

VISUAL

Mark

Mark with photographs and questions for reflection

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Welcome to Visual Mark

Mark is the shortest and fastest-moving of the four Gospels. Again and again Mark tells us that Jesus acted “immediately”: calling followers, healing the sick, teaching the crowds and pressing on toward Jerusalem and the cross. Visual Mark invites you to slow down inside that fast-moving story.

Visual Mark sets the full text of Mark, in the World English Bible, beside photographs and questions for reflection. The photographs are not pictures of Bible scenes. They are images from everyday life, chosen to help you connect your own story with the story of Jesus.

As you read, take time with each image. Notice what you see and what you feel. The questions are marked HEAD, HEART and ACTION. Head questions help you understand what the passage says. Heart questions invite you to notice your feelings and attitudes before God. Action questions ask what you will do in response. Use them on your own, with a friend or in a group. The goal is to link LIFE and SCRIPTURE through IMAGES.

Master Questions

Three questions go with you through the whole book. You will find them again at the end of every chapter, with a box for your response, and the **Summary** after Mark 16 reviews them for the whole book. Responses and highlights are kept on this device only.

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

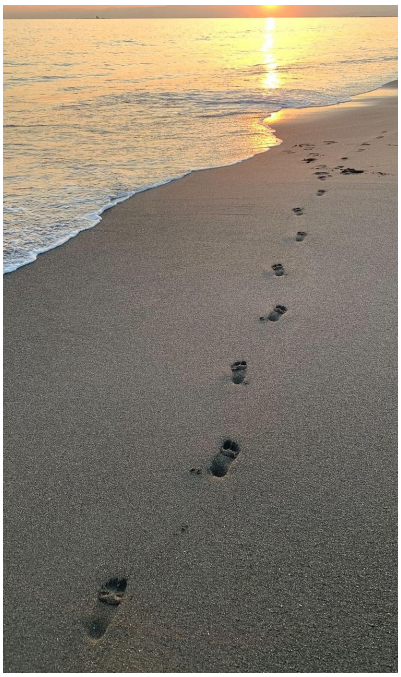
ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?

You can write your responses right on the page, in the boxes beneath each question, and highlight words in the text that speak to you.

At the end of the book, after Mark 16, you will find two more sections. The **Summary** reviews the Master Questions for the whole Gospel of Mark, with boxes for your responses. **Going Deeper** is a short study guide with an overview of the author and the book, historical and cultural insights, a chart of the whole book, its major themes and emotions, and free online resources such as Blue Letter Bible, commentaries and maps.


HOLY BIBLE
CONCORDANCE







John Prepares the Way

1 The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the prophets,

> “Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
> who will prepare your way before you:
> 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness,
> ‘Make ready the way of the Lord!
> Make his paths straight!’ ”

4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. 5 All the country of Judea and all those of Jerusalem went out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan river, confessing their sins. 6 John was clothed with camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen. 8 I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”

1.1

Heart: Look carefully at the image that opens this chapter. Mark's story begins with "the voice of one crying in the wilderness" (v. 3). Where are the wilderness places in your life right now? How might God be preparing a way through them?

1.2

Action: John said, "After me comes he who is mightier than I" (v. 7). John's whole purpose was to point beyond himself. Who has pointed you toward Jesus? Who could you point toward him this week, and how?

Jesus Is Baptized



[9] In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. [10] Immediately coming up from the water, he saw the heavens parting, and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. [11] A voice came out of the sky, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

1.3

Heart: Consider the image of water in this section. What does it stir in you? At Jesus' baptism a voice said, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (v. 11). How would hearing words like these from God change the way you see yourself?

Tested in the Wilderness

12 Immediately the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was there in the wilderness forty days
tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals; and the angels were serving him.

1.4

Head: Jesus went straight from the joy of his baptism into forty days of testing (v. 12-13). Why do you think the Spirit led him into the wilderness right after his baptism? Have you ever had a high point in life followed quickly by a hard test?

Jesus Calls Four Fishermen



14 Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Good News of God’s
Kingdom, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and God’s Kingdom is at hand! Repent, and believe in the
Good News.”

16 Passing along by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net into the
sea, for they were fishermen. 17 Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you into fishers for men.”

18 Immediately they left their nets, and followed him. 19 Going on a little further from there, he saw James the
son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called
them, and they left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired servants, and went after him.

1.5

Action: If you put yourself in the image of the fisherman, where would you be? What would you be thinking? Simon and Andrew “immediately they left their nets, and followed him” (v. 18). What “nets” would be hardest for you to leave behind? What is one step you could take this week to follow Jesus more closely?

Teaching with Authority

21 They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue and taught. 22
They were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as having authority, and not as the scribes. 23
Immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 24 saying, “Ha! What
do we have to do with you, Jesus, you Nazarene? Have you come to destroy us? I know you who you are: the
Holy One of God!”

25 Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”

26 The unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 They were all amazed,
so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching? For with authority he
commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him!” 28 The report of him went out immediately
everywhere into all the region of Galilee and its surrounding area.

1.6

Head: The people were astonished because Jesus taught “as having authority” (v. 22). What made his teaching so different from what they had heard before? Whose voices carry authority in your life today?

Healing at Simon’s House

29 Immediately, when they had come out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew,
with James and John. 30 Now Simon’s wife’s mother lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him
about her. 31 He came and took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her immediately, and she
served them. 32 At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to him all who were sick, and those who were
possessed by demons. 33 All the city was gathered together at the door. 34 He healed many who were sick with
various diseases, and cast out many demons. He didn’t allow the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Jesus Prays in a Quiet Place



[35] Early in the morning, while it was still dark, he rose up and went out, and departed into a deserted place, and prayed there. [36] Simon and those who were with him searched for him. [37] They found him and told him, "Everyone is looking for you."

[38] He said to them, "Let's go elsewhere into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because I came out for this reason." [39] He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out demons.

1.7

Action: Look at the image of the person at sunrise. Even with a whole town looking for him, Jesus rose "early, while it was still dark" to pray (v. 35). What crowds out your time with God? When and where will you set aside quiet time with him this week?

Jesus Touches a Man with Leprosy

40 A leper came to him, begging him, kneeling down to him, and saying to him, “If you want to, you can make me clean.”

41 Being moved with compassion, he stretched out his hand, and touched him, and said to him, “I want to. Be made clean.” 42 When he had said this, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was made clean. 43 He strictly warned him, and immediately sent him out, 44 and said to him, “See you say nothing to anybody, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing the things which Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.”

