fall short...the 1<sup>st</sup> Table of the 10 Commandments...

God's standard of behavior of man toward Him

So...to have a heart right with God,

- Go home
- Sell everything you have
- Distribute the proceeds to the poor
- Exchange worldly wealth for heavenly wealth
- Come back to Me
- Trust Me...put your faith in Me
- Deny yourself
- Follow Me.”

v22 he was sad...went away grieved”

Set back on his heels by this answer, the man is deeply grieved...  
because he was very wealthy...  
his trust was in himself and in his wealth instead of in God

He kept the Commandments...he wanted to keep his money too!

The rich young ruler could not obey the “one thing” Jesus told him to do.  
He selfishly refused to learn from and follow Jesus....  
so he went away

Being a disciple of Jesus...a follower and not just a believer...  
requires a “whole hearted” commitment (James 1:8)

One must be willing to leave or lose everything in order to follow Him.  
The Gospel is free...it will cost you everything you have!  
1 Cor 6:19-20

What about you?

- Are you willing to lose your house and all your stuff to follow Jesus?
- Name a material asset that compares to an intimate relationship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Is Jesus more important to you than every person you know?
- Who else died for your sins?
- Who else liberated you from death and hell?
- Who else became poor so that you might be rich?

As you ponder those questions, know this...

- Jesus knows you fall short...no matter how  
good  
moral  
honest  
principled
- Jesus looks at you and loves you!
- Jesus is calling you to make Him First in your heart

v23 Jesus looked round about:

Looking around at His disciples, Jesus can see that they are set back on their heels too!

So the lesson continues.

“It is very difficult for a materially rich man...who is insensitive to his desperate need, perceiving that all his needs and desires are met blinded by wealth to their abject helplessness independent, not seeing his dependence upon God or morally rich man...sincere, honest, “good” man...who rests in his own righteousness... cannot see the utter depravity of his heart to enter the Kingdom of God.

His riches stumble him, becoming an idol in his life and corrupting his heart.

His self-righteousness deceives him.”

Note: We ALL need a fresh perspective on “rich vs poor”:  
Compared to how the saints in Egypt live...  
all of us are luxuriously rich!

v24-25 It is easier for a camel:

Now the disciples are all the more confounded.

So Jesus repeats Himself...the teaching on salvation is worth repeating... with an absurd metaphor to drive the point home.

- “Children (v15)
- Misplaced faith in material wealth that will burn and is of ZERO value in the Kingdom of God... one’s own morality...that is in reality corrupt make it impossible for rich men to be saved.”

1 Cor 1:26-29

Man cannot earn eternal life/salvation with good works or pay for it with money.

Our morality falls short...our merit falls short...  
our bank account falls short

Hell is filled with “good” men who opted to stand before God without the Savior

Salvation is a spiritual work of God...a gift from God.

v26-27 astonished out of measure:

The disciples are beyond flabbergasted.

“If the prominent and moral man cannot be saved, who can be saved?”

A: “Salvation is impossible for man (v17b)...

it is possible only for God to save man.”

There is NOTHING we can do to save ourselves.

Even the wealthiest man lacks the resources to save himself.

God and God alone can do what is necessary to save us from our sins.

And Jesus did...Jesus is God...Jesus is Good Master

Thus, the “good” man and the prominent man are put in their place.

v28 Peter began to say:

“We walked away from a very prosperous fishing business.

We were like that man.

And we have done v21.

Are we doomed?

Can we not be saved?”

v29-30 shall receive a hundredfold:

“Everyone who has forsaken all

- for My sake...for Me...because his faith is in Me
- for the Gospel

shall be rewarded 100X (a reward is given)

- now in this world
  - family
    - family of God
    - Ramy’s house was my house
    - my house is your house
  - greater stewardship (due to faithful stewardship)
    - God is no man’s debtor,
    - no man can out-give God
  - persecutions (2 Tim 3:12)
- later in the world to come
  - eternal life

The answer to v17 is v21 and v29-20...a proper investment strategy  
Give everything to Him Who owns all things...  
Make Jesus Christ LORD of all

Invest your faith in Him vs yourself or your stuff

Matt 22:36-40

John 6:28-29

Mark 9:23

Eph 2:8-9

Heb 11:6

v31 first...last...last first:

The Gospel went first to Jew, last to Gentile

The first to enter the Kingdom of God are Gentile, last are Jew

[ small group prayer:

Stewardship, idolatry

Self-righteousness

Submission to His LORDship ]

Last time...shocking truths about salvation  
This time...the price of salvation and leadership

v32a Jesus went before:

Jesus and His disciples continue the trek south along the Jordan River,  
walking thru Judea on their journey from Galilee to Jerusalem

Jesus has an appointment calendar filled with critical appointments in  
Jerusalem before His public ministry is finished...  
most notably the appointment at Calvary

Notice that Jesus went before them...  
the Good Shepherd is leading his flock...  
they are following the Shepherd of their souls into “the unknown”

they were amazed...afraid:

At the moment, this is a silent procession

The disciples have heard Jesus say some radical things and do many  
astounding things.

(calm the wind and sea, walk on water, heal all maladies)

They are still following Him, even though His teachings on this journey  
are also very difficult for them to comprehend...

as they were previously (John 6:66-69)

Now, here they are, “stupefied” and frightened...

because their Master has laid some mind-bending truth on them

- God’s standard for marriage – if your heart is soft like God wants it to be, there is no reason for divorce
- Only “children” enter the Kingdom of God
- Jesus is “Good Master”...God Who alone is good
- No man is good
- A “good man” is not good enough to enter the Kingdom of God
- No man can save himself, only God can save sinful man
- Worldly wealth is ultimately of no value
- The first will be last and the last will be first...  
and the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard  
(3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> hours, Matt 20:1-15)
- Although many will be called, few will be chosen for the  
Kingdom of God (Matt 20:16)



v32b-34 he took again the twelve and began to tell:

Then Jesus stopped...and gathered His sheep near...  
for an intimate moment with them...

In that tender moment, aware of their thoughts and fears, Jesus tells them

- what is going to happen to Him when they get to Jerusalem...
- why they left the Galilee to go to Jerusalem
- how John 1:29, God's plan of salvation, will be accomplished

God's plan of salvation...impossible for man but possible only for God...  
involves:

The Son of man

Is 7:14

Is 9:6-7

Micah 5:2

Matt 1:18-23

Seed of the Woman

Messiah

Who is the Son of God

delivered...betrayed by a friend

condemned by the Jews and the Gentiles/Romans...

i.e. by all men

mocked...disrespect, dishonor, made a joke of

scourged...beaten and tortured

spit upon...foul and filthy, the utmost sign of contempt

killed...crucified (Matt 20:19)

rising to life on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

To a stupefied and fearful flock, these may not have sounded to them like  
words of tender comfort...

Although this is not "news" in the sense that Jesus has already told them  
this, their minds may have been overloaded and fried by this  
"heads up"

The LORD always tells His friends what He is about to do

In this instance, Jesus tells His friends that He is going to the city He  
chose to be His own in order to be

the only acceptable Kinsman-Redeemer for all men  
a sin offering unto a holy and just God

Jesus accomplishes the salvation of man...Jesus is God

Based on the conversation that follows, the disciples still did not  
“get it”...are still not spiritually discerning

v35-37 James and John...Grant us:

Having just heard Jesus speak of the horror that lies in His future,  
two of His Inner Circle, brothers James and John,  
put their mother (Matt 20:20) up to asking Jesus  
“Master, we want you to do for us anything we ask.”

Reactions:

- Methinks they are it all backwards – servants do anything the Master asks them to do for him!
- the timing of the request defies comprehension!

What:

Jesus does not laugh or rebuke His close friends, He asks them what they  
want Him to do  
(He already knows! Amos 4:13)

We are stunned, chafed and maybe irritated by the request of James and  
John, but with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight of v33-34  
accomplished, what would our Master NOT do for us?!  
What more could He do?

sit...right hand...left hand:

James and John, who beheld Jesus’ glory at His Transfiguration,  
care more about their placement in the Kingdom of God than they  
do the path there that must be cleared by Jesus.

James and John want to be like Moses and Elijah.

They do not understand that Jesus’ “exodus” entails humiliation, suffering,  
and death BEFORE glory

We would be well served to remember that!

We must be as ready and willing to be humiliated and to suffer and die as  
we are to receive glory.

If we suffer like Him, we will be glorified like Him  
(v29-30, Rom 8:17)

v38-39 cup...baptism:

Walking to Calvary via the Garden of Gethsemane where He will pray that  
the cup of the Father's holy and just wrath pass from Him if there  
is any other way to save man,  
Jesus tells James and John that they have no idea what they are asking.

The Sons of Thunder are misguided

“You don't understand.

You have a distorted view of the Messianic prophesies.

You will follow me, but not like you are thinking now.

Can you drink a cup of wrath like mine?

Are you willing to be baptized with death like I am?”

“Yes.”

“And indeed you will.”

James was hated by the Jews and killed by Herod in an  
attempt to win their favor (Acts 12)

Try as they may, they could not kill John...so he was exiled  
to Patmos...where he received the Revelation of  
Jesus Christ

v40 not mine to give:

“But what you ask of Me is not Mine to give...but to the Father alone.  
Besides, those seats are already assigned!”

What is exciting is that someone will be sitting on the right hand...  
that place is prepared for someone!  
Same with His left hand!

Who those saints are was settled before Gen 1:1 by the all-knowing,  
all-seeing Creator of space and time!

Methinks everyone will be surprised who the occupants of the seats of  
honor are.

Who will I be seated next to?  
I pray I can sit next to Monica!

v41 much displeased:

When they heard about this political “end run” by James and John,  
the other 10 were peeved!  
Because they were also competing for the Lord’s favor in His Kingdom,  
which they expected to be established any day now.

They still haven’t learned  
(Ch 9:30-35).

These are the foolish men Jesus used to confound the wise...  
just as He uses us!

v42-45 chiefest shall be servant of all:

So now it is time to repeat the lesson in Leadership  
God’s ways are not man’s ways...our minds must be transformed

Man’s ways:

To lord over others  
To oppress and subject others  
To compete for position and then use it to leverage others for  
self gain  
To be promoted to “higher” responsibilities, leaving the lesser  
jobs to one of lower rank  
To get titles and corner offices  
To build empires and “pyramid schemes”

God’s ways:

Leading by example...being a willing servant of others  
Being of no reputation  
Decreasing so He may increase  
Gaining by losing  
The way up...is down  
Lead by following...Jesus Christ, our Example, our LORD and  
Master who paid the price for our salvation  
(John 13, Phil 2:5-8)

Christian leadership characteristics

Humility  
Meekness  
Gentleness  
Compassion  
Submission  
Approachable and inviting  
Available

v46 to Jericho...out of Jericho...blind Bartimaeus:  
Jesus' journey from the Galilee to Jerusalem via Judea continues...  
He and his entourage arrive in Jericho, east of Jerusalem on the  
Jordan River, and turn right to "go up to" Jerusalem

On that road sat a blind beggar named Bartimaeus  
("son of the unclean")

v47 Jesus of Nazareth...Jesus son of David:  
He can hear a great crowd on the road, asks questions about who is there,  
listens to conversations, and learns that Jesus of Nazareth is in the  
crowd passing him by

So, he begins to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

He wants  
to "see" Jesus  
the touch of Jesus, believing Jesus can do for him what no  
other man can

His faith is heard in the Messianic title he gives to Jesus

The promised Seed of the Woman, the Messiah, was to come thru  
Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah (Gen 49), and David (2 Sam 7)

To the vast multitudes who thought of Jesus as "Rabbi" but certainly not  
their Messiah, he was called "Jesus of Nazareth"

Jesus did not directly and publicly say that He was the Messiah  
because, at the time, under the brutal occupation of Rome,  
there were many false messiahs and many misconceptions  
(political and military) about the Messiah.

Jesus did not want to identify Himself with those false  
"conquering King" agendas.

He came as a "Suffering Servant", letting His words and deeds  
speak to His identity.

To Bartimaeus, not blinded by the eyes in his head,  
Jesus was "Son of David", The Messiah.

Here he is, crying out for mercy from the Messiah!  
A very radical statement...made by a man who cannot see

Notice, this blind beggar did not beg for money or worldly blessings from the Messiah, he begged for mercy, a spiritual blessing... his heart is in tune with God's heart

**Hosea 6:1-6**

**Matt 9:1-13** (parallel account of Mark 2:1-17, written to Jews)

- Man with physical affliction
- "Your sins are forgiven."
- Jesus knew their thoughts (**Amos 4:13**)
- Man also physically healed
- To Matthew, a tax collector, "Follow me."
- He questions by the people he associated with... "sons of the unclean"
- "Learn this, I will have mercy and not sacrifice."

v48 many charged him...but he cried the more:

Many in the crowd accompanying Jesus hear this blind beggar and tell him to shut up.

They are stumbling block to Bartimaeus, preventing him from reaching Jesus.

"Be quiet, beggar!

Do not disturb Jesus, do not interrupt the Rabbi.

He is just passing thru here on his way to Jerusalem, he has no time for you."

Solitary Bartimaeus, who knows the heart of Jesus, is not discouraged by the multitude of people of following Jesus who do not know His heart.

He is unphased by the peer pressure...he simply shouts all the louder and with greater determination.

Those walking with Jesus have no compassion for others in need, they have not even the slightest interest in helping Bartimaeus.

But the man in need is persistent and insistent.

Ignoring the stumbling blocks, he is not to be denied an audience with the Son of David!

v49 Jesus stood still:

“I hear something very remarkable...the cry of faith.

We will not proceed another step until that man is brought to Me.”

Because He is the Good Shepherd Who came to seek and save the lost.

Because He is compassionate for the needy.

Because He is the Son of David, the Messiah!

So now the hard hearted “followers” change their facade and their tune...

hypocrites!

Mark 7:6

They obey Jesus’ command but their hearts are not connected with His

v50 rose and came:

Hearing that Jesus the Son of David is calling him personally, Bartimaues casts off that which might impede his urgent and eager approach, gets on his feet, and goes to Jesus

When the King calls, you go!

When the Messiah/Savior beckons, you sprint!

When the LORD sweeps aside the stumbling blocks and opens a door, you walk thru it!

v51 Jesus answered...I should do unto thee:

The LORD answers the cry of faith –

“What can I do for you?”

The question intimates that Jesus is willing and able to help

“Lord, Master, I want to see! Please give me sight!”

v52 thy faith has made thee whole:  
Jesus spoke...and immediately the man could see.

What were the words of Jesus?  
“You are restored, healed, because you believe.”  
John 6:29

God does the work of restoration and healing man...  
man cannot restore or heal himself

Bartimaeus

knew the line of Jesus...  
Mary was of the line of David

knew the Word of God...the Law and Prophets

Ex 4:11

Lev 19:14

(the multitude was a stumbling block!)

Is 29:13-14, 18-19

Is 42:1, 5-8

Is 43:1-8, 11, 15, 25

considered the evidence of the Messiahship of Jesus...  
words and deeds

reasoned with the LORD his God...  
Is 1:18

didn't have all the answers, didn't have full knowledge  
but believed the Word of God...

walked by faith and not by sight...put his faith in  
Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus Son of David

responded to the calling of Jesus and was healed

What was the man's first sight?  
The face of Jesus!

What was the man's subsequent reaction?  
To follow Jesus...a genuine follower

You cannot follow Jesus until you first see Him, after He heals you



In this passage of the Word of God, we see the heart, identity, and power of Jesus.

Do we see ourselves?

