

The Gospel of Mark

This brief account of Jesus' earthly ministry highlights Jesus' authority and servanthood.

Author: John Mark, a younger companion of Peter and later Paul, he was Barnabas cousin. Papias (an early church father), claimed Mark was Peter's interpreter.

In Mark – Jesus is the Messiah who is a Servant

Mark 6:50

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

TEACHER: 16 CHAPTERS

CH. 1

Due to the Papias testimony this may have been Peter's Gospel, transcribed to Mark for a Greek audience for global consumption. Mark omits the story of Jesus birth, and The Sermon on the Mount. It starts with John the Baptist. This leads me to believe it was written after Matthew, because it might have been assumed that the reader already knew those wonderful stories. Chapter 1 starts with John the Baptist proclaiming Jesus is coming.

STUDENT:

This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² It began as the prophet Isaiah had written: "God said, 'I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' ³ Someone is shouting in the desert, 'Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!'" ⁴ So John appeared in the desert, baptizing and preaching. "Turn away from your sins and be baptized," he told the people, "and God will forgive your sins." (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁵ Many people from the province of Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to hear John. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He announced to the people, "The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (GNT).

TEACHER:

Next we see a wonderful picture of the Trinity, all the God-Head in one place. Baptism is important. So is the Trinity. Here are 20 verses referencing the Trinity from scripture:

1. Matthew 3:16

"After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him."

2. Matthew 12:28

"But if I [Jesus] cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

3. Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit . . ."

4. Luke 3:22

"And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him [Jesus] in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'You are My [the Father's] beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.'"

5. John 14:26

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My [Jesus'] name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

6. John 15:26

"When the Helper comes, whom I [Jesus] will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me . . ."

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7. Acts 1:4

"Gathering them together, He [Jesus] commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me . . ."

8. Acts 2:33

"Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [Jesus] has poured forth this which you both see and hear."

9. Acts 10:38

"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

10. Romans 1:4

"Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord . . ."

11. Romans 8:9

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

12. 1 Corinthians 6:11

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

13. 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

14. Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

15. Ephesians 1:17

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

16. Ephesians 2:18

For through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

17. Ephesians 2:22

In whom [Jesus] you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

18. Titus 3:6

Whom [the Holy Spirit] He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

19. Hebrews 9:14

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

20. 1 Peter 1:2

According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: may grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Of course, there are more passages that mention all three Trinity members (1 Co 12:4–6; Eph 1:13–14; 4:4–6; Jude 20–21), and many more that describe the relationships between the three persons of the Trinity.

You'll also find a few passages in the Old Testament that mention all members of the Trinity.

One example is Isaiah 48:16, in which many believe it is Jesus who says;

"and now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit."

STUDENT:

⁹It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

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TEACHER:

Chapter 1 ends with Jesus being tempted, and Jesus starting to call His Disciples.

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STUDENT:

¹²Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. ¹³And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him. ¹⁴Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." ¹⁶And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

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TEACHER:

He begins healing and casting out evil spirits right from the 1st chapter. This continues in chapter 2, until He "violates" the Sabbath and makes some enemies. FYI *He violated the pharisaical interpretation of the Sabbath.*

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CH. 2

STUDENT:

²³Jesus was walking through some wheat fields on a Sabbath. As his disciples walked along with him, they began to pick the heads of wheat. ²⁴So the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look, it is against our Law for your disciples to do that on the Sabbath!" ²⁵Jesus answered, "Have you never read what David did that time when he needed something to eat? He and his men were hungry, ²⁶so he went into the house of God and ate the bread offered to God. This happened when Abiathar was the High Priest. According to our Law only the priests may eat this bread—but David ate it and even gave it to his men." ²⁷And Jesus concluded, "The Sabbath was made for the good of human beings; they were not made for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Jesus really pushes the point of healing and the Sabbath in chapter 3.

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CH. 3

STUDENT:

Then Jesus went back to the synagogue, where there was a man who had a paralyzed hand. ²Some people were there who wanted to accuse Jesus of doing wrong; so they watched him closely to see whether he would cure the man on the Sabbath. ³Jesus said to the man, "Come up here to the front." ⁴Then he asked the people, "What does our Law allow us to do on the Sabbath? To help or to harm? To save someone's life or to destroy it?" But they did not say a thing. ⁵Jesus was angry as he looked around at them, but at the same time he felt sorry for them, because they were so stubborn and wrong. Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it became well again. ⁶So the Pharisees left the synagogue and met at once with some members of Herod's party, and they made plans to kill Jesus. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

As chapter 3 continues, Jesus fame spreads so far, that He had to preach from a boat. He also calls His 12 disciples. Chapter 3 ends with Jesus asking, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" ³⁴He looked at the people sitting around him and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does what God wants is my brother, my sister, my mother." That makes, anyone who does what God wants, a member of His family! In chapter 4 Jesus tells the parable of the sower, the parable of hiding your light under a bushel, the growing seed and the mustard seed. Then He calms the storm.