45 But he went out, and began to proclaim it much, and to spread about the matter, so that Jesus could no more openly enter into a city, but was outside in desert places. People came to him from everywhere.

1.8

Action: The man with leprosy said, “If you want to, you can make me clean” (v. 40), and Jesus “touched him” (v. 41). Who are the people others avoid touching today? What would it look like for you to reach toward one of them this week?

1.9

Heart: Choose one image from this chapter that best captures how Mark’s story begins for you. What words would you put with that image?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 1 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Four Friends and a Paralyzed Man



[1] When he entered again into Capernaum after some days, it was heard that he was in the house. [2] Immediately
many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even around the door; and he spoke the
word to them. [3] Four people came, carrying a paralytic to him. [4] When they could not come near to him for the
crowd, they removed the roof where he was. When they had broken it up, they let down the mat that the
paralytic was lying on. [5] Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”

[6] But there were some of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, [7] “Why does this man speak
blasphemies like that? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

[8] Immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, “Why do
you reason these things in your hearts? [9] Which is easier, to tell the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven;’ or to
say, ‘Arise, and take up your bed, and walk?’ [10] But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on
earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— [11] “I tell you, arise, take up your mat, and go to your house.”

[12] He arose, and immediately took up the mat, and went out in front of them all; so that they were all amazed,
and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

2.1

Action: Consider the image that opens this chapter. Four friends carried a paralyzed man and even broke open a roof to reach Jesus (v. 3-4). Who has carried you when you could not walk on your own? Who could you help carry to Jesus this week, and how?

2.2

Head: Jesus, “seeing their faith” (v. 5), the faith of the friends, spoke to the man about his sins before healing him. Why do you think Jesus spoke first about forgiveness? How might your faith make a difference for someone else?

2.3

Heart: Jesus asked, “Which is easier, to tell the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven;’ or to say, ‘Arise, and take up your bed, and walk?’” (v. 9). Which do you most long for in your own life: forgiveness, healing, or both? Explain.

Jesus Calls Levi



13 He went out again by the seaside. All the multitude came to him, and he taught them. 14 As he passed by, he
saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he arose and
followed him.

15 He was reclining at the table in his house, and many tax collectors and sinners sat down with Jesus and his
disciples, for there were many, and they followed him. 16 The scribes and the Pharisees, when they saw that he
was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why is it that he eats and drinks with tax
collectors and sinners?”

17 When Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who
are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

2.4

Action: Look at the image of the shared meal. If you put yourself in this picture, where would you be sitting? Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners (v. 15-16). Who would be surprising guests at your table? Whom could you invite to share a meal with you?

2.5

Heart: Jesus said, “Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick” (v. 17). When is it hard for you to admit that you need help?

New Wine and New Wineskins



18 John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, and they came and asked him, “Why do John’s disciples and
the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples don’t fast?”

19 Jesus said to them, “Can the groomsmen fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the
bridegroom with them, they can’t fast. 20 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from
them, and then they will fast in that day. 21 No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, or else
the patch shrinks and the new tears away from the old, and a worse hole is made. 22 No one puts new wine into
old wineskins, or else the new wine will burst the skins, and the wine pours out, and the skins will be
destroyed; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins.”

2.6

Head: Consider the image for this section. Jesus spoke of new wine that needs fresh wineskins (v. 22). What do you think Jesus meant? What new thing might God be doing in your life that needs a new way of living to hold it?

Lord of the Sabbath

[23] He was going on the Sabbath day through the grain fields, and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the
ears of grain. [24] The Pharisees said to him, “Behold, why do they do that which is not lawful on the Sabbath
day?”

[25] He said to them, “Did you never read what David did, when he had need, and was hungry—he, and those
who were with him? [26] How he entered into God’s house at the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the
show bread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and gave also to those who were with him?” [27] He
said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. [28] Therefore the Son of Man is lord
even of the Sabbath.”

2.7

Action: Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (v. 27). Is your rest a gift you receive or a rule you keep? What is one way you will receive rest as God’s gift this week?

2.8

Heart: Which image in this chapter do you like least? What questions or feelings does it raise in you? How might those feelings connect with the stories in this chapter?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 2 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Healing on the Sabbath



[1] He entered again into the synagogue, and there was a man there who had his hand withered. [2] They watched
him, whether he would heal him on the Sabbath day, that they might accuse him. [3] He said to the man who had
his hand withered, “Stand up.” [4] He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath day to do good, or to do harm?
To save a life, or to kill?” But they were silent. [5] When he had looked around at them with anger, being
grieved at the hardening of their hearts, he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and
his hand was restored as healthy as the other. [6] The Pharisees went out, and immediately conspired with the
Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

3.1

Heart: Consider the image of hands in this section. Jesus told the man, “Stretch out your hand” (v. 5), in front of people watching to accuse him. What part of your life do you hide that Jesus might ask you to stretch out to him?

3.2

Head: Jesus was “grieved at the hardening of their hearts” (v. 5). Why were the leaders so set against a healing on the Sabbath? What tends to harden a heart? What softens it?

Crowds Press Around Jesus

[7] Jesus withdrew to the sea with his disciples, and a great multitude followed him from Galilee, from Judea, [8]
from Jerusalem, from Idumaea, beyond the Jordan, and those from around Tyre and Sidon. A great multitude,
hearing what great things he did, came to him. [9] He spoke to his disciples that a little boat should stay near him
because of the crowd, so that they wouldn’t press on him. [10] For he had healed many, so that as many as had
diseases pressed on him that they might touch him. [11] The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him, fell down
before him, and cried, “You are the Son of God!” [12] He sternly warned them that they should not make him
known.

3.3

Heart: Look at the image that opens this chapter. Great crowds came from many places because they heard “what great things he did” (v. 8). What draws people to Jesus today? What draws you?

Jesus Chooses the Twelve



13 He went up into the mountain, and called to himself those whom he wanted, and they went to him. 14 He
appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them out to preach, 15 and to have
authority to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: 16 Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); 17 James the
son of Zebedee; and John, the brother of James, (whom he called Boanerges, which means, Sons of Thunder);
18 Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon the
Zealot; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

3.4

Action: Consider the image of people walking together. Jesus chose twelve “that they might be with him” (v. 14) before sending them out. What does it mean for you simply to be with Jesus? How will you make time to be with him this week?

3.5

Head: The Twelve were a mix of fishermen, a tax collector and a zealot. Why do you think Jesus chose such different people? What does that say about the community of faith?