One of the multitude following Jesus?

no compassion for the needs of others  
not wanting to be bothered or interrupted in order to help someone else  
going with the flow...conformed by peer pressure  
hypocrites

A "son of the unclean" healed by faith?

blind beggar  
"son of the unclean"

heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
by faith, cried out for mercy because were aware of your blind, sinful  
condition and aware of the uselessness of worldly things  
going against the flow by faith, persisted in the face of peer pressure  
from family and friends telling you to keep quiet

heard the call of Jesus  
responded by faith  
begged to receive sight, to be cleansed  
immediately born again, made a new creature, healed by the  
Word of God

follow him, secure in the presence of the Good Shepherd  
give glory to God (Luke 18:43)  
sing His praises, bearing witness of Him

Pray:

We NOT be like the unnamed multitude following Jesus but not knowing His  
heart  
For all the Bartimeus' we know

## Mark Chapter 11

Last time, we met a blind man of great faith named Bartameus when Jesus got to Jericho as He turned west to go to Jerusalem

In Ch 11, Jesus arrives at Jerusalem...

but first, to gain a deeper understanding of the LORD's entry into Jerusalem... let's also consider events recorded in other Gospels

- Luke 19:1-11

Also in Jericho, the salvation of Zacchaeus, chief tax collector

9-11

His mission vs the hopes of the people

- John 11-12

In Bethany, on the eastern outskirts of Jerusalem,

- the raising of Lazarus from the dead

John 11:21-27, 39-53

- His anointing by Mary

John 12:1-11

v1-3 came nigh to Jerusalem:

Jesus' journey from Capernaum in the Galilee to Jerusalem is complete...  
the beginning of the end of His public ministry is here

He and his followers have come from the east (Jordan River, Jericho),  
walking the steep incline "up to Jerusalem"

Now, on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Kidron Valley and  
Jerusalem...most notably the Temple

Now begins the Passion Week of Jesus Christ...Passover Week...

His last week before the Cross...a "full" week of ministry

- Triumphal entry
- Conflict with the Jews
- The "examination" of the Lamb of God in the Temple
- Last Supper...Last Words
- Trial and Crucifixion

Day 1	Ch 11:1-11	Saturday
Day 2	Ch 11:12-19	Sunday
Day 3 & 4	Ch 11:20 – 13:37	Monday & Tuesday
Day 5	Ch 14:1-72	Wednesday
Day 6	Ch 15:1-37	Thursday
Day 7		Friday
Day 8		Saturday
Day 9	Ch 16:1-2	Sunday sunrise

find a colt:

Jesus gets immediately down to business,  
keeping His appointment calendar by  
sending 2 of his disciples to retrieve the unbroken young donkey  
"reserved" for Him,  
the creature useful to the Creator and cheerfully given to Him...

v4-6 as Jesus had commanded:

The Creator has a plan and is in complete control...  
the disciples find things exactly as Jesus said they would

v7-11 the Triumphal Entry...Day 1 of the LORD's Passion Week...

The only time Jesus allowed His followers to declare Him as King

(also found in Matt 21:1-11 and Luke 19:28-44 and John 12:12-19)

1. The presentation of the unbroken young donkey
  - a. a humble ride for a Conquering King
  - b. the colt in Mark and Luke is the young male colt with its mother in Matt 21:2...
2. His followers use their garments/robes as His saddle
3. Jesus sits on the donkey and begins His entry into His city He
  - a. a miracle!
  - b. Jesus is always first (tomb, resurrection...)
  - c. to keep Zech 9:9
  - d. to keep Dan 9:25
4. the "Red Carpet" treatment for a king
  - a. more garments/robes
  - b. palm tree branches  
victory (John 12:13)  
thanksgiving ala Feast of Tabernacles
5. Ps 118:25-26...  
"Our king is going to restore the kingdom of David and save us from Roman oppression!"

There is a dis-connect between His mission and their hopes...  
So they are unmindful of the context of their proclamation...

- a. LORD (Jehovah) heard and answered v5)
- b. trust in the LORD, not in men, in military strength, or governments v8-9)
- c. The LORD is my strength and salvation v14....  
Luke 19:10)
- d. He is the cornerstone v22)
- e. this is the day the LORD has made/appointed v24)
- f. God the LORD is my God v27-28)

Note: all the above are in all Gospels

6. Pharisees' response (Luke 19:39-40)
  - “Master, rebuke your followers! They speak blasphemy!”  
(They understood the context of Ps 118)
  
  - “If they be still, the rocks will cry out!”  
(This proclamation WILL happen and is true!)
  
  - Jesus could use His donkey to make the  
proclamation...  
He could use the innumerable rocks.
  
  - And He could use those things if we remain quiet!  
He does not need us, it is His desire to use us.
  
7. Weeping over His city (Luke 19:41-44)
  - a. “I told you in advance when I was coming!  
I hold you accountable for the revelation I have given  
you.  
Woe to you, My beloved.”
  - b. study of Dan 9:24-27 in Neh 2
  
8. His announcement (Matt 21:10-11, John 12:17-18)
  - a. Upon His arrival into Jerusalem, “Who is this?!”
  - b. “Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth.”  
falling far short of His complete identity/mission  
short-sighted hopes by the people
  - c. Eyewitnesses of the raising of Lazarus
  
9. Pharisees' reasoning (John 12:19)
  
10. enters Jerusalem and The Temple...on a scouting mission
  - a. 3 years earlier He had to clean His Father's house...
  - b. saw it had become filthy again...
  - c. but it was too late in the day
  - d. returns to Bethany...to house of Mary/Martha/Lazarus?

v12-19 The next day...Day 2 of His Passion Week...  
is one of heated contention with the Jewish leadership who were  
oppressing and ripping off the common folk...  
shepherds “beating” the sheep instead of tending them

11. cursing the fig tree (v12-14)
  - a. hungry and coming upon an unfruitful tree, Jesus curses the tree...with a more profound message
  - b. Hosea 9:10
  - c. Joel 1:6-7
  
12. housecleaning (v15-17, Matt 21:12-13, Luke 19:45-46)
  - a. pressing business is to go back to His Father’s house and clean it...again, as did at the beginning of His public ministry
  - b. a holy house of prayer...Divine fellowship...is now a vile house of thieves
  - c. Is 56:7
  - d. Jer 7:11

Note: After the Next Triumphal Entry...Rev 19:11-16...  
more major housecleaning then!

13. healing of the blind and the lame (Matt 21:14-17)
  - a. in His Father’s house, Jesus heals the blind and lame... deeds that proclaim His complete identity/mission
  - b. the healed join the chorus of Ps 118:25-26, to the great displeasure of the Pharisees, chief priests, and scribes
  - c. “Rebuke them!”
  - d. “Out of the mouth of babes...” (innocent and pure)
  
14. Jews’ response (v18)
  - a. fear
  - b. plot to murder

Last time...Days 1 & 2 of Jesus Christ's Passion Week  
Now...Day 3 begins the time of great contention with the religious leadership

v20-22 in the morning:  
Day 3 of Passion Week

saw the fig tree dried up...Have faith in God:  
The fig tree cursed by Jesus the previous day  
a picture of Israel...for unbelief

Joel 1:5-7 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.  
For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth *are* the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.  
He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast *it* away; the branches thereof are made white.

To those who do not want to be cursed...bear fruit...  
by faith (Matt 16:24)  
by abiding in the True Vine (John 15:1-5)

v23-24 mountain, be thou removed...what things soever ye desire:  
Speaking to Peter and other men who have denied themselves to follow Him, Jesus says something widely used today by false teachers to manipulate believers weak in the faith.

Jesus is NOT giving us a blank check to indulge our flesh, hiding behind a false doctrine of "faith" touted by the Faith teachers  
Such doctrine violates the context of the passage and is completely unsupported by the life of Jesus, Who did not live or lead others with such a lifestyle

Rather, Jesus came to do the will of the Father  
In a few days He will plead that this cup be taken from Him, but nonetheless, "Not my will but Yours be done."

By having faith in God, His desires become our desires.  
When we are one with Him, we can certainly pray by faith that He will give us the desires of our heart

Ps 37:1-4

v25-26 forgive...forgive you:

The desire of the Father's heart is to forgive and restore fallen sinners  
(2 Peter 3:9)...

the provision for which is being made this Week in Jerusalem by the Son

Forgiveness of sin requires sinners to believe in His Son.

No faith, no forgiveness

A proof of genuine faith and having received the forgiveness of God...  
fruit...

is freely giving those that offend you that which has been freely received  
from Him whom you have offended...

i.e. being as forgiving as you are forgiven (70 x 7)

Every person saved by grace thru faith has been forgiven of so much,  
how dare we not forgive others!

Forgiving is a matter of mercy, grace (Micah 6:8), and obedience,  
not feelings

v27-28 By what authority:

Upon arriving back in Jerusalem the day after cleansing the Temple of the  
corrupt moneychangers (thieves), Jesus is confronted by

Who's Who in Judaism

Israel's shepherds

the self-righteous religious leaders

"Guards and Keepers" of the Law of Moses

the wicked oppressors of the people (Ps 10 and 37)

And they demand an answer to essentially the same question Moses asked  
of the LORD in Ex 3:13

Remember, these priests are not the rightful priests...

they are NOT of the line of Zadok

The line of Zadok fled from Jerusalem to the wilderness when the

Hasmoneans rose up and proclaimed themselves kings AND  
priests

John the Baptist was of the line of Zadok



v29-30 I will also ask of you one question:

“I’ll answer your question about My authority if you answer My question about My Forerunner, the prophesied voice crying in the wilderness who

preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins  
called you guys a generation of vipers (in ref to Gen 3:15)  
called you to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance  
told you God could raise up stones as children of Abraham  
told you every unfruitful tree would be cut down and cast into  
the fire (Luke 3:2-9):

Was he a man sent by God or by men?

v31-33 they reasoned... We cannot tell:

These rascals are shrewd.

They reasoned together to arrive at a “We don’t know” answer...  
a non-answer.

“If we say he was sent by God, Jesus will ask why we did not believe God.  
That would make us look bad.

If we say he was sent by men, the people will turn on us because they  
believe he was sent by God.

Either way, we cannot win.

So we’ll say we don’t know.”

Jesus responds-in-kind by not answering their question about the  
authority given him to ruin their profitable business.

The chief priests, scribes, and elders are

- brood of vipers...sons of the devil: cunning/subtle, liars, murderers, oppressors, usurpers
- blind: unbelieving, not spiritually discerning
- cowardly (when it came to the people)
- brazen (when it came to Jesus)

## Mark Chapter 12

v1 began to speak to them in parables:

Because of their unbelief, Jesus began to speak to them in parables...  
a spiritual truth revealed in a memorable way to those who believe  
yet hidden to those who do not believe

Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen

- a man: The LORD of hosts
- vineyard: Israel (Is 5:1-7)
- a hedge: His protection/Word
- wine vat: to collect the fruit of the vine
- a tower: with watchmen
- let it out: leased
- husbandmen: Jews (priests, scribes, Pharisees)
- far country: heaven

v2-3 at the season...sent a servant:

At harvest time, the time of increase, the LORD God sent a prophet with  
His Word to gather the fruit He expected to see

fruit of repentance: faith (Heb 11:6)

Yet the Jews beat the prophet and sent him away with nothing

v4-5 another...and many others:

The LORD God sent many prophets (dozens) and all were treated  
violently, usually killed.

The Jews were given many opportunities to, by faith, repent of their sin

v6 one son...well-beloved...reverence:

“They have not believed My Word and have shamefully treated My  
servants.

Surely they will believe My Word thru My only begotten Son, the Word  
that became flesh, in Whom I am well-pleased.”

(Matt 3:17, Matt 17:5)

v7-8 the heir...the inheritance...killed:

But the Jews did not receive the Son (John 1:12), wanting life on their terms instead of on God's terms.

So they killed the son, in brazen defiance of the Owner of the Vineyard.  
(Jesus is foretelling His coming week and why He came from Galilee to Jerusalem)

v9 What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do:

Jesus concludes the parable with a question –  
“What should the Owner of the vineyard do?”

Here and in Luke, Jesus answers the question:

The wicked husbandmen/Jews will be destroyed and the inheritance given to others.

Ps 2:1-8

Gal 6:7-8

Luke 20:16 “Certainly not!” (thinking the inheritance is the land)

In Matt 21:41, the Pharisees and scribes (the Jews) answer the question...  
for the answer is obvious and just.

What is the inheritance?

The Kingdom of God, The LORD Himself  
 (“My words are spiritual.”)

1 Peter 1:3-4

Who are the others?

Whosoever will believe, Jew (Rom 2:28-29) and Gentile  
(Rom 1:16-17)...

The meek, humble, poor in spirit (Matt 5:1-12) who walk by faith  
and receive the Son (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Note: Matthew concludes his account (Matt 21:43-44) with Jesus  
proclaiming

- fruit is expected...bearing fruit is proof of genuine faith
- be broken, or get broken...the Rock will touch every person

v10-11 have ye not read:

Quoting Ps 118:22-23...another portion of the psalm His followers sang upon His Triumphal Entry that these rascals so vehemently protested, knowing the context of the psalm

In so quoting, Jesus confirms the veracity of their proclamation... and reminds them of His response about crying rocks if they had been quiet...the same rocks John the Baptist told them God could raise as children of Abraham (Gen 15:6, Galatians)

v12 lay hold on him but feared the people:

v7 in Real Time!

Ch 11:32 played out.

Because the Jews understood the parable, they knew Jesus was rebuking them...

Yet they continue in their willful unbelief and rebellion.

Opposing themselves, the brazen cowards leave, to lie in wait for another opportunity to strike...when Jesus is alone

Are you bearing fruit?

Can repentance and forgiveness and faith and love of the Son be seen by others?

Fall in love with the Son (Ps 2:12)

Last time...The Parable of the Wicked Husbandman during a contentious Day 3 of the LORD's Passion Week

Contention continues...

v13-15a Background:

This being the Passover Week, all Jewish families have selected a Passover lamb and have brought it into their homes to inspect it to make sure it is perfect

So now (John 5:39), the Lamb of God, in His Father's House, is going to be "inspected for perfection"

Jesus is going to be confronted by three groups of Jews posing trick questions intended to entrap Jesus and portray Him as a fraud

The Pharisees and of the Herodians...give tribute to Caesar:

First up, strange bedfellows

- the self-righteous, legalistic religious right
- the secular, Roman officials

Hearing them set up their question is enough to turn your stomach!

- Master:  
"But not our Master."
- we know that you are true:  
Then why do they so violently oppose Him?  
Why are they doggedly holding onto the false?
- care for no man:  
"We know You do not play favorites but treat all men equally...unlike us who do."
- teach the way of God in truth:  
"But we aren't going that way."

Their question is a secular question: Is it legal to pay Roman taxes?

They are sowing bad seed

If "No", the Herodians will accuse Jesus of inciting insurrection against the Roman Empire, which absolutely did not tolerate and violently put down...Rome will take care of this rebel

If "Yes", the Pharisees will enflame the rebellious nature of the Jews and incite them to reject Jesus as their Messiah, as He was proclaimed during His Triumphal Entry

v15b-17 knowing their hypocrisy...they marveled:  
With the LORD God, flattery will get you nowhere

Jesus saw right thru their deceptive set up

- the unusual association of enemies united against Him
- their hearts, just as He has repeatedly known their thoughts.

“Why do you examine me?

Whose profile is on this coin?

Whose inscription is on it?

Then it belongs to him.

Pay your taxes – Roman and Temple.

Give the worldly king the worldly things that belong to him.

Give the heavenly King the spiritual things that belong to Him.”

A Wonderful answer from the One called Wonderful (Is 9:6)

v18-23 the Sadducees...whose wife:

Next up, the liberal left, the humanists who did not believe in the  
resurrection from the dead

They quoted Deut 25:5...

a passage of Scripture given to preserve a man's inheritance...

but misapplied it with a preposterous hypothetical situation to make their  
point/preconceived idea

Their motive was to show

- the “silliness” of Biblical teaching and that man should look out for himself
- that maybe this Jesus was not as smart as the people thought

v24-27 err, because ye know not Scriptures...greatly err:

“Your hypothetical question is based on error because you do not believe the Word of God.

Therefore, you do not know God nor His power.