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CH. 4

STUDENT:

³⁵ On the evening of that same day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." ³⁶ So they left the crowd; the disciples got into the boat in which Jesus was already sitting, and they took him with them. Other boats were there too. ³⁷ Suddenly a strong wind blew up, and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water. ³⁸ Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?" (GNT)



STUDENT:

³⁹ Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and he said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you frightened? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ But they were terribly afraid and began to say to one another, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" (GNT)

TEACHER:

How many times have we been in a situation where everything around us is going crazy? What do you do when you don't know what to do? I will tell you what not to do. Never do what you think is right. Never. Every time you read in the Bible that the people did what "seemed" right in their own hearts or their own eyes, they went into great error. So what do we do? We, as people who love God, and believe He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, always should be in the practice of doing what we *know* is right.

"Never do what you think is right. Never. Always do what you know is right." DH

CH. 5

TEACHER:

What if we don't know what is right? Find out what "right" is. In our house we do this. We hold hands and pray, "Heavenly Father, open the doors you want us to open, close the doors you want us to ignore, and watch us that we will obey You." Then, we wiggle door knobs to see what doors are open, and which are closed. In chapter 5 Jesus casts out the demons named Legion into a herd of 2000 pigs. The question here is, who is eating all that bacon in Israel? And then the people ask Him to leave! He then heals a woman with an issue, and raises Jarius's daughter from the dead. On to chapter 6.

CH. 6

STUDENT:

Jesus left that place and went back to his hometown, followed by his disciples. ² On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue. Many people were there; and when they heard him, they were all amazed. "Where did he get all this?" they asked. "What wisdom is this that has been given him? How does he perform miracles?" ³ Isn't he the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren't his sisters living here?" And so they rejected him.

⁴ Jesus said to them, "Prophets are respected everywhere except in their own hometown and by their relatives and their family." ⁵ He was not able to perform any miracles there, except that he placed his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ He was greatly surprised, because the people did not have faith. (GNT)



TEACHER:

Next He sends out the disciples to preach and work miracles, and John the Baptist is beheaded. Starting in verse 30 He feeds the 5000, and then starting with verse 45 he walks on the water.

STUDENT:

⁵³ They crossed the lake and came to land at Gennesaret, where they tied up the boat. ⁵⁴ As they left the boat, people recognized Jesus at once. ⁵⁵ So they ran throughout the whole region; and wherever they heard he was, they brought to him the sick lying on their mats. ⁵⁶ And everywhere Jesus went, to villages, towns, or farms, people would take their sick to the marketplaces and beg him to let the sick at least touch the edge of his cloak. And all who touched it were made well. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 7 Jesus clarifies the proper use of the Law in day to day life. The story goes like this. Some Pharisees and teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. ² They noticed that some of his disciples were eating their food with hands that were ritually unclean—that is, they had not washed them in the way the Pharisees said people should. (³ For the Pharisees, as well as the rest of the Jews, follow the teaching they received from their ancestors: they do not eat unless they wash their hands in the proper way; ⁴ nor do they eat anything that comes from the market unless they wash it first. And they follow many other rules which they have received, such as the proper way to wash cups, pots, copper bowls, and beds.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law asked Jesus, “Why is it that your disciples do not follow the teaching handed down by our ancestors, but instead eat with ritually unclean hands?” ⁶ Jesus answered them, “How right Isaiah was when he prophesied about you! You are hypocrites, just as he wrote: ‘These people, says God, honor me with their words, but their heart is really far away from me. ⁷ It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!’ How do we do this today? In our homes? Churches? On the Job? Then Jesus explains “being unclean” starting with verse 14.

CH. 7

STUDENT:

¹⁴ Then Jesus called the crowd to him once more and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ There is nothing that goes into you from the outside which can make you ritually unclean. Rather, it is what comes out of you that makes you unclean.” (GNT)

TEACHER:

When Jesus leaves the crowd, His disciples ask, what did you mean? He gets upset that they don’t see it yet.