Then he came into a house.

A House Divided

[20] The multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. [21] When his friends heard it, they went out to seize him; for they said, “He is insane.” [22] The scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul,” and, “By the prince of the demons he casts out the demons.”

[23] He summoned them, and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? [24] If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. [25] If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. [26] If Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he can’t stand, but has an end. [27] But no one can enter into the house of the strong man to plunder unless he first binds the strong man; then he will plunder his house. [28] Most certainly I tell you, all sins of the descendants of man will be forgiven, including their blasphemies with which they may blaspheme; [29] but whoever may blaspheme against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation.” [30] —because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

3.6

Action: Some said Jesus was out of his mind; others said he was working with Satan (v. 21-22). What can you learn from the way Jesus responded? How will you respond the next time someone misunderstands you?

Jesus’ True Family



[31] His mother and his brothers came, and standing outside, they sent to him, calling him. [32] A multitude was sitting around him, and they told him, “Behold, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters are outside looking for you.”

[33] He answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” [34] Looking around at those who sat around him, he said, “Behold, my mother and my brothers! [35] For whoever does the will of God is my brother, my sister, and mother.”

3.7

Action: Look at the image of a family in this section. Jesus said, “For whoever does the will of God is my brother, my sister, and mother” (v. 35). How has the family of faith been family to you? How could you be family to someone in your church this week?

3.8

Heart: If you could step into one image in this chapter, which would you choose? Where would you be, and what would you be feeling?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 3 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



The Farmer and the Seed

[1] Again he began to teach by the seaside. A great multitude was gathered to him, so that he entered into a boat
in the sea, and sat down. All the multitude were on the land by the sea. [2] He taught them many things in
parables, and told them in his teaching, [3] "Listen! Behold, the farmer went out to sow, [4] and as he sowed, some
seed fell by the road, and the birds came and devoured it. [5] Others fell on the rocky ground, where it had little
soil, and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of soil. [6] When the sun had risen, it was scorched;
and because it had no root, it withered away. [7] Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew up, and
choked it, and it yielded no fruit. [8] Others fell into the good ground, and yielded fruit, growing up and
increasing. Some produced thirty times, some sixty times, and some one hundred times as much." [9] He said,
"Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

4.1

Heart: Look at the image that opens this chapter. Jesus told of seed falling on the road, on rocky ground, among thorns and on good soil (v. 3-8). Which kind of soil best describes your heart right now? Explain.

The Meaning of the Story



[10] When he was alone, those who were around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. [11] He said to them, “To you is given the mystery of God’s Kingdom, but to those who are outside, all things are done in parables, [12] that ‘seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest perhaps they should turn again, and their sins should be forgiven them.’ ”

[13] He said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How will you understand all of the parables? [14] The farmer sows the word. [15] The ones by the road are the ones where the word is sown; and when they have heard, immediately Satan comes, and takes away the word which has been sown in them. [16] These in the same way are those who are sown on the rocky places, who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with joy. [17] They have no root in themselves, but are short-lived. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they stumble. [18] Others are those who are sown among the thorns. These are those who have heard the word, [19] and the cares of this age, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. [20] Those which were sown on the good ground are those who hear the word, and accept it, and bear fruit, some thirty times, some sixty times, and some one hundred times.”

4.2

Head: Consider the image of the young plant. Jesus said worries, riches and the desire for other things “choke the word” (v. 19). How do these things crowd out God’s word? Which of them threatens to choke it in your life?

4.3

Action: What helps your heart become good soil where God's word can grow and bear fruit (v. 20)? What is one habit you could begin this week to make room for God's word?

A Lamp on a Stand



[21] He said to them, "Is the lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Isn't it put on a stand? [22] For there is nothing hidden, except that it should be made known; neither was anything made secret, but that it should come to light. [23] If any man has ears to hear, let him hear."

[24] He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you, and more will be given to you who hear. [25] For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he who doesn't have, even that which he has will be taken away from him."

4.4

Action: Look at the image of the lamp. Jesus said a lamp is not brought in to be put under a basket (v. 21). In what ways is God asking you to let your light be seen? Name one way you will do that this week.

Seed That Grows by Itself

[26] He said, “God’s Kingdom is as if a man should cast seed on the earth, [27] and should sleep and rise night and
day, and the seed should spring up and grow, though he doesn’t know how. [28] For the earth bears fruit: first the
blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. [29] But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he puts in the sickle,
because the harvest has come.”

4.5

Head: The seed grows “though he doesn’t know how” (v. 27). What does this parable teach about the way God’s kingdom grows? Where have you seen God at work in ways you did not plan or understand?

The Mustard Seed

[30] He said, “How will we liken God’s Kingdom? Or with what parable will we illustrate it? [31] It’s like a grain of
mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, though it is less than all the seeds that are on the earth, [32] yet
when it is sown, grows up, and becomes greater than all the herbs, and puts out great branches, so that the
birds of the sky can lodge under its shadow.”

[33] With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. [34] Without a parable he
didn’t speak to them; but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

4.6

Action: The tiny mustard seed becomes a plant where birds find shelter (v. 31-32). What small act of faith could you take this week that God might grow into something much larger?

Jesus Calms the Storm



35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let’s go over to the other side.” 36 Leaving the
multitude, they took him with them, even as he was, in the boat. Other small boats were also with him. 37 A big
wind storm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so much that the boat was already filled. 38 He himself was
in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up, and told him, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are
dying?”

39 He awoke, and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” The wind ceased, and there was a
great calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?”

41 They were greatly afraid, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey
him?”

4.7

Heart: Put yourself in the image of the storm. Where would you be? What would you be feeling? The disciples cried, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are dying?” (v. 38). When have you felt that God was asleep in your storm?

4.8

Heart: Jesus asked, “Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?” (v. 40). What storm in your life right now needs his “Peace! Be still!” (v. 39)?

4.9

Heart: Images tell stories. Choose an image from this chapter and tell a story about it. How might your story relate to the stories Jesus told?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 4 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?


MARK
5
4 sections

A Man Set Free



[1] They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. [2] When he had come out of the
boat, immediately a man with an unclean spirit met him out of the tombs. [3] He lived in the tombs. Nobody
could bind him any more, not even with chains, [4] because he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and
the chains had been torn apart by him, and the fetters broken in pieces. Nobody had the strength to tame him. [5]
Always, night and day, in the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out, and cutting himself with stones. [6]
When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and bowed down to him, [7] and crying out with a loud voice, he said,
"What have I to do with you, Jesus, you Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, don't torment me." [8]
For he said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

[9] He asked him, "What is your name?"