(Ps 138:2, Rom 1:16-17)

- A. The resurrected (to life)  
do not marry (ordained by God as the safe confines in which man could be fruitful and multiply)  
nor are espoused, but are immortal (no need to multiply) like the angels.
  
- B. I will also quote Moses (Ex 3)  
where God (the voice in the burning bush, the Angel of the LORD, is God...I AM. Jesus is calling Himself “God”)  
spoke to him, calling Himself the God of A, the God of I, and the God of J...

present tense...

still the God of AI&J...

the God of AI&J who are still...

He is the God of the living, not the dead

(death is first and foremost a spiritual condition...Gen 3)

You make many, large, and frequent errors because you do not believe the Word of God.”

v28 one of the scribes came...perceiving:

Thirdly, a scribe comes forward...

one of the learned lawyers, the academic elite

He arrives and hears the Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees discussing the simple yet profound answers Jesus has given to their questions. They had intended to trip Jesus up, but Jesus left them stumped.

Knowing he is up against a worthy opponent, the scribe asks the man of God a Biblical question, a loaded question:

“What is the foremost commandment of God?”

Knowing the answer to his question...because any Jew could answer it...  
what is the scribe doing?

Picking up on Jesus’ reference Ex 3 and God’s conversation with Moses, he is challenging Jesus’ claim to be God  
(clearly understanding “I AM” statements, John 8:58 in particular.)

v29-31 the first...the second:

Jesus prioritizes and summarizes (Matt 22:36-40) the commands of God for us

1. Deut 6:4

- Shema
- one...ala John 10:30, Gen 2:24
- put in their phylacteries
- repeated twice every day...  
morning (standing) and evening (lying down)  
Deut 6:7

2. Lev 19:18

The command: agapao

v32-33 Well...said the truth:

“Good answer! Well said. There is only one true God.  
(i.e. You are not that God. Because I can see and touch you.)  
And a right relationship with Him is based on the heart, not on works or religious ceremonies.”

v34 not far from the kingdom of God:

To the scribe who no doubt thought he had the kingdom of God locked up:

“You are not far from eternal life...but you are still on the outside.  
You are as close as believing and surrendering (Gen 15:6, Hab 2:4).”

The scribe almost had it right.

But the missing piece (belief in the deity of Jesus of Nazareth) will keep him out of the kingdom of God

Just as it will Mormons, JW's, Muslims, Jews (outwardly), and  
“Christians”

no man after that:

Jesus had the last word because no one dared ask Him any more questions!

He could not be trapped...He did the trapping.

At the end of the examinations, the Lamb of God is found to be perfect...worthy of sacrifice



v35-37a How say the scribes:

“You have asked Me questions and I have answered them.  
Now let Me ask you a question.”

He asks about Ps 110:1

“The scribes say that the Messiah will be the son of David (2 Sam 7).

Yet David, inspired by the Holy Ghost

(a person; v29, the Shema)

said The LORD

(God of AI&J who spoke to Moses)

said to his LORD

(God...another person...David’s Messiah)

sit here at My right hand

(in heaven)

until I make Your enemies Your footstool.

David called the Messiah...the son of David...his LORD.

So whose son is the Messiah? Son of David or Son of God?”

An answer from the Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, and the scribes is  
not forthcoming...they have no answer.

They cannot reconcile the two Scriptures.

They do not believe it is both, one is true and the other is false.

But the answer is: He is both.

God incarnate, 100% God and 100% man.

The Word of God is indeed truth

And, in v36 we see 3 persons, one God.

People all around us...sometimes we do too...ask trick questions of Jesus

- Pharisees/Herodians: civil disobedience...for convenience sake or to stir up trouble
- Sadducees: manipulative and preposterous...to distort Scripture to “prove” a pre-conceived idea, to look “smart”, or to look for a loophole in the Law
- Scribe: “knowing” the answer

Yet in denying the deity of Jesus, they entrap themselves...  
and miss the Kingdom of God

v37b the common people heard him gladly:

The common folk, picked on and oppressed by the Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, and scribes are watching with glee!

“This is sweet! You go, Jesus!”

v38-40 Beware of the scribes:

Done with the deceitful Board of Examiners, The Good Shepherd Who is the Lamb of God teaches the sheep.

“Be on guard against these wolves the scribes who practice lawlessness. They are My enemy, they will be My footstool.

They prefer

- dignified fashion (outward covering the corruption inside)
- the praises of men, taking My honor and glory
- the positions of preeminence
- being first and having the best.

They are the ‘high and mighty’ who

- feed on the helpless and defenseless
- pray insincerely, for show only
- will receive the greater damnation.”

6 sins/signs of hypocrites:

1. love religious appearances
2. love the recognition of men
3. love the front row seats at church in order to be seen
4. love the best seats at public events
5. devour the wealth of the helpless
6. pray for show

v41-44 poor widow...two mites:

After His examiners go away, Jesus is there on the Temple Mount.  
He turned His attention to the hearts of the people...

by watching "Matt 6:24"...  
the free will offering of the people

Note: He does that here too! (2 Cor 9:7)

While He was watching,

- many who were rich gave much
- a poor widow...who may have been devoured by the scribes (v40)...gave two mites...a brass pittance

Another teaching moment

- the rich who were not needy gave much...  
but at what impact upon their lives and for what motive?
- the poor widow who was desperately needy gave a pittance...  
at a huge impact upon her life...an act of v30
- the rich still depend upon their riches
- the poor widow depends entirely upon God, even for her immediate needs
- therefore, the poor widow gave more.  
The free will offering is not measured in an absolute quantity but proportionally to what you have been given by the Sovereign God  
She stands in stark contrast to the rich young ruler (Ch 10)  
As would Hudson Taylor, she poured "myself, my life, my all on the altar of God."

The widow and her two mites is the ultimate answer to the Prosperity Gospel and the false teachers of Health and Wealth that fill the TV airwaves with a "gospel" that connects faith and material wealth

- Jesus was rich because He was given gold as a child, thereby providing for His family  
(To whom did Jesus give custodial care of His mother while He hung dying on the Cross?)
- Jesus was rich because He had fancy clothes – the soldiers gambled for them  
(Or was it to fulfill Scripture...Ps 22:17-18?)
- Jesus was rich because He had a house...that's where they went in John 1:37-39  
(Yet Matt 8:20)

What did Jesus teach about clothes, etc on SoM?  
(Matt 6:33)

In the Parable of the Sower...  
which all who have ears are to hear (understand)  
what does Jesus teach about material riches?  
(thorny soil in Ch 4:18-19)

What did Jesus teach after His conversation with the Rich Young Ruler?  
(Ch 10:21-25)

What is the rebuke Jesus gives to the Laodicean Church?  
(Rev 3:15-18)

How does the Word of God define contentment?  
(1 Tim 6:1-12)

What are overseers and elders of the church to not be given to?  
(1 Tim 3:1-3, 8; Titus 1:7-11; 1 Peter 5:1-3)

What did the evil sons of Samuel love, driving the nation away from a  
theocracy?  
(1 Sam 8:1-3)

When you raise these questions to people who believe the Prosperity Gospel, they rebuke you for being divisive and attacking “God’s anointed”

Yet The Word of God repeatedly warns us to watch out for false teachers and to search the Scriptures to know if a teaching is true

Jesus in

- Parable of the Mustard Seed  
(Matt 13:31-32)
- Parable of Tares  
(Matt 13:24-30, 37-43)
- not everyone who calls himself a Christian is  
(Matt 7:21-23)
- teaching on the widow and her two mites  
v41-44
- Olivet Discourse...end times characterized by  
deception

Paul re Judaizers in Acts

Epistles by

- Paul
- James
- Peter
- John

We are commanded to test the spirits...and are given God the Holy Spirit in order to discern

## Mark Chapter 13

The deception of riches makes the hearts of men unfruitful

Now, as Jesus leaves the Temple with His disciples to go to the Mount of Olives,  
He gives what the theologians call the Olivet Discourse, a synopsis of the times  
before He returns to earth...  
a time is primarily characterized by: deception

v1 see what manner of stones and what buildings:

On their way out of the Temple, Jesus' disciples remark about the glorious  
magnificence of the Jewish Temple

“Look at what a marvelous building the gifts of the people into the Temple  
Treasury have become!”

What can be said of the Temple?

- built by Herod...no friend of God
- idolized by a people whose traditions had made the Word of God of none effect
- under constant surveillance by the Romans...  
from the high ground of Antonio Fortress
- a work of man.....operating by the strength of man...  
governed by man

v2 not be left one stone upon another:

To which Jesus said,

“It's all coming down.

Everything you are glorifying will be totally destroyed.”

A prophesy shortly fulfilled by the Romans in 70 AD

We go there and see evidence of the fulfillment of Jesus' words.  
For those who have gone to Israel, your Bible certainly “reads”  
differently, doesn't it?!

v3-4 upon the Mount of Olives...when...what:

Once Jesus and His disciples cross the Kidron Valley and sit on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple...looking at it... the two sets of brothers comes with questions about that startling remark.

- When: will that happen?
- What: are the signs of these things...His coming and the end of the world, per Matt 24:3

v5-6 Take heed...deceive:

Jesus does not answer the 1<sup>st</sup> question (when the Temple will be destroyed) but He gives a comprehensive answer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question...Olivet Discourse

The over-arching warning for the end times:

- Look...be aware...be on guard...
- lest you be deceived

People are deceived when they do not personally know the truth (John 17:17, Acts 17:11, 2 Tim 2:15)

And the end times will be filled with deception...making those times ferocious for those who do not know the truth

2 Tim 3:1-5, 4:3-4

Paul "passing the torch"

1 Tim 4:1

During those times many will come claiming to be the Messiah... coming in the "authority" given to Jesus...claiming to be Jesus

Part of the claim, the deception, can be seen by comparing Scripture

- "Christ" is in italics in Mark but not Matt.  
Together, "I AM" = "Christ" or "Christ" = "I AM"
- "Christ" = "anointed"

Some have claimed to be Christ

I found a list of 24 men/women who have so claimed... 22 lived in 20<sup>th</sup> century or are still alive

The New Age (reincarnation) is a common, un-holy ground...rooted in ancient Babylon and eastern mysticism

Others claim to be the "Anointed"...to have "The Anointing"  
Many a televangelist teaching contrary to the LORD's teaching regarding the poor widow with two mites

And many will believe them!

Matt 7:13-14

Broad: to accommodate many who believe the “appealing”

Narrow: for the few who believe the “offensive”

We see proof of Jesus’ prophesy now...

but the deception will become even more “believable”

Why will so many people listen to fables instead of the truth

1. They do not personally know the truth

2. The times will be so painful

v7-8 wars...earthquakes...famines and troubles:

The time before Jesus returns to the earth will be a very violent time...

proving man cannot

- govern himself
- bring peace on earth, goodwill to men

When we hear the sounds of war with our own ears and hear reports of other wars elsewhere, we are not to be frightened.

These things are needful...for evil to run its full course.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century was the bloodiest, most war-ravaged century in human history

- 2 world-wide wars
- war on every continent except Antarctica
- genocides
- advent of “WMD” (chemical, biological, nuclear)
- religious wars

But it will get even worse

- Races/tribes against other races/tribes
- Governments/political states against other governments/political states



Instability and fear will be heightened by

- earthquakes in many different places  
up thru the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, there was one or two “disastrous”  
earthquakes world-wide per century  
(in terms of death and destruction)  
in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century: 4  
in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: 12  
in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: 49  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (7 years): 40
- famines  
up thru the 18<sup>th</sup> Century: 2 or 3 famines per century  
in 19<sup>th</sup> Century: 11  
in 20<sup>th</sup> Century, with leaps in agricultural technology: 16
- other “disturbances”

But all these things are just the beginning of the birth pangs...  
are the Seal Judgments of Rev 6.

Hard labor for a world that rejects the True Jesus Christ is still to come...  
the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments

What happens before the Seal Judgments?

- The “snatching away” of the righteous from the earth  
Rev 4:1...3 of the 4 end time churches go into the  
Tribulation, The 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel
- God ceases from restraining evil  
2 Thes 2:7, Gen 20:6
- revelation of the counterfeit Christ  
2 Thes 2, Zech, Rev will be most meaningful to  
believers on earth AFTER the Rapture

A very fearful and wicked time on earth

Last time...the “introduction” to the Olivet Discourse  
Now...the rest of the story

v9-11 deliver you up to councils...synagogues:

Therefore, with

- the faithful Church removed as God’s witness of His Son on earth (before the Seal Judgments in Rev 6)
- Israel once again as God’s witness on earth,  
Israel will fulfill her destiny of taking the Word of God into the world. Jesus will not return to the earth until she does.

what kind of prophesy is this?

Jewish prophesy

Speaking to Jewish disciples, Jesus tells His faithful brethren

- Look...be aware, be alert
- They...those who are opposed to Me and receive the counterfeit christ (Dan 9)
  - will betray you to councils (the Sanhedrim...Jewish)
  - will beat you in the synagogues...Jewish
- You will be brought up on charges before governors and kings (who have given their power to the counterfeit christ)
  - because of Me...the True Christ
  - to be My witness against them (I am in control)
- At this time, the Gospel will be proclaimed to all people
  - by Israel...satellite TV coverage of the 2 Witnesses in Rev 11 and the witness of 144,000 evangelists
  - by an angel (Rev 14:6-7)...after more info on the 144,000 Jewish evangelists)
- When you are betrayed,
  - don’t stress out about what you should say
  - don’t script it in advance either because you cannot anticipate the circumstances
  - I know what I want to say and I will speak thru you...  
The Holy Spirit/Spirit of Christ (1 Peter 1:11) will use your mind and tongue to speak the Word I will give you

The Word of God planted in your heart and mind  
(done in advance) and brought into  
remembrance (when needed)

The gift of prophesy/word of wisdom...  
gifts of the Holy Spirit (given when needed)

v12-13 brother shall betray brother:

So intense will be the deception of the counterfeit Christ that even families will be fractured, as family members who believe the counterfeit will betray other family members who believe in the True Christ.

The love of many will grow cold...will evaporate (Matt 24:12)

Imagine

- brothers turning in brothers
- fathers ratting out sons
- children attacking parents
- being hated by ALL men...yet having a friend in Jesus!

But all those who “Hold onto Me!”...persevere in their faith... will be preserved/delivered and overcome by faith (1 John 5:4-5)

v14 see the abomination of desolation:

A very remarkable and critically important statement by Jesus!

1. see:

- Not figurative or symbolic language but literal.
- How shall we see? Satellite communications – TV, Internet, Internet-enabled devises

2. the abomination of desolation:

- A signature event in the future, not the event that happened during the times of the Maccabees before the incarnation of Jesus.
- Means there will be a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem that does not exist now, the Holy of Holies of which will be spoiled/defiled by the counterfeit Christ

3. Daniel the prophet:

- Daniel’s office is denied by the Jews but confirmed by Jesus Himself (God affirms His prophet)
- The abomination of desolation is half way thru the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel (Dan 9:27)

4. them that be in Judea flee:

- How can a Jew flee to safety (Bozrah/Petra, the place prepared by God) unless he/she is in Judea/Israel? Won’t be able to get there from NYC or Miami!
- A Jew is most safe in Israel

5. him that readeth understand:

- Jesus is holding all accountable for the prophesy of Daniel and His words

v15-18 let him...woe to them:

“The very moment you see this signature event, flee!  
Don’t waste any time gathering anything – all your needs will be met.  
The most precious thing you will have then is...time.  
Pray your flight is not during the winter, when it will take more time to  
travel because of poor or difficult conditions.”

v19 shall be affliction:

This will be the time of hard labor pains for the nation of Israel

- The Great Tribulation (Matt 24:21)
- Jacob’s Trouble (Jer 30:7)
- The time of the hunters (Jer 16:16)  
which is why we are “going fishing” in March!
- A time worse than any other time in history...including
  - The Crusades
  - Spanish Inquisition
  - Hitler’s Third Reich
  - Stalin’s ethnic cleansing

Note: Before 2001, the Jews equated “Christian” with “enemy”  
Since, are able to discern that “Evangelical Christians” are  
different and are their best friends  
What happens in the hearts of Israelis when they realize  
their friends are gone (Rapture)?!  
They will truly be alone.