STUDENT:

“It is what comes out of you that makes you unclean. ²¹ For from the inside, from your heart, come the evil ideas which lead you to do immoral things, to rob, kill, ²² commit adultery, be greedy, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly— ²³ all these evil things come from inside you and make you unclean.” (GNT)

TEACHER:

Great list. 1. Rob 2. Kill 3. Adultery 4. Greed 5. Doing things we know are evil 6. Deceit 7. Indecency (*The action of being vulgar, offensive or improper*) 8. Jealousy 9. Slander 10. Pride 11. Folly (*lack of good sense*) Jesus then heals a foreigner’s daughter, and a deaf mute. Next in chapter 8 Jesus feeds another multitude, and soon thereafter Jesus teaches them the secret to having faith: *Remembering what God has done for you and others in the past.*

CH. 8

STUDENT:

Don't you know or understand yet? Are your minds so dull? ¹⁸ You have eyes—can't you see? You have ears—can't you hear? Don't you remember ¹⁹ when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand people? How many baskets full of leftover pieces did you take up?" "Twelve," they answered.

²⁰ "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand people," asked Jesus, "how many baskets full of leftover pieces did you take up?" "Seven," they answered. ²¹ "And you still don't understand?" (GNT)

TEACHER:

Jesus begins warning His followers of His need to suffer and die for us, and what we must do as His people.

STUDENT:

³⁴ Then Jesus called the crowd and his disciples to him. "If any of you want to come with me," he told them, "you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for me and for the gospel, you will save it. ³⁶ Do you gain anything if you win the whole world but lose your life? Of course not! ³⁷ There is nothing you can give to regain your life. ³⁸ If you are ashamed of me and of my teaching in this godless and wicked day, then the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (GNT)

CH. 9
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TEACHER:

In chapter 9 we have the account of the transfiguration where Peter, James and John see Jesus glorified with Moses and Elijah. They also hear the audible voice of God. Jesus explains in verse 11 that John the Baptist was the foretelling of Elijah, fulfilling the prophesy. Soon thereafter Jesus heals a boy possessed, Jesus foretells of His death, and the disciples are arguing about the seating arrangements in Heaven! In chapter 10 Jesus talks about divorce, and then children. Often in scripture you see the 2 taught together. Do you know why?

"We parents are volunteers in our families, our kids are the victims. They had no say in the matter." DH

At the end of the chapter Jesus heals Blind Bartimaeus. In chapter 11 Jesus has his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, curses the fig tree, and goes to the Temple.

STUDENT:

¹⁵ When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple and began to drive out all those who were buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons, ¹⁶ and he would not let anyone carry anything through the Temple courtyards. ¹⁷ He then taught the people: "It is written in the Scriptures that God said, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.' But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves!" (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 12 Jesus teaches the parable of the owner of the vineyard, paying taxes, and the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead. This is also the chapter that holds the testimony of a widows offering.

STUDENT:

CH. 12

⁴¹ As Jesus sat near the Temple treasury, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Many rich men dropped in a lot of money; ⁴² then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. ⁴³ He called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. ⁴⁴ For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on." (GNT)

TEACHER:

God sees what you give. God cares what you give. And He brags about you. His daughter gave in faith, and He bragged about it to the 12. As Jesus is sitting on the Mount of Olives, He starts to talk about the end times.

STUDENT:

³ Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, across from the Temple, when Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him in private. ⁴ “Tell us when this will be,” they said, “and tell us what will happen to show that the time has come for all these things to take place.” (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁵ Jesus said to them, “Watch out, and don't let anyone fool you. ⁶ Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will fool many people. ⁷ And don't be troubled when you hear the noise of battles close by and news of battles far away. Such things must happen, but they do not mean that the end has come. ⁸ Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be earthquakes everywhere, and there will be famines. These things are like the first pains of childbirth. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁹ “You yourselves must watch out. You will be arrested and taken to court. You will be beaten in the synagogues; you will stand before rulers and kings for my sake to tell them the Good News. ¹⁰ But before the end comes, the gospel must be preached to all peoples. ¹¹ And when you are arrested and taken to court, do not worry ahead of time about what you are going to say; when the time comes, say whatever is then given to you. For the words you speak will not be yours; they will come from the Holy Spirit. ¹² Men will hand over their own brothers to be put to death, and fathers will do the same to their children. Children will turn against their parents and have them put to death.

¹³ Everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved. (GNT).

TEACHER:

He continues, with the abomination of desolation mentioned in Daniel's prophesy, then, The Second Coming.

STUDENT:

²⁴ “In the days after that time of trouble the sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, ²⁵ the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers in space will be driven from their courses. ²⁶ Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

²⁷ He will send the angels out to the four corners of the earth to gather God's chosen people from one end of the world to the other. (GNT)



STUDENT:

²⁸ “Let the fig tree teach you a lesson. When its branches become green and tender and it starts putting out leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, you will know that the time is near, ready to begin. ³⁰ Remember that all these things will happen before the people now living have all died. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

STUDENT:

³² “No one knows, however, when that day or hour will come—neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son; only the Father knows. ³³ Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It will be like a man who goes away from home on a trip and leaves his servants in charge, after giving to each one his own work to do and after telling the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵ Watch, then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming—it might be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or at sunrise. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. ³⁷ What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!”