He said to him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." [10] He begged him much that he would not send them
away out of the country. [11] Now on the mountainside there was a great herd of pigs feeding. [12] All the demons
begged him, saying, "Send us into the pigs, that we may enter into them."

[13] At once Jesus gave them permission. The unclean spirits came out and entered into the pigs. The herd of
about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and they were drowned in the sea. [14] Those who
fed them fled, and told it in the city and in the country.

The people came to see what it was that had happened. [15] They came to Jesus, and saw him who had been
possessed by demons sitting, clothed, and in his right mind, even him who had the legion; and they were

afraid. [16] Those who saw it declared to them what happened to him who was possessed by demons, and about the pigs. [17] They began to beg him to depart from their region.

[18] As he was entering into the boat, he who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. [19] He didn't allow him, but said to him, "Go to your house, to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how he had mercy on you."

[20] He went his way, and began to proclaim in Decapolis how Jesus had done great things for him, and everyone marveled.

5.1

Heart: Look at the image that opens this chapter. The man lived among the tombs, bound and unable to be tamed (v. 3-5). What kinds of chains hold people today? Are there chains in your own life that Jesus wants to break?

5.2

Head: After he was healed, the man was found "sitting, clothed, and in his right mind" (v. 15), yet the townspeople begged Jesus to leave (v. 17). Why might people be afraid of the changes Jesus brings?

5.3

Action: Jesus sent the man home to tell "what great things the Lord has done for you" (v. 19). What great things has the Lord done for you? Who will you tell about them this week?

A Father Pleads for His Daughter

[21] When Jesus had crossed back over in the boat to the other side, a great multitude was gathered to him; and he was by the sea. [22] Behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, came; and seeing him, he fell at his feet, [23] and begged him much, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Please come and lay your hands on her, that she may be made healthy, and live."

[24] He went with him, and a great multitude followed him, and they pressed upon him on all sides.

A Woman Touches Jesus' Cloak



25 A certain woman, who had a discharge of blood for twelve years, 26 and had suffered many things by many
physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better, but rather grew worse, 27 having heard the things
concerning Jesus, came up behind him in the crowd, and touched his clothes. 28 For she said, "If I just touch his
clothes, I will be made well." 29 Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that
she was healed of her affliction.

30 Immediately Jesus, perceiving in himself that the power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd,
and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

31 His disciples said to him, "You see the multitude pressing against you, and you say, 'Who touched me?' "

32 He looked around to see her who had done this thing. 33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing
what had been done to her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be cured of your disease."

5.4

Heart: Consider the image of the reaching hand. The woman thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be made well” (v. 28). What do you reach out to Jesus for right now?

5.5

Head: Jesus stopped in the crowd to find the woman and called her “Daughter” (v. 34). Why do you think he made her healing known to everyone? What does this show about how Jesus sees people others overlook?

Jairus’s Daughter Lives



35 While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue ruler’s house saying, “Your daughter is dead.
Why bother the Teacher any more?”

[36] But Jesus, when he heard the message spoken, immediately said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Don’t be afraid, only believe.” [37] He allowed no one to follow him, except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. [38] He came to the synagogue ruler’s house, and he saw an uproar, weeping, and great wailing. [39] When he had entered in, he said to them, “Why do you make an uproar and weep? The child is not dead, but is asleep.”

[40] They ridiculed him. But he, having put them all out, took the father of the child, her mother, and those who were with him, and went in where the child was lying. [41] Taking the child by the hand, he said to her, “Talitha cumi!” which means, being interpreted, “Girl, I tell you, get up!” [42] Immediately the girl rose up and walked, for she was twelve years old. They were amazed with great amazement. [43] He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and commanded that something should be given to her to eat.

5.6

Action: Jesus told Jairus, “Don’t be afraid, only believe” (v. 36). What fear makes it hard for you to trust God right now? What step of trust will you take this week?

5.7

Heart: Look at the image for this section. Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, “Girl, I tell you, get up!” (v. 41). What in your life feels dead or asleep that you long to hear Jesus call back to life?

5.8

Heart: Which image in this chapter connects most with your own story? Explain why.

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 5 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



MARK

6

6 sections

Without Honor at Home

[1] He went out from there. He came into his own country, and his disciples followed him. [2] When the Sabbath had come, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many hearing him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things?” and, “What is the wisdom that is given to this man, that such mighty works come about by his hands? [3] Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judah, and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” They were offended at him.

[4] Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his own relatives, and in his own house.” [5] He could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people, and healed them. [6] He marveled because of their unbelief.