This will also be a time of hard labor pains for the entire unbelieving  
world!  
Trumpet and Bowl Judgments...the wrath of God

v20 except...shortened those days:

Well, they will be all alone and they will realize that their friends had told  
them the truth  
ALL governments will be rabidly against them and they would face  
certain annihilation...

Unless the “Controller” minimizes the number of those days for the sake  
of His elect – Israel and her “grafted-in” fruit – no person would  
survive this time

Israel is the “elect” – the faithful Church, the Bride of Christ,  
is already gone!

v21-22 false christs and false prophets:  
Even in those times...especially in those times...deception will abound!

“Look! If you hear anyone point you to a direction contrary to Me,  
don’t believe him!  
There will be many counterfeits in those days...performing lying signs  
and wonders (2 Thes 2:9) intending to deceive My chosen, the  
True disciples...  
if that were possible.”

v23 take ye heed:

“Look!  
I have told you all these things BEFORE they happen!”

Only the Creator of time Who dwells outside of time could say this!

And, now, we are accountable to know these things.

v24-26 sun shall be darkened...Son of man coming:

“At the end of Jacob’s Trouble, in the darkest hour in the history of Israel,  
will come the darkest hour...literally...in the history of man

- the sun will be turned off
- the moon will have nothing to reflect
- the stars will fail
- and principalities and powers (spiritual powers headed by an  
“angel of light”) will be toppled

Then...in a physical pitch darkness that matches the spiritual pitch  
darkness...

when every eye will be able to see regardless of the “time of day”...

I, the Light of the world, will come in the Shekinah glory of God!

(Rev 1:7)...when the glory of God is going burst upon a dark  
world!)

And The Light is coming to reveal and to purify.  
(dentists now whiten stained teeth with light)

Note: This is a great and “fool-proof” test for every counterfeit christ:

Did you come in the clouds with great glory?

Did every eye see you come?

v27 angels...gather together his elect:  
“Then My angels will “harvest” My chosen from wherever they are on earth....they will separate the wheat from the tares.”

Remember, the Bride of Christ is already gone from the earth.

v28-29 parable of the fig tree:  
“Understand...you will if you believe, you will not if you do not believe.  
I expect you to know the season in which you live.”

v30-31 this generation shall not pass:  
The Creator of time is not speaking of a period of time, He is speaking of a people, a nation, He has created...Israel (Is 43:1)  
  
“Israel will not be annihilated...by Iran, by Russia, or by any other people.  
They have My Word...which is eternal and not temporary like the earth.”

Jer 31:35-37

v32-33 knoweth no man:  
“I expect you to know the season...but you WILL not/cannot know the specific date.  
That information is strictly the Father’s business.  
What you need to know is:  
1. Look  
2. Watch – awake and alert  
3. Pray”

v34-36 far journey...Watch:  
“I am about to take a far journey...back to the right hand of the Father in heaven.  
I command you to ‘occupy’ until I return...all the while being a diligent watchman and doorkeeper.”

“Look...watch...because

- you do not know during which shift I will return
  - even: 1<sup>st</sup> watch
  - midnight: 2<sup>nd</sup> watch
  - cockcrowing: 3<sup>rd</sup> watch
  - morning: 4<sup>th</sup> watch
- I will return suddenly (Rev 1:1)

v37 say unto you...all:

Jesus has a Final Word for

- them...the disciples
- all...you and me:

“Look! Watch”

Watchmen are often criticized as being divisive...

when in fact they are one with their LORD, the God of division

Whose Gospel is divisive

There is a terrible storm coming!

- deception...will produce anger and “cold love”
- betrayal...will produce agony
- indescribable persecution and affliction...will produce  
desperation

Look!

8 times Jesus tells us to watch...v5, 9, 23, 33, 33, 34, 35, 37  
because the counterfeiter, the deceiver, is afoot!

## Mark Chapter 14

We've been in the final week of Jesus ministry before the Cross..

Now we now enter the final days before His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection...  
the very reason He came

Before we get started, 2 things are worthy of being noted:

1. In studying the timing of these events, we Gentiles get confused because of a fundamental difference in the measurement of time

i.e. the 24 hour day...when it starts and when it ends.

More on that later.

2. We also read the Synoptic Gospels, then the Gospel of John, and think the Bible contradicts itself on the timing of these events.

There are no contradictions in the Bible...  
there is a lack of understanding by us.

And there is much debate by Biblical scholars.  
Pray the LORD reveal His Word to us.

v1-2 After two days:

Let's get synchronized again within the last week of Jesus' ministry

- Sunday: Triumphal Entry  
(Ch 11:1-11)
- Monday: Curse of the fig tree, cleansing of the Temple  
(Ch 11:12-19)
- Tuesday: Confrontation with the chief priests, scribes, and  
elders, and the Olivet Discourse  
(Ch 11:20 – 13:37)

Here is our current timestamp.

Within two days will be

- the Feast of Passover
- the Feast of Unleavened Bread



Passover:

Instituted by the LORD in Ex 12, a set day (14<sup>th</sup>) of Nisan, the  
1<sup>st</sup> month (new calendar, religious vs civil)

In the March/April timeframe of the Gregorian calendar we  
Gentiles use

The day the perfect Passover lamb was slaughtered and consumed,  
his blood used as a covering of immunity from death

The 1<sup>st</sup> day of Unleavened Bread

Unleavened Bread:

7 day Feast during which time the Jews were to eat only  
unleavened bread, having purged their house of  
leaven (sin)

Both feasts are appointments of the LORD Jesus Christ...

shadows of what was going to be fulfilled in the next few days

Per the scholarship of Sir Robert Anderson, the year is 32 AD

take him by craft and put him to death:

The Lamb of God Who came to take away the sin of the world, our  
Passover (John 1:29, 1 Cor 5:7)

having been inspected and shown to be perfect

(in the confrontations on Tuesday of this last week),

the “heads” of the Jewish nation get to work behind closed doors on a  
murder plot

- how to seize Jesus of Nazareth
- by deceit (Gen 3:1, Ch 13)
- to kill him

What is their clear intent?

Murder

What does the Law of Moses clearly say about murder?

Ex 20:13

When do they want to kill Jesus?

Not on this feast day when the population of Jerusalem has swollen  
(The prophetic nature of the Passover Feast was unseen by  
the professional religious establishment)

Why not kill Him now?

Fear of man, not of God

Whose will is being done?

- theirs
- Satan's
- God's

v3-9 the Anointing for burial of Jesus

Here in the Gospel of Mark, it reads as if this happened after v1-2...  
between v1-2 and v10-11

Yet in the Gospel of John, it happens sequentially BEFORE  
the Triumphal Entry (Sunday)...4 days ago

Which is it?

The correct timing is in the Gospel of John.

So why might the anointing of Jesus be here in the Gospel of Mark?

As a parenthetical account to

- link the murder plot (v1-2) with the betrayer (v10-11)
- reveal the heart of the betrayer
- to clarify Whose will is being done (v8)

in Bethany...there came a woman:

So...several days ago...Jesus was in Bethany before His Triumphal Entry  
into Jerusalem.

There, in the house of a healed leper named Simon, something very  
significant happened:

1. A woman came while they were eating

- What woman?

Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus

(John 12:1-3)

2. To anoint Jesus

- With what?

A very expensive box of perfumed oil...

"myrrh" of spikenard

- How much?

ALL of it, not just a little or some of it

- Where?

Head and feet...not "or"

3. And was vehemently chastised/"attacked"
- For what?  
For wasting a year's wages for a workman to do this instead of helping the poor
  - Who was indignant?  
Judas (John 12:4-6)
  - Who was the Treasurer for Jesus' ministry?  
Judas
  - Who was embezzling from the ministry?  
Judas
  - Who covered his covetousness with pious self-righteousness?  
Judas
  - Did Judas care more about the poor or about lining his own pocket?  
(Matt 6:24)

4. And Jesus came to her defense

"Leave her alone!

There will always be poor people

(Poverty cannot be defeated by corrupt man)

and you will be able to help them any time you desire.

But I will not always be with you.

She has done something beautiful and valuable to

Me...

- holding nothing back, she has done everything she was able to do
- to, in advance, anoint Me for burial.

And because she has heard My words and believed, when the Gospel (1 Cor 15:1-7) goes into the whole world, she will be remembered forever for what she has done.

(By the way, so shall your name be always remembered!)"

What has been revealed?

The heart of the betrayer...

who will in several days join the murder plot of the Jews

Whose will is being done?

The Father's.

Jesus came to do the will of the Father.

The will of the Father is the sacrifice of the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world...

the Cross is why Jesus came...spiritual freedom...

not to cast down the Roman Empire...political freedom

Note: Sequentially, the next day is the Triumphal Entry

v10-11 Judas Iscariot...to betray him:

Now, knowing

- the heart of Judas entering the Last Week of Jesus' ministry
- that a murder plot being worked,

we see Judas link up with the murderers.

Perhaps his decision was established when, in Bethany, he heard v8.

“This ‘Messiah’ is not the Messiah I want and we need.

I have never understood his agenda.

I'm done with this.”

So he knows where he can find allies –

the Jewish leadership hate Jesus and everybody knows it.

He approaches them with his interest in helping them...

They

- cheer

No doubt thinking “It was God who brought us this man!”

And they were unwittingly correct!

Acts 2:22-24

- promise to make it worth his while  
(Matt 6:24).

Now a hireling of Satan, Judas sets out to find the opportune time, place, and means of turning “this Messiah” over to his enemies

And he knows just the place and time...Gethsemane!

(John 18:1-2)

v12-16 the first day of unleavened bread...eat the passover...made ready the passover:  
The Feast of Passover was the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,  
the day the Passover lamb was killed and eaten.

Jesus' disciples, devout Jews, want to know where they are going to  
celebrate the Feast of Passover.

“Go into Jerusalem and you will meet the head of a family  
(doing a woman's job...an Essene?)  
who will show you a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor room prepared for us.”

When were those preparations made and by Whom?  
Whose will is being done?

This occurs on “the first day of Unleavened Bread”  
Here is where the difference between “Gentile time” and “Jewish time”  
must be grasped

[ “Calendar.ppt” ]

Gentile time:

- The day starts and ends at midnight
- The “day” is during daylight hours.

Jewish time:

- The day starts and ends at sundown (6pm-ish).
- The “day” is the entire 24 hour period.

We have

- a Jewish Messiah
- speaking with Jewish disciples
- about a Jewish feast.

So we need to think in Jewish time....

the difficult task of shifting time 6 hours “to the left”

To more clearly see time, you have to draw it

- a block of time (8 days, starting on Sunday) on a timeline
- proportionally
- Gentile time
- Jewish time overlaying it...6 hours to the left
- shading the night time hours

The Passover lamb was killed “between the eves”...3pm...  
and eaten before the end of the day...6pm

This is the beginning of that day...it is at night...after 6pm

This timestamp is important...and now things happen suddenly

This is the day Jesus will die on the Cross

The plan of God and the plan of Satan are

- parallel in action
- diametrically opposed in motive

Satan's motive: death and destruction

God's motive: life, light, and love (John 3:16)

Are God and Satan vying for control?

Satan is, and he thinks he is winning, but God is not.

In His absolute control, God has Satan on a leash.

The last few days of Jesus public ministry before the Cross have given way to the last few hours...

The plan of Satan and the plan of God are moving in parallel

Last time, Jesus sent 2 of his disciples to the place where He and His disciples would celebrate the Passover

The Passover meal commemorates the deliverance and exodus of the Jews from bondage to Pharaoh (Ex 12)

- one lamb per household
- blood applied to the doorposts
- the angel of death would pass over and not slay the firstborn son
- kill, roast and eat the lamb, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, in haste

And starting tonight...things are going to happen in hast!

v17 in the evening:

Shortly thereafter, Jesus is gathered in the room that had been prepared in advance for their Passover celebration.

The preparations included

- the selection of a perfect young male lamb
- its slaughter
- its roasting with fire
- gathering bitter herbs
- and the purging of leaven from the house

The time is near 6pm

[ show Calendar ]

At this point, all Gospel accounts taken in to account, Jesus

- washes the feet of His disciples...(John 13)
- teaching them by example to
  - love one another
  - be the servant of all

Jesus came not to rule but to minister...  
and He does right up to the end

v18 as they sat and did eat:  
Background

The custom was not to sit in chairs around a dining room table as is depicted by famous European artists...  
but to recline on pillows or a bed...3 or 4 persons per...  
a custom generally ascribed to the Persians and adopted by the Greeks and the Romans.

Their feet dangling from the beds, Jesus went from disciple to disciple and washed their feet

And eating was “commune-style

- no separate place settings
- only common bowls and eating with the hands.

Therefore, eating a meal together was an act of communion... intimate fellowship with all things being shared, the participants becoming “one with each other.”

Q (and a subject of debate among Bible scholars):

When did Jesus and His disciples eat their Passover meal?

- Before the appointed day when other Jews did?
- On the appointed day when all Jews did?

To me, it seems clear because the Feasts are prophetic... appointments of the Messiah

Jesus and His disciples celebrated their Passover meal BEFORE the appointed day when all Jews did... because the appointed day was an appointment for Jesus Christ  
John 1:29, 1 Cor 5:7

This day is the Day of Preparation for the Passover

Matt 27:50, 57-58, 62

Luke 22:15

John 18:28, 19:14



The Passover meal begins...

The 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 cups of wine (**pure grape juice**) was passed around – the Cup of Sanctification, as God had set apart the Jews unto Himself in Egypt

Then each person took some of the herbs, dipped them in salt water and ate them...the bitterness was to remind the Jews of their tears while in bondage

Here, Jesus said: *Ting, ting, ting.*

“I have an announcement.

One of you...who have been with me for 3½ years and are one with Me tonight...is going to betray Me tonight.

(Ps 41:9, written prophetically 1000 years ago by David about the Son of David, will be fulfilled tonight).”

Who heard the announcement?

ALL the disciples...including Judas, who has joined a conspiracy to murder Jesus.

Putting yourself in Judas’ sandals, how would you have reacted to this announcement by Jesus?

“Oh no!

I am so busted!

I am known by Him Who knows the thoughts of men and knows the future!

I think I had better change my mind and disengage from this evil plot of murder!”

v19 they began to be sorrowful:

The disciples are surprised and their hearts begin to break.

Even the thought that they would betray their Lord caused them extreme grief.

Not wanting to live with that dark, crushing blot, they all ask if they are the one who would do such a horrible, unthinkable thing.

v20 dippeth with me in the dish:  
The Lord identifies...and then dismisses...His hard-hearted,  
“cannot change his mind” betrayer... who is

- reclining on the same bed
- dipping his fingers into the same bowl
- communing with Him
- Judas (Matt 26:25, John 13:26-30)

v21 woe to that man:  
And then Jesus has ominous, heart-stopping words about apostate Judas:

“I...the Son of man, the Seed of the Woman...  
am indeed going away, just as it is written  
(Gen 3, Ex 12, Gen 22, Ps 22, Is 53, Dan 9:26)  
but woe to that man...the son of perdition  
(John 17:12)  
that will betray me!  
(as it was written of him, the enemy of the Son of David,  
Ps 109:1-20)  
He would have been better of not ever existing than to exist forever in  
hell and then the Lake of Fire!”

Jesus cleansed His Father’s house a few days ago...  
now He has cleansed “His”

At this point, Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper...  
a Passover celebration that will be cut short...  
so that we would

- remember what He did with His 1<sup>st</sup> coming
- live in hope and comfort of His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

v22 Jesus took bread...this is My body:

In the Passover meal, the head of the family (“goodman” in v14)

- took the middle of 3 unleavened loaves (“Afikomen”)
- broke it
- put half of it aside after wrapping it in white linen cloth

(One has to be blinded to not see Jesus in this!)