TEACHER:

In chapter 14, the plot is laid, Jesus is anointed at Bethany by a woman (*Mary Magdalene according to tradition*) and the reaction was unfriendly from the onlookers. Jesus says the following.

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CH. 14

STUDENT:

⁶But Jesus said, "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a fine and beautiful thing for me. ⁷You will always have poor people with you, and any time you want to, you can help them. But you will not always have me. ⁸She did what she could; she poured perfume on my body to prepare it ahead of time for burial. ⁹Now, I assure you that wherever the gospel is preached all over the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

And today we, along with many others before us, have fulfilled this prophesy of Jesus regarding Mary washing His feet being taught again.

Next in chapter 14 Judas agrees to betray Jesus and then eats Passover with them, and follows that with the Lord's Supper. He is arrested later that evening, is taken before the council, and is denied by Peter.

In chapter 15 Jesus appears before Pilate, is sentenced, and crucified.

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CH. 15

STUDENT:

³³At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"

³⁵Some of the people there heard him and said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah!" ³⁶One of them ran up with a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, and put it on the end of a stick. Then he held it up to Jesus' lips and said, "Wait! Let us see if Elijah is coming to bring him down from the cross!" ³⁷With a loud cry Jesus died.

³⁸The curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw how Jesus had died. "This man was really the Son of God!" he said. (GNT)

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Chapter 15 ends with burial of Jesus. Chapter 16 with the glorious resurrection. Jesus appears to His followers and family and then is taken up to Heaven.

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CH. 16

STUDENT:

¹⁹After the Lord Jesus had talked with them, he was taken up to heaven and sat at the right side of God. ²⁰The disciples went and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and proved that their preaching was true by the miracles that were performed.

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NEXT LESSON LUKE

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"....My words will not pass away." Mark 13:31b

THE BOOK OF MARK PARABLES

Parable of The Lamp - Mark 4:21-25

He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear." "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

Parable of New Cloth on Old Garment - Mark 2:21-22

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

Parable of The Divided Kingdom - Mark 3:23-27

So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house."

Parable of The Sower - Mark 4:1-20

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Parable of The Growing Seed - Mark 4:26-29

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Parable of The Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-34

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Parable of The Heart of Man - Mark 7:14-23

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. 15 Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. 18 "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body."

He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

Parable of The Tenant Farmers - Mark 12:1-12

Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another

place. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

“He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

“But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture:

“‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?’”

Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

Parable of The Budding Fig Tree - Mark 13:28-33

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

Parable of Faithful vs. Wicked Servant - Mark 13:34-37

It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”





The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



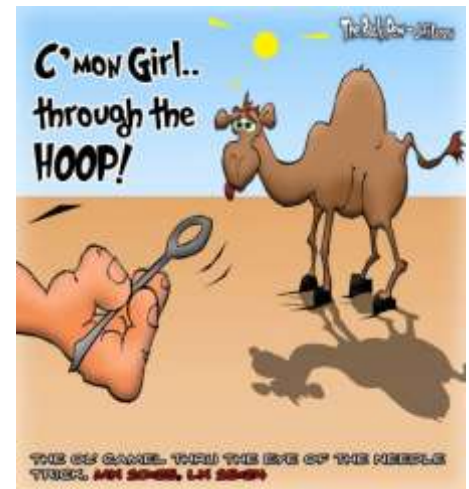
Jesus heals Larry the Leper, and tells him not to tell anyone but report to the priest.. BUT Larry could not help himself. Mk 1:40-45



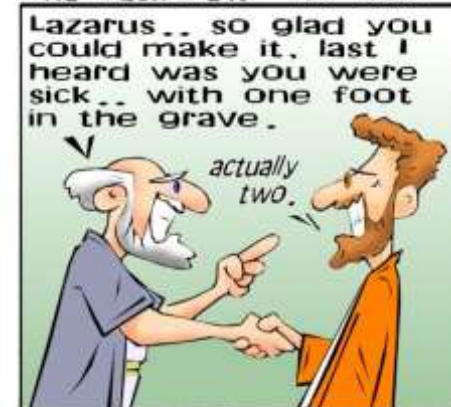
The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Demons cast into pigs.. Mk 5:1-20, Mt, 9:32
It was kind of a Dr. Piggy & Mr. Hog moment



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Simon the former 'leper' greets Lazarus the former 'corpse' Mt 26, Mk 14, Lu 7

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Still two days after Palm Sunday Darryl the Palm Sunday donkey was bragging to the boys.