6.1

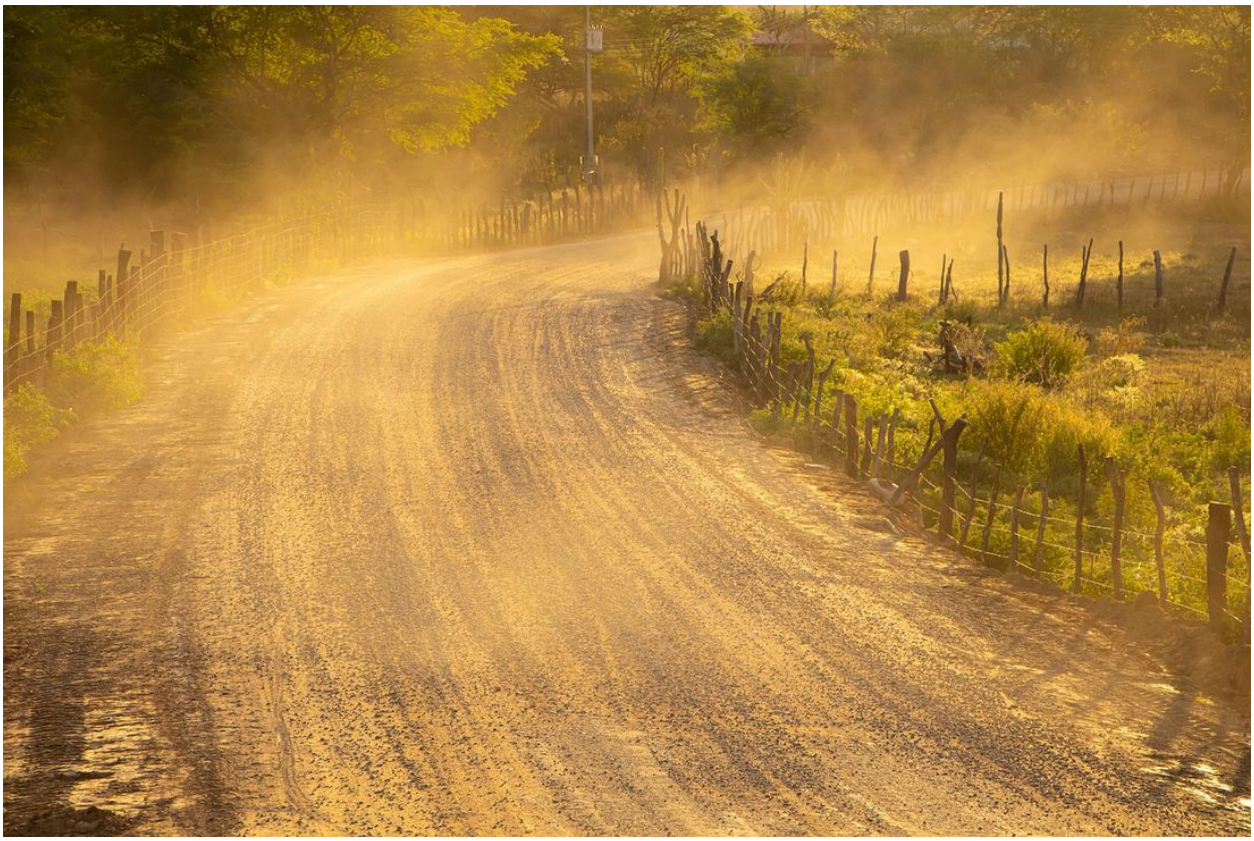
Head: Look at the image that opens this chapter. The people of Nazareth asked, “Isn’t this the carpenter?” (v. 3) and took offense. Why did they find it so hard to accept him? When has familiarity made it hard for you to see God at work in someone?

6.2

Heart: Jesus “marveled because of their unbelief” (v. 6). What do you think amazes Jesus about your faith, or about your lack of it?

He went around the villages teaching.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve



[7] He called to himself the twelve, and began to send them out two by two; and he gave them authority over the unclean spirits. [8] He commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a staff only: no bread, no wallet, no money in their purse, [9] but to wear sandals, and not put on two tunics. [10] He said to them, “Wherever you enter into a house, stay there until you depart from there. [11] Whoever will not receive you nor hear you, as you depart from there, shake off the dust that is under your feet for a testimony against them. Assuredly, I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!”

[12] They went out and preached that people should repent. [13] They cast out many demons, and anointed many with oil who were sick, and healed them.

6.3

Head: Consider the image of the dusty road. Jesus sent the Twelve out with nothing but a staff, sandals and the clothes they wore (v. 8-9). Why do you think he sent them with so little? What would it be like to depend on God and others so completely?

The Death of John the Baptist

14 King Herod heard this, for his name had become known, and he said, “John the Baptizer has risen from the
dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.” 15 But others said, “He is Elijah.” Others said, “He is a
prophet, or like one of the prophets.” 16 But Herod, when he heard this, said, “This is John, whom I beheaded.
He has risen from the dead.” 17 For Herod himself had sent out and arrested John, and bound him in prison for
the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, for he had married her. 18 For John said to Herod, “It is not
lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” 19 Herodias set herself against him, and desired to kill him, but she
couldn’t, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he
heard him, he did many things, and he heard him gladly.

21 Then a convenient day came, that Herod on his birthday made a supper for his nobles, the high officers, and
the chief men of Galilee. 22 When the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and
those sitting with him. The king said to the young lady, “Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you.”
23 He swore to her, “Whatever you shall ask of me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.”

24 She went out, and said to her mother, “What shall I ask?”

She said, “The head of John the Baptizer.”

25 She came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, “I want you to give me right now the head of
John the Baptizer on a platter.”

26 The king was exceedingly sorry, but for the sake of his oaths, and of his dinner guests, he didn’t wish to
refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent out a soldier of his guard, and commanded to bring John’s head, and
he went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the young lady; and
the young lady gave it to her mother.

29 When his disciples heard this, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

6.4

Heart: Herod “heard him gladly” (v. 20) yet killed John to keep a promise and save face (v. 26). When have you been tempted to do the wrong thing to protect your reputation?

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand



30 The apostles gathered themselves together to Jesus, and they told him all things, whatever they had done,
and whatever they had taught. 31 He said to them, “You come apart into a deserted place, and rest awhile.” For
there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. 32 They went away in the boat to
a deserted place by themselves. 33 They saw them going, and many recognized him and ran there on foot from
all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to him. 34 Jesus came out, saw a great multitude, and
he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them
many things. 35 When it was late in the day, his disciples came to him, and said, “This place is deserted, and it
is late in the day. 36 Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages, and buy
themselves bread, for they have nothing to eat.”

37 But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.”

They asked him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give them something to eat?”

38 He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go see.”

When they knew, they said, “Five, and two fish.”

39 He commanded them that everyone should sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 They sat down in ranks,
by hundreds and by fifties. 41 He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed
and broke the loaves, and he gave to his disciples to set before them, and he divided the two fish among them
all. 42 They all ate, and were filled. 43 They took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and also of the fish. 44
Those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

6.5

Action: Look at the image of the bread. Jesus asked the disciples, “How many loaves do you have?” (v. 38), and they found only five loaves and two fish. What little do you have that Jesus might use for many? How will you offer it to him this week?

6.6

Action: Jesus had compassion on the crowd “because they were like sheep without a shepherd” (v. 34). Who around you seems like a sheep without a shepherd? How could you show them Jesus’ compassion this week?

Jesus Walks on the Water



45 Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat, and to go ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he
himself sent the multitude away. 46 After he had taken leave of them, he went up the mountain to pray.

[47] When evening had come, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and he was alone on the land. [48] Seeing them distressed in rowing, for the wind was contrary to them, about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea, and he would have passed by them, [49] but they, when they saw him walking on the sea, supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; [50] for they all saw him, and were troubled. But he immediately spoke with them, and said to them, “Cheer up! It is I! Don’t be afraid.” [51] He got into the boat with them; and the wind ceased, and they were very amazed among themselves, and marveled; [52] for they hadn’t understood about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

6.7

Heart: Put yourself in the image of the lake at night. Where would you be? Jesus said, “Cheer up! It is I! Don’t be afraid” (v. 50). How do you hear Jesus speaking in the storms of your life?