As the Head of the Family, Jesus took the bread...the Afikomen...  
and did 4 very important things

1. blessed – gave thanks!
2. broke – a visual teaching of what was now hours away
3. linked the bread as a symbol of His body – obviously speaking symbolically, metaphorically, not literally

(The Roman Catholic Mass with its Transubstantiation is an abomination!)

4. gave the bread to His disciples to eat...to be one with Him in this transaction...by faith

Jesus is applying, concluding His teaching of [John 6:48-58, 63-64](#)

“I AM the Substance to Whom the shadows point

- [Gen 14:17b-20](#)
- Passover lamb in Ex 12
- manna in the wilderness

Tonight is the fulfillment of those things!”

Back to the Passover meal...

- a 2<sup>nd</sup> cup of wine was passed around...the Cup of Plagues (Plagues of Egypt)
- the roasted Passover lamb was eaten

v23-24 took the cup... This is my blood:

Jesus then

- took the 3<sup>rd</sup> cup of wine of the Passover meal...  
the Cup of Redemption
- gave thanks (!)...
- and passed it around...for them to be one with Him in it

Again speaking symbolically and metaphorically not literally, Jesus gives the full meaning of this shadow:

- the grape juice is the blood of the grape, the fruit of the Vine...  
I AM the True Vine...My fruit...My blood
- redemption from death and hell comes by His blood...  
His blood is the ransom price for lost man
- the sign of the New Covenant (Jer 31:31-33) is  
His blood...  
and the prophesy will be fulfilled today!
- the blood of the
  - Son of man
  - Seed of the Woman
  - Son of David
  - Son of Godwill be poured out to cover the sins of many,  
both Jew and Gentile (Rom 1:16-17)

v25 I will drink no more:

Now, the Lord interrupts the Passover meal...

He stopped the celebration before passing the 4<sup>th</sup> cup, the Cup of Praise

He commanded His followers to do the above as a remembrance of what  
He was going to do that day...(Luke 22:19)

and

He promised His followers that the celebration will be complete on the  
appointed day in the kingdom of God on earth...

His 1000 year reign from the throne of David

The Lord's Supper...an incomplete Passover meal with a dual purpose

1. A reminder of His 1<sup>st</sup> coming
2. A hope in His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

The last few hours of Jesus before the Cross

Last time (ending in v25)...

- Cleansing His disciples by the dismissal of one, the betrayer
- Communion with the remaining
  - Passover meal...Last Supper

Now...abandonment by all

At this point in the events on that night...

- v27-31
  - Foretelling of Peter's denial  
(Mark is not purely sequential)
- John 14-17
  - Last Words
  - Final and most important Teaching
  - Words of comfort on this terrible and terrifying night

Reminder: Jewish time	vs	Gentile time
start in darkness...		start in darkness...
end in the light		a period of light...
		end in darkness

Think about that...

Skip v26...still in the Upper Room...

v27 All ye shall be offended:

The Lord tells His friends what is going to happen.  
Jesus has told them what is going to happen to Him this day...  
now He tells them what they are going to do this night

**Zech 13:7** will be fulfilled as they all will stumble because Him  
(**fear** vs **faith**)

The Good Shepherd (John 10, Ps 23) is going to be fatally smitten...  
half of Gen 3:15 will be fulfilled today...  
and they, the sheep, will scatter in fear  
i.e. not just Judas, but ALL will betray Him tonight

Perhaps Matt 10:32-33 is now ringing in their ears!

v28 But after I am risen...I will go before you:  
Jesus states that He will be risen from the dead...after 3 days

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> time He has foretold them this radical truth  
(Ch 8:31, Ch 9:9, Ch 9:31, Ch 10:34)...  
yet they are not yet spiritually discerning, they do not yet understand.

“My death this day is NOT the end of the story!  
Do you remember what happened in Bethany last week – the resurrection  
of Lazarus?!  
I AM the Resurrection and the Life!”  
After My resurrection, I will re-gather you who were scattered to Myself  
in Galilee.”

For the disciples, this takes...**faith**  
Faith like the one demonstrated for them by Mary (v3-9)

Note: Jesus always goes before us!

v29 But Peter said:  
Ready! Fire! Aim!

Proud Peter, pounding his self-righteous chest, shoots off his mouth  
without thinking again...denying his denial predicted by Jesus

Luke 22:31-32      And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan  
hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as  
wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy **faith** fail  
not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy  
brethren.

v30 thou shalt deny me thrice:  
The Lord Who knows the thoughts of men and knows the future speaks  
directly to Peter

“Before the sun comes up, you will disown me not once but three times.”

v31 he spake the more vehemently:  
One of the oldest disciples,  
plagued with pride,  
contending to be the greatest among the disciples...  
Peter reacts somewhat violently to the Lord's words

“Never! Even if I have to die with you!”  
Luke 22:33 or go to prison

Note: We will see that he is not too keen on the dying idea, as evidenced  
by his willingness to swing the sword and fight!

This very proud man is going to be very humbled

v26 sung a hymn...went out into the Mount of Olives:  
Jesus then leads the singing of a Hallel psalm...  
Would you not love to hear Jesus sing!  
and the Good Shepherd leads His followers to the next appointment...  
across the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives...  
as was His custom (a favorite gathering place, Luke 22:39)

Did Jesus know what awaited Him there?  
Yes (Heb 12:1-2, Rev 13:8)

v32 they came to a place which was called Gethsemane:  
Here, the Passion of our LORD starts...Gethsemane = “oil press”

Here the terrible, heavy weight of our sin begins to press upon Him.

His great trial (and I don't mean by the Jews or by Pilate) is upon Him  
and Jesus is going to be greatly pressed here in “oil press”

v33-34 sore amazed...very heavy...exceeding sorrowful:

Jesus leaves 8 of His disciples at some spot and proceeds further with His Inner Circle who

- witnessed His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration
- have heard more than the others the plan of God  
(1 Cor 15:1-4)

Now, as He starts to face

- the sin of all men
- the wages of the sins of all men (Is 59:1)
- the Father's wrath/indignation for sin
- the price He must pay for the sins of all men
- the undiluted attack of Satan

Jesus reveals to them His agony

- horror
- intense distress
- crushing grief

Then He leaves the three, commanding them to stay awake...and pray  
(v38)

v35-36 fell on the ground:

Jesus walks a stone's throw away (Luke 22:41) and is now all alone...  
with the Father

As He walks, the crushing weight of our sin that so easily besets us and  
His grief for its result (John 11:35) overwhelms the Lord...  
and He falls to the ground in agony

His crushing in Gen 3:15 is upon Him!

prayed...might pass...take away this cup:

The Son cries out to His Father:

- "Abba Father, God of the impossible, is there another way to do Your will apart from this unimaginable suffering?!"
- Please take this cup away from Me!
  - Passover Cup of Plagues, God's wrath upon unbelieving Egypt?
  - Passover Cup of Redemption...His blood being the necessary ransom?
  - Cup of God's holy and just wrath/indignation...  
Rev 14:10, Rev 16:19
- Whatever...Your will be done, not Mine."  
(the model of submission we are all to imitate)



At this point, as recorded in Luke 22:43-44

- an angel came to strengthen Him...ala Matt 4:11
- Jesus was in such intense agony that He sweat great drops of blood

v37 he cometh and findeth them:

Jesus left His Inner Circle with a command to watch.

After Round 1 in the “oil press”, Jesus returns to them and finds them NOT watching, but “sawing logs”

The time is probably between 9pm and midnight

To Simon Peter, who a few hours earlier had so loudly boasted of his steadfast faithfulness to the Lord, Jesus asked, “Could you not even do it for one hour?”

A: No. He has no strength

John 15:5 (just a few hours ago) and Phil 4:13

Note: A picture of the Church today – asleep in the most intense and desperate hours just before a monumental day of the Lord

v38 lest you enter into temptation:

Jesus tells Peter again – “Stay awake...and pray.”

Why?

“So that you have your armor on for the test that lies ahead... a test of faith and your ballyhooed faithfulness.

(Remember, Satan has demanded you and wants to sift you like wheat.)

(Remember I foretold that you would disown Me three times before the sun rises.)

Your spirit is in fact willing to be as your tongue proclaimed, but your flesh has no strength...this is a spiritual test.”

v39-40 again he went away...returned:  
Round 2 in the "oil press"

But when He came back, Jesus saw that His disciples could not keep their  
eyes open.  
And they could not answer His question "Why not?"

When our failures are raised by the Lord, there is nothing we can say.  
We have no excuses.

v41 he cometh the third time:  
Round 3 in the "oil press"

When He comes back, He again finds them asleep

"Fall asleep now and rest, My friends.  
The hour is rapidly approaching when I will be betrayed into the hands of  
sinners."

This "sinners" assessment by Jesus has a tone of a Final Disposition

- hopelessly lost
- point-of-no-return hard hearts
- hearts hardened by the LORD Himself

v42 Rise up:  
Some time later..."Wake up! It's time."

Jesus knew the complete ramification of that statement,  
the disciples not even close!

v43 Judas...a great multitude:  
The murder plot is now in motion

Judas leads his co-conspirators...the chief priests, scribes, and elders...  
to the place he knew Jesus would be.

The power they bring is the power of man...  
a mob of Temple guards brandishing swords and clubs

v44 given them a token...I shall kiss:  
Judas, quite the clever one, has pre-arranged a signal – a kiss  
The one he kisses is the one that must be secured  
(ala “Secure my bounty! Don’t let him go!”) and led away.

Q: Who in the mob that night would not know which one of twelve men was Jesus?

He is so high-profile when it comes to the religious leadership, why was a signal needed?

v45 straightway...Master...kissed him:  
Judas, not having the advantage of surprise, wastes no time, seizing the moment as it were.

In Luke 22:48, “Judas, you betray the Son of man (God) with a kiss?”

In Matt 26:50, “Friend, why have you come?”

In John 18:4-9

- “I AM”  
Man’s power cannot touch the power of God
- “Let these men go”  
Your fight is with Me, not them  
And Scripture WILL be fulfilled...  
because the LORD is in control, Satan is not

v46-47 one of them...sword and smote:

From John's account (John 18:10), we learn

- this unnamed disciple is none other than "Ready, fire, aim!" Peter
- the name of the servant was Malcus

From Luke's account (Luke 22:51), we see something incredible

- the betrayed and rejected Messiah more concerned for others than for Himself...  
He stopped to heal the man's ear...with merely His touch!
- His enemies witnessed this act of God's power and compassion ...and were unaffected by it!

From Matthew's account (Matt 26:52-53), we hear Jesus again rebuke the out-of-control, self-willed Peter

- "Put your sword away. Those who live by the sword will die by the sword."
- "I could pray right now and My Father would send 12 legions of angels to take care of business!  
I don't need your help, oh ye of no strength!"

v48-49 as against a thief:

Jesus now turns His attention to the mob and its ringleaders.

"Why do you seize me like a common criminal?

I was teaching every day in the Temple...you could have taken Me then.

Allow Me to answer for you –

You are doing this because all Scripture must be fulfilled...

i.e. I AM in control, you are not, nor is your father Satan."

Scriptures: Gen 3, Gen 22, Ps 22, Is 53, Dan 9...

In Luke's account (Luke 22:53), Jesus adds,

"This is your time, the permitted and appointed time of the power/dominion of darkness/Satan."

(not merely an indication that it is happening at night)

v50 all forsook him:

Not just Judas forsook Jesus...all His disciples did...  
in fulfillment of the Scriptures (Zech 13:7)

as Jesus had foretold them a few short hours ago, all of them would be  
offended by Him this night.

Have you ever forsaken the One who promised to never forsake you?

v51-52 a certain young man...naked:

Speculation has it that young man is Mark himself, who at the time would  
have been a young teenager.

The teachings for this Gospel were Peter's, written down by Mark;  
this may be a personal addition by Mark.

But Scripture does not say.

Last time...Jesus was all alone...betrayed by Judas and forsaken by all his disciples... even though they had repeatedly been told by Jesus what was going to happen

With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, we many times do not understand how these men who had seen, heard, and touched Jesus for over 3 years could be so dense about the clear Word of God

But...meditating on the events of that terrible night, our hearts broke...we realize

- we would have abandoned Him, too
- we are no different than these guys, so easily
  - blinded and dulled by pride
  - ruled by fear of man vs faith in God

And as was sadly true of the Jews regarding Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> coming, so is it sadly true of the Church regarding Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

The Word of God plainly tells us what is going to happen in the days before Jesus returns to earth to Judge all peoples and to set up His kingdom

Yet, much of the Church

- is blinded and dulled by pride
- is corrupt, not holy
- is ruled by fear of man vs faith in God
- is not watching and praying, but is asleep
- has bungled the handling of prophetic Scripture, not understanding the clear Word of God (Replacement Theology, Amillennialism)

The Church today is no different than the disciples or the Jews on that night

Back to that night...a night of terrible darkness continues

- The trial of Jesus before the Jews
- The denial of Jesus Christ by Peter

Before Mark 14:53...before going to the High Priest...John 18:13-14, 19-24

At this late hour, Jesus is led a short distance by the Temple guards... across the Kidron Valley to the Upper City

- upper in elevation...on the "hillside" vs in the valleys
- multi-level houses built on the slope of the hill...capturing the breeze in summer
- upper, therefore, also in social class

to the palace of Annas

## Annas

- former High Priest...between the years 6 to 15 until Rome deposed him
- a Sadducee, a materialist/anti-spiritualist
- not now the high priest...the father-in-law of the High Priest, Caiaphas
- a man of vast wealth and influence
  - gave Herod and the Roman authorities large sums of money...
  - in return had 5 of his sons and now his son-in-law appointed by Rome as High Priests
  - same *m.o.* used hundreds of years ago by Italian families to have their sons appointed as Popes
- his sons and now son-in-law were in the public limelight... but he had all the influence and directed all the affairs
- wealth amassed from the Temple booths...extortion rackets
  - the moneychanging
  - “certified” sacrifice (acceptable to his boys)...50x street price
- corrupt kingpin of the financial and political empire threatened by Jesus and His two cleansings of the Temple
- hell-bent on the death of Jesus Christ
- still recognized by the Jews as the High Priest (*capo!*)  
the Jews did not recognize Rome-appointed High Priests

Now, a private interrogation of the Messiah by the High Priest...  
no doubt trying to entrap Jesus (illegal form of justice)...  
searching for “useful” information about

A. the disciples if Jesus  
Jesus said nothing...was silent

B. the teachings of Jesus  
Pawns of Annas had demanded of Jesus,  
“By what authority do you do these things?”  
Perhaps Annas demanded to know the answer...  
perhaps he behaved like the mafia boss he was

“I said nothing in secret, everything in the open.  
Why do you ask me?  
Ask those who heard Me.”

One of Annas’ thugs slapped Jesus

Jesus did not

- murmur or complain
- unleash justified Divine power

Jesus did

- make a clear-minded assertion
- ask a meek and gentle question

v53 led Jesus away to the high priest  
Annas is done with Jesus and sends Him to his son-in-law, Caiaphas, the  
current Rome-appointed High Priest (Matt 26:57)

And with Caiaphas were assembled all the Jewish religious leadership,  
the Sanhedrin.

Imagine that! What a coincidence! Hardly!

The Sanhedrin...those with the most to lose if both their and the  
Roman authority is challenged...had been summoned for this  
pre-arranged “trial”

v54 Peter followed him:

Meanwhile, apparently Peter stopped running away and has returned.  
Now he is following Jesus at a “safe” distance

He and John join the procession into Caiaphas’ house...and Peter makes  
himself comfortable, warming himself on this cold spring night  
(John 18:18) around the fire with the servants of the High Priest...  
trying to “blend in” and be inconspicuous

I think the fire could not warm Peter...I think his chill went deeper than  
the bone, down into his soul

v55-56 all the council sought for witness:

If you are going to have a trial for a crime, you need witnesses

Deut 17:6

Deut 19:15

Problem: they couldn’t find any witnesses, given

- the time of day
- the absence of a crime
- a false witness is not a witness

The “keepers of the Law” are trying to orchestrate lawbreakers....  
there is no integrity or credibility and confusion is the result

Regrettably to the Sanhedrin, they have to work harder...

a “trumped up” charge against Jesus will not stand if the  
“witnesses” contradict each other



v57-59 there arose certain, and bare false witness:  
But, when does the devil ever give up?

Caiaphas and his gang keep trying...  
and they found a couple of “witnesses” that should be able to agree  
on something –  
their recall of something Jesus said three years earlier...  
because it

- profoundly insulted and affected their Boss
- was repeated just several days ago

**John 2:13-19**

Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> cleansing of His Father's house...3 Passovers earlier  
1<sup>st</sup>: a house of merchandise...  
2<sup>nd</sup>: a den of thieves...  
both under the supervision of Annas

But not even those guys could sing the same song!

v60-61a the high priest stood up:  
So Caiaphas takes matters into his own corrupt hands

The accuser and judge now also becomes the prosecuting attorney...  
a travesty of law

His 1<sup>st</sup> question: “What do you have to say for yourself against these  
charges and these witnesses?”  
(trying to dupe Jesus into incriminating Himself)

Jesus, as always, has the perfect answer: silence...majestic silence  
Nothing needed to be said...the “joke” was obvious

v61b-62 Art thou the Christ:

That left only one question to be asked –  
“Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?”

In Matthews’ account (Matt 26:63), “I want you to make an oath to the Living God and tells us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God (as you have claimed!).”

To this question Jesus most certainly will respond...  
He would not remain silent!

In Luke’s account (Luke 22:67), His first response is,  
“If I tell you, you won’t believe Me.”

Followed by, here in Mark, a 1-2 punch...distinct answer that reverberated in the Jewish mind:

- “I AM!”...a reference again to the Voice in the Burning Bush
- a reference to the Ancient of Days in [Dan 7:13-14](#)

As majestically He maintained silence before His accusers, Jesus majestically declares His identity and mission  
And everybody heard Him!

v63-64 high priest rent his clothes:  
TILT! TILT! TILT!

Tearing his clothes such that they could never be repaired, Caiaphas

- breaks the Law ([Lev 21:10](#))
- exclaims that witnesses are no longer needed!
  - convenient, because he could not find any
  - even on this night of terror when the evil in man and the power of hell were unrestrained, no crime could be charged against Jesus
- demands a judgment from the kangaroo court

Of a like mind with Caiaphas, the Court follows his lead and on the spot pronounces a guilty verdict.

v65 spit on...cover...buffet...strike:

With the verdict pronounced, the men holding Him (Luke 22:63), servants of the high priest, attack Jesus like a pack of rabid dogs...the brutality of man surpassing that of any animal

- spitting on Him...the ultimate of disrespect and contempt  
(Ch 9:12)
- blindfolding him and punching him with their fists as a boxer does a punching bag...Is 53 is unfolding
- mocking him..."Tell us who punched you, Son of God!"
- slapping Him

This whole scene is surreal...yet the most intensely real event in history

- The Judge in the midst of His judges
- The Witness hearing His "witnesses"
- Great majesty surrounded by such vileness
- God's Suffering Servant
  - not defenseless, but not defending
  - not vanquished, but not contending
  - not helpless, but submitting for the greatest love
  - not a word...not a complaint...not a rebuke...
  - drinking slowly the Cup his Father had given Him

The illegal trial of Jesus Christ, a total mockery of Jewish criminal law  
According to the legal regulations laid down in Rabbinic writings:

1. A formal trial was required...this is a mock trial, a sham
2. A trial could not be begun at night, or even in the afternoon
3. A trial had to be held at the meeting place of the Sanhedrin...  
not at the house of the High Priest
4. A trial could not be held on a Sabbath, a Feast day, or even the  
day before a Feast day...as was this day
5. Witnesses were required...no witnesses, no crime
6. The Sanhedrin had no jurisdiction over capital cases...  
that jurisdiction belonged to Rome
7. A pronouncement of "Not guilty" could be handed down on the  
same day of a trial, but a sentence of "Guilty" could only  
be pronounced on the day following the trial
8. The formal sentence of "Guilty of death" was to be pronounced  
by the High Priest...Caiaphas never did
9. No prolonged death (torture and torment) was to be inflicted
10. The condemned to death was not to be scourged beforehand

And the purpose of this specific trial was not to find a charge breaking  
Jewish Law, but one the Roman governor would prosecute  
(Rome had a Zero Tolerance policy for political insurrection and  
moved quickly and violently to smash such things)

v66-67 Peter was beneath the palace:

Concurrent with the “trial” of Jesus inside Caiaphas’ house is the testing of Peter outside and below in the court/patio

While the High Priest is accusing Jesus, a servant girl of the High Priest is accusing Peter of being a follower of Jesus

She sees Peter warming himself and boldly accuses him of being with Jesus of Nazareth

Note: I wonder if the woman saw Peter again in Acts 2 and accepted Jesus as her Messiah?

v68 But he denied:

Hearing the accusation, big, bold, boastful Peter (“pebble”) crumbles.

“I do not know Jesus of Nazareth and I do not understand what you are saying to me.”

To prevent the conversation from developing, Peter leaves the porch... and the cock crowed.

Strike 1

v69-70a maid saw him again:

Later, another servant girl makes the same accusation, but she makes it to the crowd there, not to Peter.

He denied it again.

Strike 2

v70b-71 thou art a Galilaean...began to curse:

Shortly thereafter, those in the crowd that heard the 2<sup>nd</sup> accusation agreed, saying that Peter’s accent gave him away.

Just as we know that Rocky Balboa was not from Birmingham AL and Jed Clampett was not from Boston

Peter responds to the 3<sup>rd</sup> accusation by cursing and swearing that he did not know “this man”

Strike 3

v72 the second time the cock crew...he wept:

No sooner had the echo of Peter's voice faded when 3 things happened

1. the 2<sup>nd</sup> cock crowed
2. Peter remembered the words of Jesus foretelling him all this would happen  
(talk about a short term memory problem!)
3. Probably out a window overlooking the court/patio below, Jesus turned and looked at Peter (Luke 22:61)

Instantly overwhelmed by

- the echo of Jesus words to him
- the look on Jesus' face gazing into his very soul

Peter erupts into anguished, bitter weeping for his shame and failure and conviction

## Mark Chapter 15

Last time, after the betrayal and “arrest” of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane...  
an illegal trial before the Jews

v1 in the morning:  
daylight, but the same day (Jewish time)

With the arrival of daylight, the chief priests consulted with the elders and scribes...the entire Sanhedrin...not about Jesus’ guilt but how their informal, illegal sentence could be carried out.

This is a political discussion, not a religious discussion.  
(Jesus has always been politically incorrect!)

Having made their decision, they secure their prisoner and take him to Pilate for judgment/execution

Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor of Judea...a dreaded assignment because the Jews will very difficult to govern and tended to rebel with regularity.

Rebellion in a province looked very bad on the political resume of the Roman Governor of that province

Now...John 18:28-33a...

- v28  
The self-righteous, hypocritical Jews, who had just stooped to the lowest of moral places, refused to “dirty” themselves by going into the Praetorium, citing religious reasons!

Total hypocrites!

Note: The time is about daybreak.  
Uncleanness was until sun down.  
The Passover lamb was eaten after dark.  
So all they would have missed out on was one of the preliminary offerings...an “appetizer” course before the main course.  
These are not holy men, they are very carnal men.

- v29-31a

Forced to come out to the Sanhedrin, Pilate “pushed back”, telling the Jews to judge Jesus according to Jewish Law vs Roman Law

Pilate despised these men and had some insight as to their motive...envy (Mark 15:10)
- v31b

The Jews countered by telling they could not, for Rome had taken away Judea/Israel’s jurisdiction over capital crimes...  
telling Pilate the sentence they expect from him – death

Jesus is a “malefactor...otherwise we would not be here!”

They were as contemptuous of Pilate as Pilate was of them

Also, Luke 23:2...their charges before Pilate

  - perverting/corrupting the nation...  
a very vague charge and false
  - anti-Roman tax advocate...  
a false charge
  - proclaiming he is the Messiah, a King...  
they have understood His words, but misunderstood Scripture thereby ascribing to Jesus their political expectation of the Messiah
- v33a

Pilate returned to the judgment hall to interrogate Jesus

v2 Art thou King of the Jews?

Of the 3 charges leveled by the Sanhedrin, Pilate considers only the last...  
His Kingship

“Are you King of the Jews?”

Pilate’s tone? Contempt? Cynicism? Awe?

“You said it.”

In John 18:33b-38...

- v34  
“Is this a personal question, or one others told you to ask Me?”  
(Jesus is giving Pilate an opportunity to profess his faith)
- v35  
Pilate dismisses the opportunity, denying his interest in anything Jewish
- v36-37  
Jesus then answers Pilate’s question...speaks the plain truth
- v38a  
In the presence of absolute Truth, Pilate gets philosophical. And is very uneasy, yet is opening his despairing soul to a man accused of a capital offense against Rome.  
  
Pilate knows Jesus is no rebel, no traitor, no criminal.
- v38  
Pilate returns to the Jews and declares Jesus innocent of breaking any Roman Law



v3-5 the chief priest accused him:

The chief priests...

sans Annas and Caiaphas probably, since this proceeding would be beneath” them and their uppity office...

reacted fiercely to Pilate’s declaration of innocence with a hailstorm of accusations against Jesus...

who knows what else in addition to the 3 charges already levied

(Luke 23:5 agitating the Jewish people with his teaching)

Jesus didn’t say a word...

Is 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

When a man is accused...especially if falsely accused (v10), he is naturally quick to deny the accusation and defend himself  
But not Jesus...for He is not merely a man

Pilate quizzes Jesus about His silence....and was also met with majestic silence

Pilate marveled at this man Jesus.

“Does this man not fear death, even death on the cross?

Is he vastly superior to these men who are so viciously against him, not condescending to their words?”

In Luke 23:5-12

- v5-6

In the fierce attack of Jesus by the Jews, Pilate heard a word that comforted him...”Galilee”

- v7

So he gladly...and with a big sigh of relief...

ships Jesus over to Herod because the Galilee was in his jurisdiction...

Herod was also in Jerusalem because of Passover

- v8-10

Herod was delighted to finally see the “magic man”

He played “20 Questions” with Jesus...but got the same response all the other scoundrels did...silence

Which infuriated the Sanhedrin...or some subset of them who had tagged along...and they fiercely accused him before Herod also

- v11  
So now Herod and his gang made sport of Jesus...  
mocking Him and sending the “King of the Jews”  
back to Pilate in a gorgeous robe
- v12  
Pilate and Herod, distrustful of and contentious with the  
other up to now...are now good buddies, united by  
a common problem...Jesus

Probably about this time...Matt 27:3-10

- Perhaps while some of the chief priest and scribes are at Herod’s place, Judas reappears before the rest of them, having changed his mind about what he did to Jesus
- He is not repentant...he is sorrowful
- Jesus’ betrayer declares the innocence of Jesus
- The priests and elders loathed him and shined him on...  
”See ya later.”
- Judas threw the 30 pieces of silver in the Temple and went out and hanged himself...  
a thief became a betrayer and then took his own life
- The priest and elders did not want the stain of blood of the blood money on their hands, so they bought a potter’s field...unknowingly fulfilling Jer 32:6-9

v6 he released unto them one prisoner:

Rome or Pilate had started a custom of pardoning one condemned prisoner and releasing him to the Jews, as a measure of good will toward the difficult-to-govern Jews

v7 Barabbas...committed murder in the insurrection:

That year, one of the prisoners was a murderer and insurrectionist (and robber, per John 18:40) named Barabbas (“son of the father”).

A violent and dangerous man, a convicted criminal...  
perhaps a “cop killer”...  
awaiting crucifixion

v8-10 the multitude crying aloud:

By now, Jesus and the chief priests and scribes have come back from Herod...and are back before Pilate (“Rats!”)

And with them is a multitude of people, demanding Pilate do what the Romans do every year at Passover – pardon and release a prisoner (timestamp: this is the 14<sup>th</sup> day Abib...Passover)

To the people, Pilate asks,

“Do you want me to release the ‘King of the Jews?’”...

- knowing Jesus was innocent of any wrongdoing and that those scoundrels the Jewish Sanhedrin are rabidly jealous
- a bit unnerved by the dream his wife had about this man Jesus and her urging him to have nothing to do with the evil plot against this “just man” (Matt 27:19)

v11-13 chief priests moved the people:

Dispersed in the multitude and mingling among them...

acting like leaven in a loaf...

the Sanhedrin excites the masses, inciting them to “vote” for Barabbas... perhaps some sort of a local political “hero” for standing up to Rome (i.e. a counterfeit Christ)

This is not the answer Pilate wanted to hear.

“Well then what do you want me to do with the man you call the ‘King of the Jews?’”

Note: 3<sup>rd</sup> time Pilate has so called Jesus...

he did not believe Jesus was any threat to Rome

The people...not just the chief priests and scribes...cry out,

“Crucify him!”

The people now want executed in the most horrific way the one who has

- loved them like a shepherd loves his flock
- healed them of all diseases
- cast demons out of them
- made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, and the mute to speak
- fed them with “scraps”
- taught them about the kingdom of God with authority

v14 Why...Crucify him:

Pilate is flabbergasted.

“Why? What crime has he committed?”

But the multitude is now a mob...and they “shout down” Pilate rather than answer/reason with him

v15 willing to content the people:

The mob had become dangerously unruly.

A riot, incited by the religious leadership of Israel, was on the verge of breaking out.

Such a thing would be very bad for Pilate, so he makes a self-preserving, political decision...and not the just legal decision.

Desiring to pacify/placate the people rather than ignite them, Pilate

- washed his hands of the matter before the people
- declared his innocence of the blood of an innocent man
- succumbed to the demand of the mob (all above Matt 27:24)
  
- released Barabbas
- handed Jesus over to be scourged...hoping to appease their rabid desire for vengeance...

to which the people responded, “His blood *be* on us, and on our children!” (Matt 27:25)

Popular frenzy only grew as it was opposed by Rome (thru Pilate), resulting in perhaps the most tragic of Scriptures

v16-20a the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium:

Handed to the Roman soldiers assigned to the Antonio Fortress, Jesus was

- scourged...whipped with a “flesh-eating” whip  
Roman crucifixion was introduced via this  
“intermediate death”

The Roman scourge was made of two or three leather thongs fixed to a handle and terminating in a number of small pieces of zinc or iron, brass or sharp pointed bone attached to them at various places to gouge the flesh

Stripped, bound to a stake, and bent forward, Jesus was whipped to the point of no skin being left on His back (Is 50:6a)

- further humiliated by being made the object of a cruel game called “The King’s Game”

Roman soldiers would mock “death row inmates”, particularly those charged with insurrection.

At the hands of the Roman soldiers, Jesus was

- stripped (Matt 27:28)
- clothed in purple, the royal color
- crowned with thorns (desert thorn bush)
- given a reed as a scepter
- hailed as King
- “honored” by being pummeled with the reed
- spit on
- “worshipped”

Note: the soldiers who bent their knees and proclaimed with their tongue that Jesus was King...are going to do so again!