Healing in Gennesaret

[53] When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore. [54] When they had come out of the boat, immediately the people recognized him, [55] and ran around that whole region, and began to bring those who were sick, on their mats, to where they heard he was. [56] Wherever he entered, into villages, or into cities, or into the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might just touch the fringe of his garment; and as many as touched him were made well.

6.8

Head: People brought the sick on mats and begged just to touch the fringe of Jesus’ garment (v. 55-56). What does this tell you about how people saw Jesus? How do you see him?

6.9

Heart: Choose the image in this chapter that you find most hopeful. What makes it hopeful for you?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 6 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Traditions and the Heart

1 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered together to him, having come from Jerusalem. 2 Now
when they saw some of his disciples eating bread with defiled, that is unwashed, hands, they found fault. 3 (For
the Pharisees and all the Jews don't eat unless they wash their hands and forearms, holding to the tradition of
the elders. 4 They don't eat when they come from the marketplace unless they bathe themselves, and there are
many other things, which they have received to hold to: washings of cups, pitchers, bronze vessels, and
couches.) 5 The Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why don't your disciples walk according to the tradition
of the elders, but eat their bread with unwashed hands?"

6 He answered them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

> 'This people honors me with their lips,
> but their heart is far from me.
> 7 But they worship me in vain,
> teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

8 "For you set aside the commandment of God, and hold tightly to the tradition of men—the washing of
pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things." 9 He said to them, "Full well do you reject the
commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your
mother;' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.' 11 But you say, 'If a man tells
his father or his mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban," ' " that is to say,
given to God, 12 "then you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or his mother, 13 making void the
word of God by your tradition, which you have handed down. You do many things like this."

7.1

Heart: Look at the image that opens this chapter. The religious leaders worried about washed hands, but Jesus quoted, “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me” (v. 6). Where might your words and your heart not match?

7.2

Action: Which traditions in your life help you draw near to God? Are there any that have become more important than God himself? What will you change?

What Makes a Person Unclean



14 He called all the multitude to himself, and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. 15 There is
nothing from outside of the man, that going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the
man are those that defile the man. 16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”

17 When he had entered into a house away from the multitude, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 He
said to them, “Are you also without understanding? Don’t you perceive that whatever goes into the man from
outside can’t defile him, 19 because it doesn’t go into his heart, but into his stomach, then into the latrine,
making all foods clean?” 20 He said, “That which proceeds out of the man, that defiles the man. 21 For from
within, out of the hearts of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, sexual sins, murders, thefts, 22 covetings,
wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness. 23 All these evil things come
from within, and defile the man.”

7.3

Head: Consider the image of the heart. Jesus taught that what defiles a person comes “from within, out of the hearts of men” (v. 21). Why does Jesus say the real problem is inside us rather than outside? What does it mean to you that he cares most about the heart?

A Mother’s Faith



24 From there he arose, and went away into the borders of Tyre and Sidon. He entered into a house, and didn’t
want anyone to know it, but he couldn’t escape notice. 25 For a woman, whose little daughter had an unclean
spirit, having heard of him, came and fell down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Greek, a Syrophoenician
by race. She begged him that he would cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 But Jesus said to her, “Let the

children be filled first, for it is not appropriate to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

28 But she answered him, "Yes, Lord. Yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

29 He said to her, "For this saying, go your way. The demon has gone out of your daughter."

30 She went away to her house, and found the child having been laid on the bed, with the demon gone out.

7.4

Action: Look at the image of the mother and daughter. The woman answered Jesus, "Yes, Lord. Yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs" (v. 28). What do you admire about her persistence? What will you keep bringing to God in prayer this week?

7.5

Head: This mother was an outsider by race and religion, yet Jesus answered her request. Why is that significant? Who are the outsiders in your world, and how might Jesus see them?

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man



31 Again he departed from the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and came to the sea of Galilee, through the middle of
the region of Decapolis. 32 They brought to him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech. They
begged him to lay his hand on him. 33 He took him aside from the multitude, privately, and put his fingers into
his ears, and he spat, and touched his tongue. 34 Looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him,
“Ephphatha!” that is, “Be opened!” 35 Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue
was released, and he spoke clearly. 36 He commanded them that they should tell no one, but the more he
commanded them, so much the more widely they proclaimed it. 37 They were astonished beyond measure,
saying, “He has done all things well. He makes even the deaf hear, and the mute speak!”

7.6

Heart: Consider the image of the child listening. Jesus took the man aside, touched his ears and said, “Ephphatha!” which means, “Be opened!” (v. 34). What needs to be opened in you so that you can hear God more clearly?

7.7

Action: The crowd said, “He has done all things well” (v. 37). Where have you seen Jesus do things well in your life? Who could you tell about it this week?

7.8

Heart: Select one image from this chapter. If an image is worth a thousand words, what words would you put with this one?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 7 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Jesus Feeds Four Thousand

1 In those days, when there was a very great multitude, and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to
himself, and said to them, 2 “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have stayed with me now three
days, and have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them away fasting to their home, they will faint on the way, for some
of them have come a long way.”

4 His disciples answered him, “From where could one satisfy these people with bread here in a deserted
place?”

5 He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?”

They said, “Seven.”

6 He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground, and he took the seven loaves. Having given thanks,
he broke them, and gave them to his disciples to serve, and they served the multitude. 7 They had a few small
fish. Having blessed them, he said to serve these also. 8 They ate, and were filled. They took up seven baskets
of broken pieces that were left over. 9 Those who had eaten were about four thousand. Then he sent them
away.

10 Immediately he entered into the boat with his disciples, and came into the region of Dalmanutha.

8.1

Head: Look at the image that opens this chapter. Again the disciples asked, “Where could one satisfy these people with bread here in a deserted place?” (v. 4). Why do you think they forgot what Jesus did before? What do you forget about God’s past faithfulness?

A Demand for a Sign

11 The Pharisees came out and began to question him, seeking from him a sign from heaven, and testing him. 12 He sighed deeply in his spirit, and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Most certainly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.”

13 He left them, and again entering into the boat, departed to the other side.

8.2

Heart: The Pharisees wanted a sign from heaven (v. 11). What signs do people ask God for today? Have you ever wanted God to prove himself to you?