And Scripture was fulfilled...God’s Word is truth

- Is 50:6...His beard was ripped off
- Is 52:14...beaten beyond recognition as a man

At this point...John 19:4-15

- Jesus is led back to Pilate again and Pilate...  
hoping to horrific and pathetic sight of this innocent man  
would satisfy the blood-lust of the Jews and disarm them...  
presents Jesus to the mob
- Instead, the sight of Jesus in this way incited their fury.  
Immediately, led by the chief priests, the mob wants more  
blood! Their demand stands – “Crucify him!”
- “After all, he claimed to be the Son of God and deserves to  
die!”
- With his own impressions and observations of Jesus,  
with his wife’s dream about Him,  
and knowing Jesus is innocent, Pilate is now afraid!
- He takes Jesus back inside the Judgment Hall and pleads that  
Jesus tell him where He is from
- Silence
- “Why won’t you speak? Don’t you know I have the power to  
crucify you or to release you?!”
- “The only power you have is that which has been given you  
from above (not Rome!).  
Those who delivered me to you have the greater sin.”
- Pilate is about to lose his mind!  
This man is no imposter, he is not an ordinary man!
- He goes back out to the Jews and again tries to release Jesus...  
the volume of their dialogue increasing with their emotions
- The Jews then play political hardball...“If you let this man go,  
you are not Caesar’s friend because anyone who claims to  
be a king is an enemy of Caesar.”
- Check mate. Pilate is done...the matter is settled
- From the Judgment Seat, Pilate said to the Jews,  
“Behold your King!”
- The Jews ratchet up the “Crucify him!” and proclaim they have  
no king but Caesar

v20b led him out to crucify him:

Then Jesus is led away to be crucified...

not resisting at any point, Jesus is like a lamb being led to the slaughter (Is 53:7)...

didn't stage a sit-in or a protest of any form

Led to the cross of Barabbas, "son of the father"

1 Peter 2:21-24

And Jews have again denied their God, sinking to an even greater depth of apostasy

Soon, after about 200 years, they will see the Resurrection and the Life...  
and mourn Him like one mourns for his only son  
(Zech 12:10)

Last time...Jesus was

- interrogated by Pilate
- scourged...”early death” to crucifixion
- beaten severely
- had His beard ripped out
- spit on
- mocked
- declared innocent 3 times by Pilate who desperately sought His release
- completely rejected by the Jews...in favor of a murderer

Now...He is crucified...on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month

v21    compel one Simon a Cyrenian:

A passer-by from Cyrene, in town for Passover, had a Divine appointment  
...to carry the cross of the Lamb of God!

It was customary for the condemned man to carry his own cross from the  
flogging post to the site of crucifixion outside the city walls.  
He was usually naked, unless this was prohibited by local customs.

Since the weight of the entire cross was probably well over 300 lb., only  
the crossbar was carried .

It weighed 75 to 125 lb. and was placed across the nape of the victim's  
neck and balanced along both shoulders.

The outstretched arms were then were tied to the crossbar.

The processional to the site of crucifixion was led by a complete Roman  
military guard, headed by a centurion...a Roman show-of-force.  
One of the soldiers carried a sign on which the condemned man's name  
and crime were displayed

Later, the sign would be attached to the top of the cross.

The Roman guard would not leave the victim until they were sure of his  
death.

Back to Simon...how terrifying...yet, in hindsight, what an honor!  
“Volunteered” by force by the counterfeit world kingdom, Rome

Simon was accompanied by his two sons, named as if the reader would  
know who they were

And, in fact, both who would come to faith in Jesus of Nazareth as their  
Messiah and would be widely known in the Church reading this  
Gospel

Acts 19:32-34

Rom 16:13



v22 unto the place Golgotha:  
Golgotha was/is an easily recognized place:

- outside the city walls

Heb 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Ex 29, Lev 4 the sin offering was to be slain outside the camp of Israel

- at a busy intersection for this horror to have its greatest effect/deterrent  
(outside Damascus Gate on the trade route to Damascus)
- no doubt very near the altar set up by Abraham in Gen 22

A place easily seen to this day...we did last Monday  
In Luke 23:33, the place is called "Calvary"

v23 wine mixed with myrrh...not:

An anesthetic, a narcotic mixture to relieve pain, is offered to Jesus...  
in fulfillment of Ps 69:17-21

"And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.

Draw nigh unto my soul, *and* redeem it: deliver me because of mine enemies.

Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonor: mine adversaries *are* all before thee.

Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked *for some* to take pity, but *there was* none; and for comforters, but I found none.

They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

But Jesus, already in intense pain, refused to dull the pain in any way, desiring to take the full measure of it

v24 parted his garments:

Fulfilling David's prophesy of Ps 22:18, given about 1000 years earlier about the Son of David...Messiah ben David

v25 third hour...crucified him:

Jesus was nailed...hands and feet...to the cross at 9am

Crucifixion: A tortured, cruelly slow death by suffocation...but...

Each wound was intended to produce intense agony,  
and the contributing causes of death were numerous.

- The scourging prior to crucifixion served to weaken the condemned man and, with considerable blood loss, to produce hypotension (low blood pressure) and even shock due to decrease volume of blood.
- With arms outstretched but not taut, the wrists were nailed to the crossbar.

It has been shown that the ligaments and bones of the wrist can support the weight of a body hanging from them, but the palms cannot.

Accordingly, the iron spikes (10-12 in. long with diameter about the size of a quarter) probably were driven between the radius and the carpals or between the two rows of carpal bones and the various ligaments.

Although a nail in either location in the wrist might pass between the bony elements and thereby produce no fractures, (as certainly was the case, Ps 34:20) the pain of the injury would be great.

Furthermore, the driven nail would crush or sever the large sensorimotor median nerve. The stimulated nerve would produce excruciating bolts of fiery pain in both arms.

- The major effect of crucifixion, beyond the excruciating pain, was a marked interference with normal respiration, particularly exhalation.

The weight of the body, pulling down on the outstretched arms and shoulders, would tend to fix the respiratory muscles in an inhalation state and thereby hinder passive exhalation.

Accordingly, exhalation was primarily accomplished by the diaphragm and breathing was shallow.

It is likely that this form of respiration would not suffice and that hypercarbia (high level of poisonous carbon dioxide) would soon result.

The onset of muscle cramps due to fatigue and hypercarbia, would hinder respiration even further.

- Adequate exhalation required lifting the body by pushing up on the feet and by flexing the elbows and adducting the shoulders.

However, this maneuver would place the entire weight of the body on the pierced tarsals in the feet and would produce searing pain.

Furthermore, flexing of the elbows would cause rotation of the wrists about the iron nails and cause fiery pain along the damaged median nerves.

Lifting of the body would also painfully scrape the scourged back against the rough wooden stipes.

Muscle cramps of the outstretched and uplifted arms would add to the discomfort. As a result, each respiratory effort would become agonizing and tiring and lead eventually to asphyxia.

- The actual cause of death by crucifixion was multifactorial and varied somewhat with each case, but the two most prominent causes probably were low blood pressure induced shock and exhaustion asphyxia.

Other possible contributing factors included dehydration, stress-induced arrhythmias (irregular heart beat), and congestive heart failure.

Crucifracture (breaking the legs below the knees), if performed, led to an asphyxic death within minutes.

- Death by crucifixion was, in every sense of the word, “excruciating” (Latin, *excruciatum*, or “out of the cross”).

Note: Here, Luke 23:34...Utterance #1

“Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do.”

v26 superscription of his accusation:

Jesus' "crime" was posted overhead, as was the crime of all those who were condemned to die

His "crime" was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin (John 19:20) so all would know...the glorious truth stated derisively, mockingly many centuries in advance

v27-28 with him they crucify two thieves:

Jesus is surrounded by condemned criminals, men guilty of the crimes for which they have been charged and tried... exactly as was prophesied almost 750 years earlier by Isaiah (Is 53:12)

v29-32 railed on him:

There in that busy intersection, the crucified LORD is mocked and jeered and taunted by 4 groups of His beloved creatures:

1. all the passers-by:

"Let's see your stuff, Superman!

If your words be true, come down off that cross!"

2. chief priests and

3. scribes:

"He healed and helped others but he cannot help himself!

O mighty King of Israel, O glorious Messiah and Holy

One of Israel, come down off that cross and we will believe your words!"

4. the two thieves:

Because misery loves company...and

when the crowd is railing on Jesus, it is not on them!

Thoughts:

- Would the Jews have believed Jesus was their Messiah if He had come down off the Cross before their eyes?

No!

The Jews for their entire history saw God work in mighty ways...and the never believed!

- 10 Plagues on Egypt...including death of the firstborn son
  - The LORD leading them by a pillar of cloud and pillar of fire
  - parting the Red Sea
  - “meeting” God at Mount Sinai
  - water from a rock
  - manna
  - earth swallowing up Korah and the mutineers
  - etc etc etc
- Could Jesus have come down from the cross?

Yes!

It was not a case of “cannot” but of “will not”.

The nails did not keep Him there, His love for you and me did. (John 15:13, Matt 5:43-44)

- Here...Luke 23:39-43...Utterance #2...  
after one of the thieves repents having watched and heard the LORD

v33 sixth hour...darkness...until ninth hour:  
From noon until 3pm...  
the very hottest and brightest part of the day...  
the entire land was blanketed in darkness...  
as was unbelieving Egypt in Ex 10:21-22.

As in Egypt, this was a physical manifestation of the spiritual reality

John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into  
the world, and men loved darkness rather than light,  
because their deeds were evil.  
For every one that doeth evil hateth the light,  
neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be  
reproved.

1 Cor 5:21 as the Light of the World becomes the  
Sin of the world

Note: Here...John 19:26-27...Utterance #3

“Woman, behold thy son.  
Behold thy mother.”

v34 at the ninth hour Jesus cried:  
Precisely at 3pm...  
between the eves when the Passover lambs were being killed,  
including the one for all the people and its blood being offered on  
the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies by the High Priest...  
The Lamb of God...  
who had kept His peace before His accusers...  
cries out to His Father...Utterance #4

“El-o-ee, El-o-ee...” (Ps 22:1)

A great cry of distress caused not by the physical pain of crucifixion but of  
the spiritual agony of broken fellowship with the Father...  
for the first time ever, going all the way back into eternity past

v35-36 he calleth Elijah:

Here at Passover, approx 430 years after Mal 4:5,

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of  
the great and dreadful day of the LORD”

the Jews were looking for their Messiah...

and for Him to be preceded by Elijah

They have not seen Elijah yet...not believing John the Baptist to be  
the voice crying in the wilderness in the spirit of Elijah.

So maybe now is the moment...if this man is the Messiah!

v37 Jesus cried:

3 final Utterances

- John 19:28...Utterance #5

“I thirst.”

- John 19:30...Utterance #6

“It is finished.”

- Luke 23:46...Utterance #7

“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”

gave up the ghost:

The Word that became flesh...died...voluntarily

John 10:17-18

Fulfilling

Gen 3:21	Creator’s covering for sin
Gen 22	Father’s sacrifice of His only beloved Son
Ex 12:3-11	Passover Lamb
Ps 22	method of sacrifice/death
Is 53	why the sacrifice/death
Dan 9:26a	Messiah ben Joseph
John 1:29	by John the Baptist

v38 the veil of the temple:

And at that moment, the Father in heaven...  
Himself in unimaginable agony...

rips the 18 inch thick veil...

(from TOP to bottom, not bottom to top as man would;  
for man cannot remove the barrier to the Father)

in the Temple separating the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple...  
and exposing the heretofore unseen sacrifice of the blood of the  
lamb on the Mercy Seat (propitiation) by the High Priest

2 loud, unforgettable noises for those who heard

1. Jesus as He gave up the Ghost
2. The tearing of the veil in the Temple

These two sounds, speaking of the same truth, are indistinguishable

Heb 10:18-20

Thereby enabling us to Heb 4:16

v39 the centurion:

The centurion from Capernaum in Matt 8:5-13?  
Cornelius in Acts 10?

The Son of God died!  
God died!?

1 Cor 1:23-24

- \* a stumblingblock to the Jews,
- \* foolishness to the Gentiles
- \* the power and wisdom of God to those  
who believe

This Gentile could see what the Jews were so blind to...  
the identity of Jesus of Nazareth

Imagine his fear when such a monumental truth is recognized... "too late!"

And he no doubt had a very unsettling feeling –  
“What is going to happen now?!”

And something is going to happen!  
This is not the end of the story



[ Mark 15:22-39 ]

Yesterday was Passover...approximately the 1,975<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these events

I want to share with you a remarkable sculpture the LORD allowed us to see in Arad  
Truly breath-taking...called: Fountain of Tears

### Background

George Whitten took us to the house of Rick and Dafna Weinecke in Arad.

#### Rick

- drawn to the God of Israel because Israel became a nation after the Holocaust
- went to Israel in 1978 to learn about their God
- gave his life to Jesus
- applied for Full Residency (“Never!”)...and got it!
- served in IDF (Christian, American citizen!)
- applied for Israeli citizenship (“Never!”)...and got it
- full time sculptor

#### Genesis of *Fountain of Tears*

- The LORD began to this work in him over 6 years ago when he went to a conference and heard the word “pay back”
- LORD cultivated the idea...he wrestled with God about it – “No, LORD!”
- Finally surrendered and began to walk by faith with the LORD, Who began to reveal this inspired message
- This is an inspired message from the LORD to His people in these times!

### *Fountain of Tears*

The two greatest horrors the world has ever known are both Jewish

1. Crucifixion of Yeshua
2. Holocaust in Nazi Germany

They are woven together...one in Jerusalem stone, the other in bronze...  
And the one answers the unanswerable questions of the other

## The Holocaust

- The peace terms laid down by the Allies after WW I...the Versailles Treaty... were punitive and very heavy-handed
- The Reparations imposed by the Allies resulted in the economic ruin of Germany
- Out of that national devastation came...Adolph Hitler and the Third Reich of the Nazis
- Blame was put on the Jews – bankers etc because could not own land
  
- Anti-semitism swelled
  - Within Germany before WW II started (Kristallnacht in Nov 1938)
  - In conquered lands
  - “Ghettos”
    - Italian word, after *Ghetto*, island near Venice where Jews were made to live in the 16th century
  - Jobs taken away, property confiscated
  - Classified as sub-human, so was their dignity and humanity
  - Concentration camps: forced labor, medical experiments
  - “Final Solution” with idea from Islamic Mufti of Jerusalem... great-uncle of Yassar Arafat
  - Gas Chambers
  - Genocide: 6 million Jews...men, women, and children
  
- Aided by the nations
  - Plight of the “St. Louis”
    - A German ship carrying 930 Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany to Cuba.
    - When the ship set sail from Hamburg on May 13, 1939, all of its refugee passengers had legitimate landing certificates for Cuba.
    - However, during the two week voyage to Havana, the landing certificates were invalidated by the pro-fascist Cuban government.
    - When the St. Louis arrived in Havana on May 27 only 22 Jewish refugees were allowed entry.
    - Cuban President Federico Laredo Bru then insisted the ship and its remaining 900 Jews leave Havana.
    - The refugees were also refused entry into the United States.
    - Thus on June 6 the ship was forced to return to Europe.
    - While en route to Antwerp, several European countries were cajoled into taking in the refugees (287 to Great Britain; 214 to Belgium; 224 to France; 181 to the Netherlands).
    - Those that went to Belgium, France and the Netherlands were soon trapped as Hitler's armies invaded Western Europe and perished as victims of the Nazi Final Solution.

- Neither UK nor USA would approve bombing railroads leading to concentration camps even though had G2 about what was going on...not deemed to be strategic military targets
- Now, Islam says the Holocaust is a myth

For the Jews, the Holocaust has been a source of endless questions...but no answers  
(And a vow – “Never again!”)

The LORD gave an answer to Rick...a message in the Crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth

*Fountain of Tears* is comprised of 7 stone sculptures and 10 bronze sculptures displayed in 10 settings

And it is a work-in-progress...we were given a preview

1. FT1  
FT2  
  
[ journal ]
2. FT3  
FT4  
FT5  
  
[ journal ]
3. FT6  
FT7  
  
[journal ]
4. FT8  
FT9  
  
[ journal ]
5. FT10  
FT11  
FT12  
  
[ journal ]

6. FT13  
FT14  
  
[ journal ]
7. FT15  
FT16  
  
[ journal ]
8. FT17  
FT18  
  
[ journal ]
9. FT19  
FT20  
FT21  
  
[ journal ]
10. FT22  
FT23  
  
[ journal ]

FT24  
FT25  
FT26  
FT27  
FT28

Still to be added to *Fountain of Tears*:

- Bronze oxen (supported the laver in the Temple) on each field stone column
- Water trickling down each column...tears flowing (Jeremiah 9:1)
- Collection pool at bottom
- Recorded message

*Fountain of Tears* is truly an inspired testimony of reconciliation...  
of a suffering people and their Messiah, the Suffering Servant

In the message, the Jews will find liberation and hope...  
and a profound sorrow that leads to repentance

Future:

- City gov't of Arad
- Yad Vashem
- Berlin Museum
- CCA Tour stop!

Pray:

- Thanksgiving – He took the Cup of Suffering
- Forgiveness
- Help our unbelief
- Finished work
- Resurrection...the just shall live by faith
- Peace of Jerusalem
- Gen 12:3

Two weeks ago, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ  
Last week...*Fountain of Tears*

But...the story is far from over!

v40-41 women looking...many other women:

Only women spectators and attendants?!

Where are the men?

In hiding, mourning, weeping (Ch 16:10)...and probably  
“planning” their “What do we do now?”

But the faithful, devoted women who ministered to Jesus before the cross  
are holding vigil while He is on the cross...and some are named  
in the eternal Word of God:

- Miriam of Magdala (just north of Ginosar)
- Miriam, mother of Jacob and Joseph
- Salome, Mrs. Zebedee, mother of the Sons of Thunder

Plus many other who followed their Lord to Jerusalem from the Galilee

v42-43 it was the preparation:

Jesus gave up the ghost at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour...3pm

and His body had to be buried before sundown (Deut 21:22-23),  
at which time the Sabbath of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Feast of Unleavened  
Bread would begin (Ex 12:15-16, Lev 23:5-8).

Taking the lead on burying Jesus is...Joseph of Arimathea

- Rich man (Matt 27:57)
- Good and righteous (Luke 23:50)
- Honorable counselor – member of the Sanhedrin...
- who had not consented to the purpose or the deeds of the  
Sanhedrin concerning the crucifixion of Jesus  
(Luke 23:51)
- Waited for the kingdom of God...Messianic
- Disciple of Jesus (Matt 27:57)...
- but secretly for fear of the Jews (John 19:38)

With a love that casts out fear, Joseph **BOLDLY** goes into Pilate and asks  
for the body of Jesus.

While Jesus was alive, Joseph had been fearful of his fellow Sanhedrin  
and their response to his discipleship.

Now, by taking charge of the burial of his Master, Joseph takes the most  
bold step out of hiding (hold this thought)

He wants to quickly but tenderly bury the body of Jesus

See, Jesus had moved out of His Tabernacle

Where did He go?

- to proclaim liberty to the captives (Is 61:1)!
- to Paradise...just as He promised the repentant thief

v44-45 Pilate marveled...gave the body to Joseph:

Pilate is hit with another startling aspect of his encounter with Jesus!

“He’s dead so soon? That is very unusual...”

The cruel capital punishment of crucifixion usually lasted for days!

So Joseph’s request caught him off guard...

like everything else in this “case”

Pilate asked for confirmation of Jesus’ death from the centurion (v39)

who affirmed that Jesus had been dead for “some time”...

i.e. Jesus did not merely faint/swoon.

Important fact: Jesus was not taken down from the cross until He was certifiably dead.

And remember, His side had been pierced such that Thomas was invited to thrust his hand into Jesus’ side (John 20:27)

So Pilate...wondering...

- at the rapid death of Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, whose kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36)
- that such a well-known and well-respected Jewish man of wealth and influence...a member of the Sanhedrin, in fact... was requesting the body of the “King of the Jews”, so violently rejected by the Jews in favor of a murderer named Barabbas

gave the body of that innocent man to this influential Jew...

rather than leaving it for the scavenger birds of prey to eat as was usually the case

v46 took him down:

Wasting no time for time was of the essence, Joseph takes the fine linen he had purchased...nothing but the best for Jesus... and he hustled to Golgotha.

According to John's account, he is joined by another socially and religiously prominent man who believed in Jesus as the Messiah... Nicodemus

- a Pharisee (John 3:1)
- a member of the Sanhedrin
- also fearful of the Jews so he came to Jesus under the cover of night
- who brought 100 pounds of a mixture of myrrh and aloes to begin the burial/embalming process

Then these faithful Jews do something remarkable this "Sabbath eve"... they handled a dead body and no doubt got very bloody doing it!

- now unclean for the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Num 19:11-12)
- yet cleansed by the blood of the Lamb of God, the very fulfillment of all the shadows of the Feasts of the LORD

They hastily carried Jesus + 100 pounds of myrrh/aloes perhaps ¼ mile to bury Him in

- Joseph's own tomb (Matt 27:60)
- which was in a garden (John 19:41)...
- a tomb carved out of stone...
- where no body had yet been laid (Luke 23:53)

v47 beheld where he was laid:

The devoted women follow and see exactly

- where
- how (Luke 23:55)

Jesus' body was buried.

This is very significant because later, after the Sabbath, they would return to the right tomb...there is no mistaking this tomb.

Then the tomb was secured by Roman soldiers (Matt 27:62-66)

The burial of Jesus Christ...the fulfillment of Is 53:9



## Mark Chapter 16

v1-2 when the Sabbath was past:

The devoted women return to the unmistakable tomb

Mission: To anoint Jesus with the rest of the burial spices to complete the burial process

Timestamp: Sun rise on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of Nisan/Abib

v3-4 roll us away the stone...very great:

On their way to complete their mission, the women discuss a significant problem/obstacle: Access to the body of Jesus

- secured by the Roman guards  
(perhaps unknown to the women)
- blocked by a very heavy rolling stone cut in the shape of a wheel

Yet before they arrived at the tomb, their problem has been solved...  
the obstacles removed

A great earthquake + an angel (Matt 28:2-4)

- render the Roman guards as dead men
- roll the stone away

Ever been given Divine assistance without even asking for it?  
Ever had a “worry” removed before you got to it?

Does the LORD see and know what help we need?  
Is any problem too big for our LORD?

v5 entering into the sepulcher:  
Given an open door that no man can close, the women simply walk thru it into the Mourning Chamber in the tomb

This rich man's tomb, carved out of solid rock, had

- a Mourning Chamber for about 6 adults
- two burial "slabs" ...
  - one complete on the left (where Jesus was laid)
  - one incomplete (to this day) on the right

The angel (John 20:12) is sitting on the unfinished slab...  
the finished slab is holy ground!

Note: As mentioned at SonRise Service this past Sunday, we must consider John's account

John 20:11-12...the substance of the shadow of Ex 25:17-22  
John 5:39  
Rom 3:21-25 the "mercy seat"  
1 John 2:1-2  
1 John 4:8-10

The women take all this in...expecting something radically different...  
and they are terrified!

v6 Be not affrighted:  
The angel of God has reassuring words of truth for God's daughters:

"Do not be afraid...Fear not!  
You seek Jesus of Nazareth (specific identity of the man) who  
was crucified (Statement of Fact).  
He is 'awake' (Fact)  
He is not here (Fact)  
Check it out...look for yourselves (Ch 15:47).  
(It's just you and me here!)"

The miracle of Jesus' resurrection is as great as His incarnation  
If you believe His virgin birth, you can believe His resurrection.  
If you believe His resurrection, you can believe His virgin birth.

Jesus Christ has suffered, died, been buried...He is now risen again the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
day

v7 But go your way, tell:  
The women had come with the mission to complete the burial of Jesus.  
Now the women are given a new mission – to go tell the men

- what you have seen and heard here (v6)
- Jesus goes before you...always the Good Shepherd
- to Galilee, where you shall see Him...with your own eyes, will be eyewitnesses of the Risen LORD!
- just as He said...the events of the last 3 days mean no change in plans...everything is right on schedule!

v8 they went out quickly and fled...amazed...afraid:  
Didn't need to tell them twice!  
Nor did they challenge the new mission with a "Where were you 3 days ago!"

They simply obeyed...taking off like a missile!

- Overwhelmed and trembling
- Ecstatic with the news
- Frightened and kinda scrambled by the news
- Focused, not speaking to anyone on that busy road

The women, like most Jews, believed in the resurrection...  
but like Martha did  
John 11:23-24  
Dan 12:1-2

The resurrection of Jesus was "strange" to them  
He raised from the dead

- the widow of Nain's son
- Jairus' daughter
- Lazarus

But who raised Jesus?  
Who called Him forth?

His words in John 10:17-18 were forgotten

v9

when Jesus was risen:

The Suffering Servant is...The Conqueror!

He conquered death and hell, the wages of sin.

He destroyed the devil (Gen 3:15, Heb 2:14-15)

He now has the keys (Rev 18).

He owns the deathbed

- my dad
- Mr. Ortega
- “One Year Christian History” March 10

But don't wait until then...live a life filled with peace and joy and contentment NOW

And don't presume to know how and when you will die – it may be suddenly, not slowly

He appeared:

1<sup>st</sup> of 3 bodily appearances after his death and burial recorded by Mark.

The Light of the World is not extinguished!

He “lightened”, showed Himself, to Miriam of Magdala,

- one of the devoted women right up to “the end” and beyond
- who has been in her right mind ever since He cleansed her of demons.

v10

as they mourned and wept:

Told to go tell the others, she obeys her LORD.

She finds them sobbing in grief.

Why?

They do not believe the Word of God

Ch 9:28-32

Ch 10:32-33

v11

believed not:

Nor do they believe the testimony of an eyewitness!

They thought her story was an “idle tale” (Luke 23:11)... as if to dismiss her with, “Silly woman!”

v12-13 he appeared...unto two...into the country:

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance, the risen LORD appears to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32), whose “hearts burned” with the unrecorded Bible study He gave them.

When His identity was known to them...by his wounds...they raced back to Jerusalem to tell the 11 disciples...  
who did not believe these 2 eyewitnesses either!

What is (still) the problem with the 11 disciples?

Unbelief

How are they any different from “Doubting” Thomas?!

v14 he appeared unto the eleven:

So the LORD’s 3<sup>rd</sup> bodily appearance recorded in Mark after His death and burial is to the 11!

And He “lets ‘em have it” for not believing

- His Word
- His witnesses!

Hardness of heart and blindness are synonymous with unbelief.

His words to Thomas most certainly applied to the all  
(John 20:29)

v15 Go...and preach:

Mark’s version of The Great Commission...  
organized in Acts 1:8

“(Now that you finally believe), it is time to be busy about My Father’s business!

Go into the world...

As My ambassadors being in the world but not of the world...  
and preach the Good News of My suffering, death, burial, and  
resurrection for the forgiveness of sin to every man.

Go tell men who hate Me to make their peace with Me while they still  
can.

Go give everyone the option to become a new creature in Christ.”

We are **ALL** told to “Go!”

1. Jerusalem: workplaces, neighborhoods...HF
2. Judea: Valley, State...radio
3. Samaria: Mexico
4. Uttermost parts of the world: Israel, Egypt

v16 believeth...saved...believeth not...damned:

All who will exercise their mind and their faith by opting to become a new creature in Christ will be saved from the wrath of God.

And they will make a public profession of their faith by identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ by being baptized (Rom 6).

Those who will not humble themselves, will not believe, will not receive the gift of life, will pay for their choice by facing the wrath of God and an eternity separated from Him.

Baptism does not save, not being baptized does not damn  
Jesus saves...faith is required

The difference between life and death is belief in Jesus Christ.

v17-18 these signs shall follow them:

The LORD said these things would “certify”/confirm the message of the Gospel (v20) via signs/wonders/miracles...to “attack” unbelief

1. Casting out of demons in Jesus name
2. Speaking in foreign languages not naturally acquired  
(Kay Smith testimony)
3. Picking up “serpents”
4. Drinking any deadly (poisonous) thing
5. Laying of hands on the sick

Signs #1, 2, and 5 are still seen in the established Church...  
but Signs #3 and 4 are not...so what are we to think?

Foundational “Berean” truths:

- Context: historical, cultural, in chapter/book/Bible
- Scripture interprets Scripture

Context of the passage:

- Belief vs unbelief (faith)
- Confirmation of the Gospel going into the world

All 5 require faith...all require “the best gift” of the Holy Spirit  
(1 Cor 12:31)

Interpretation: The 2 controversial signs can be interpreted as

- Literal
  - Snake Handlers aka Church of God with Signs Following
    - only in Appalachia (TN, KY, NC, etc)
    - outgrowth of Azusa Street revival in 1910
    - Oneness Pentecostal in doctrine (many errors)
  - Practice
    - Started in TN with a former moonshine bootlegger named George Hensley
    - During his sermon on Mark 16, men dumped a box of rattlesnakes in front of him
    - While continuing to preach, he picked up the snakes...
      - showing his faith to take God at His Word
      - demonstrating his power and authority over Satan
    - Challenged his congregation to do the same...if they had “the anointing of the Holy Ghost”
    - Also encouraged the drinking of strychnine for same reasons
  - “Results”
    - A member of the congregation died... and George moved to KY post-haste
    - These practices faded away until 1940s... and congregants died
    - Resurfaced in 1971...more congregants died
    - People with atrophied hands, and missing fingers
    - Churches continue not by attracting new members, but because of enduring family traditions.

"Serpent handling is maintained through powerful families whose children have carried on that tradition for up to four generations.....There are a small number of converts, but they generally maintain themselves through these families, and by people marrying into the tradition."

- If a person was bitten/poisoned, it was because
      - there was sin in that person's life  
(sinners were shunned by the others)
      - that person did not have "the anointing"  
(the "anointed" usually slipped into altered states of consciousness)
      - that person lacked faith
      - God is testing them all...will they still trust Him to handle the snakes?
      - God will be glorified in the healing of the person
  - Consider the "prophet" and his fruit
    - George Hensley, coming home from a preaching tour, discovered that his wife and his neighbor were having an affair
    - He attacked the neighbor with a knife
    - Fled...and returned to his bootlegging
    - Remarried...resumed preaching
    - Married and divorced 4 times
  - Also consider that Indian snake charmers have been around for centuries...
- Metaphorical
  - casting out demons – repetitious, therefore illogical
  - "handling" hypocrites (Matt 23:33) and error
  - "handling" false teachers and being safe from poison  
serpent = "snake", "malicious person" (Rev 2:2)  
poison = false doctrine
- Prophetic
  - Apostle Paul on Malta in Acts 28:1-6
  - Justus (Acts 1:23) according to Church and Jewish history, was forced to drink poison...and lived
  - Perhaps the "best gift" in "Biblical frontiers"  
(1 Cor 12:10) but not for all (1 Cor 12:28-30)  
where people are more "desperate for God" than we are here in Self-Sufficient Christendom

Be a Berean...beware deception

- Do not test the LORD your God...Matt 4:7 to Satan
- Altered state of consciousness is demonic playground
- No private interpretation (2 Peter 1:20)



v19 he was received up to heaven:

The Ascension of Jesus Christ to the right hand of the Father...  
where He is interceding for us! (Rom 10:34)

v20 they went forth:

Empowered and emboldened by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), the disciples  
went out and changed the world!

The Book of Acts is the history of their going forth to do the work of God

What is the work of God?

John 6:29

And it is a reasonable faith

John 20:30-31

Final Word: Amen!

Test: Is this sound doctrine here in the established Church?

- Did Jesus teach it in the Gospels?
- Did the early Church practice it?
- Did Paul write of it in the Epistles?

<u>Sign</u> _____	<u>Jesus</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Epistles</u>
1. Casting out of demons	Y	Y	Y
2. Foreign languages	Y	Y	Y
3. Picking up “serpents”	N	N	N
4. Drinking poison	N	N	N
5. Laying hands on sick	Y	Y	Y