The Yeast of the Pharisees



14 They forgot to take bread; and they didn’t have more than one loaf in the boat with them. 15 He warned them,
saying, “Take heed: beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.”

16 They reasoned with one another, saying, “It’s because we have no bread.”

17 Jesus, perceiving it, said to them, “Why do you reason that it’s because you have no bread? Don’t you
perceive yet, neither understand? Is your heart still hardened? 18 Having eyes, don’t you see? Having ears,
don’t you hear? Don’t you remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves among the five thousand, how many
baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?”

They told him, “Twelve.”

20 “When the seven loaves fed the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?”

They told him, “Seven.”

21 He asked them, “Don’t you understand yet?”

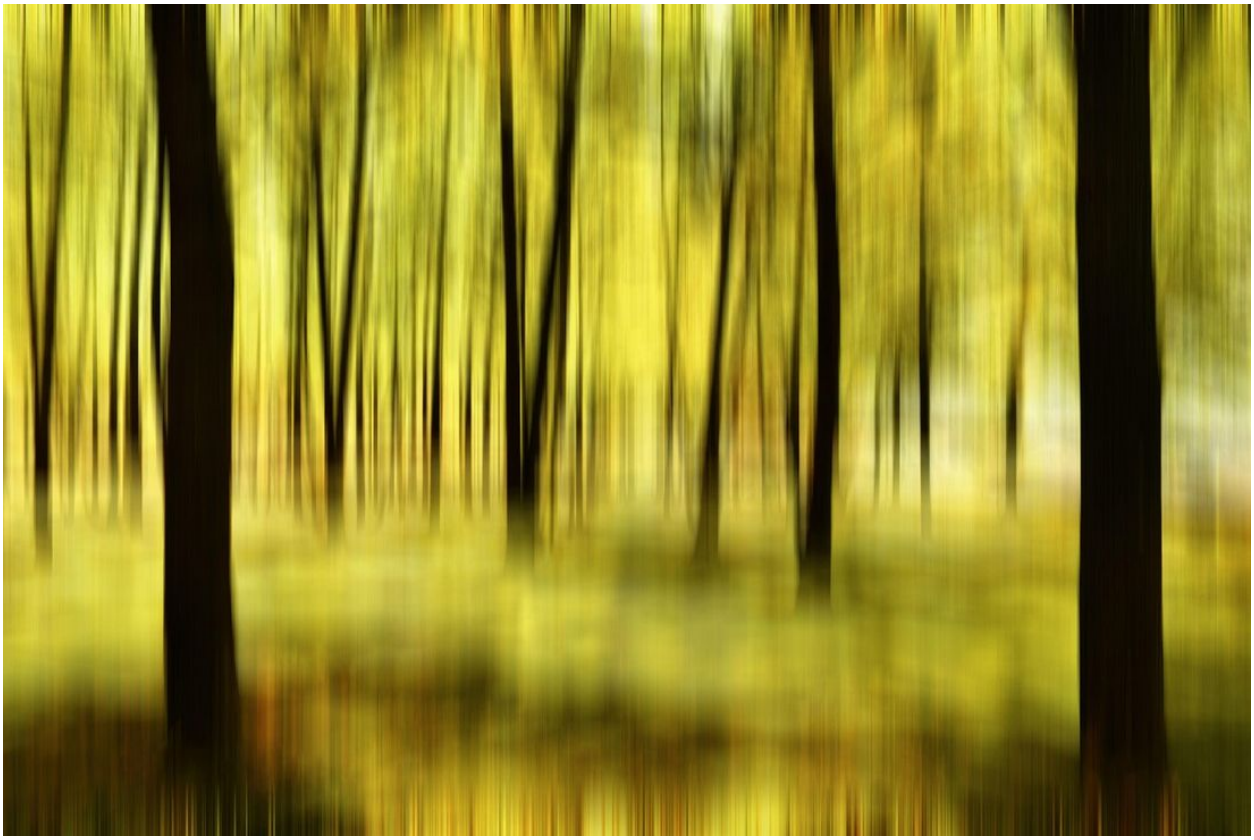
8.3

Head: Consider the image of bread dough. Jesus warned about “the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod” (v. 15). What small attitudes can spread through a whole life or community?

8.4

Heart: Jesus asked, “Don’t you understand yet?” (v. 21). What is something about Jesus you understand now that you did not understand before?

A Blind Man Sees in Stages



[22] He came to Bethsaida. They brought a blind man to him, and begged him to touch him. [23] He took hold of the
blind man by the hand, and brought him out of the village. When he had spat on his eyes, and laid his hands on
him, he asked him if he saw anything.

[24] He looked up, and said, “I see men; for I see them like trees walking.”

[25] Then again he laid his hands on his eyes. He looked intently, and was restored, and saw everyone clearly. [26]
He sent him away to his house, saying, “Don’t enter into the village, nor tell anyone in the village.”

8.5

Heart: Look at the image for this section. At first the man saw “men…like trees walking” (v. 24) before he saw clearly. In what ways is your faith still coming into focus?

“Who Do You Say I Am?”

27 Jesus went out, with his disciples, into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples,
“Who do men say that I am?”

28 They told him, “John the Baptizer, and others say Elijah, but others: one of the prophets.”

29 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

30 He commanded them that they should tell no one about him.

8.6

Action: Jesus asked, “But who do you say that I am?” (v. 29). Answer this question in your own words. How will your answer shape the way you live this week?

Take Up Your Cross



[31] He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, the chief
priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. [32] He spoke to them openly. Peter took
him, and began to rebuke him. [33] But he, turning around, and seeing his disciples, rebuked Peter, and said, “Get
behind me, Satan! For you have in mind not the things of God, but the things of men.”

[34] He called the multitude to himself with his disciples, and said to them, “Whoever wants to come after me, let
him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. [35] For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and
whoever will lose his life for my sake and the sake of the Good News will save it. [36] For what does it profit a
man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? [37] For what will a man give in exchange for his life? [38] For
whoever will be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also
will be ashamed of him, when he comes in his Father’s glory, with the holy angels.”

8.7

Action: Consider the image of the cross. Jesus said, “Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (v. 34). What would it mean for you to take up your cross this week?

8.8

Head: “For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life?” (v. 36). What do people in our culture try to gain? What might they lose in the process?

8.9

Heart: Which image in this chapter best helps you answer the question, “Who is Jesus?” Explain.

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 8 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Jesus Is Transfigured

1 He said to them, “Most certainly I tell you, there are some standing here who will in no way taste death until
they see God’s Kingdom come with power.”

2 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and brought them up onto a high mountain
privately by themselves, and he was changed into another form in front of them. 3 His clothing became
glistening, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. 4 Elijah and Moses
appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus.

5 Peter answered Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let’s make three tents: one for you, one for Moses,
and one for Elijah.” 6 For he didn’t know what to say, for they were very afraid.

7 A cloud came, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to
him.”

8 Suddenly looking around, they saw no one with them any more, except Jesus only.

9 As they were coming down from the mountain, he commanded them that they should tell no one what things
they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 They kept this saying to themselves,
questioning what the “rising from the dead” meant.

11 They asked him, saying, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

12 He said to them, “Elijah indeed comes first, and restores all things. How is it written about the Son of Man,
that he should suffer many things and be despised? 13 But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they have also
done to him whatever they wanted to, even as it is written about him.”

9.1

Heart: Look at the image that opens this chapter. On the mountain Jesus' clothing became "glistening, exceedingly white" (v. 3). Have you ever had a "mountaintop" moment when God seemed especially close? Describe it.

9.2

Action: The voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him" (v. 7). What makes it hard for you to listen to Jesus? What will help you listen to him this week?

A Father's Plea: "Help My Unbelief!"



[14] Coming to the disciples, he saw a great multitude around them, and scribes questioning them. [15] Immediately all the multitude, when they saw him, were greatly amazed, and running to him, greeted him. [16] He asked the scribes, "What are you asking them?"

17 One of the multitude answered, “Teacher, I brought to you my son, who has a mute spirit; 18 and wherever it
seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth, and wastes away. I asked
your disciples to cast it out, and they weren’t able.”

19 He answered him, “Unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?
Bring him to me.”

20 They brought him to him, and when he saw him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the
ground, wallowing and foaming at the mouth.

21 He asked his father, “How long has it been since this has come to him?”

He said, “From childhood. 22 Often it has cast him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if
you can do anything, have compassion on us, and help us.”

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, “I believe. Help my unbelief!”

25 When Jesus saw that a multitude came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to him, “You
mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!”

26 After crying out and convulsing him greatly, it came out of him. The boy became like one dead, so much
that most of them said, “He is dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him up; and he arose.

28 When he had come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we cast it out?” 29 He
said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing, except by prayer and fasting.”

9.3

Heart: Consider the image of the father and son. The father cried, “I believe. Help my unbelief!” (v. 24). Where do belief and doubt live side by side in your life?

9.4

Action: Jesus told the disciples, “This kind can come out by nothing, except by prayer and fasting” (v. 29). What situation in your life calls for deeper prayer? When will you set aside time to pray about it?

Jesus Again Speaks of His Death

30 They went out from there, and passed through Galilee. He didn't want anyone to know it. 31 For he was
teaching his disciples, and said to them, "The Son of Man is being handed over to the hands of men, and they
will kill him; and when he is killed, on the third day he will rise again."

32 But they didn't understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

Who Is the Greatest?



33 He came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing among
yourselves on the way?"

34 But they were silent, for they had disputed with one another on the way about who was the greatest.

35 He sat down, and called the twelve; and he said to them, "If any man wants to be first, he shall be last of all,
and servant of all." 36 He took a little child, and set him in the middle of them. Taking him in his arms, he said
to them, 37 "Whoever receives one such little child in my name, receives me, and whoever receives me, doesn't
receive me, but him who sent me."

9.5

Head: Look at the image of the child. The disciples argued about who was greatest (v. 34), and Jesus took a little child in his arms (v. 36). What does true greatness look like in God's kingdom?

9.6

Action: “If any man wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all” (v. 35). Where is God inviting you to serve rather than be first? Name one way you will serve this week.

Whoever Is Not Against Us

38 John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone who doesn’t follow us casting out demons in your name; and
we forbade him, because he doesn’t follow us.”

39 But Jesus said, “Don’t forbid him, for there is no one who will do a mighty work in my name, and be able
quickly to speak evil of me. 40 For whoever is not against us is on our side. 41 For whoever will give you a cup
of water to drink in my name, because you are Christ’s, most certainly I tell you, he will in no way lose his
reward.

9.7

Head: John wanted to stop someone who was not one of their group (v. 38). Jesus said, “Whoever is not against us is on our side” (v. 40). Why did Jesus correct John? How do you respond to Christians who are different from you?

Salt and Stumbling Blocks



[42] Whoever will cause one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him if he
were thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around his neck. [43] If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it
off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having your two hands to go into Gehenna, into
the unquenchable fire, [44] ‘where their worm doesn’t die, and the fire is not quenched.’ [45] If your foot causes you
to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life lame, rather than having your two feet to be cast into
Gehenna, into the fire that will never be quenched— [46] ‘where their worm doesn’t die, and the fire is not
quenched.’ [47] If your eye causes you to stumble, cast it out. It is better for you to enter into God’s Kingdom
with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into the Gehenna of fire, [48] ‘where their worm doesn’t die,
and the fire is not quenched.’ [49] For everyone will be salted with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with
salt. [50] Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, with what will you season it? Have salt in yourselves,
and be at peace with one another.”

9.8

Action: Consider the image of salt. Jesus said, “Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another” (v. 50). How can your life bring flavor and peace to the people around you this week?

9.9

Heart: Choose the image in this chapter that you find most challenging. What questions does it raise for you?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 9 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Teaching About Marriage

1 He arose from there and came into the borders of Judea and beyond the Jordan. Multitudes came together to
him again. As he usually did, he was again teaching them. 2 Pharisees came to him testing him, and asked him,
“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

3 He answered, “What did Moses command you?”

4 They said, “Moses allowed a certificate of divorce to be written, and to divorce her.”

5 But Jesus said to them, “For your hardness of heart, he wrote you this commandment. 6 But from the
beginning of the creation, God made them male and female. 7 For this cause a man will leave his father and
mother, and will join to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh, so that they are no longer two, but one
flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

10 In the house, his disciples asked him again about the same matter. 11 He said to them, “Whoever divorces his
wife, and marries another, commits adultery against her. 12 If a woman herself divorces her husband, and
marries another, she commits adultery.”

10.1

Head: Look at the image that opens this chapter. Jesus pointed back to God's design at the beginning: "the two will become one flesh" (v. 8). Why do you think Jesus went back to creation? What do the marriages and close relationships around you teach you about faithfulness?

Jesus Welcomes the Children



[13] They were bringing to him little children, that he should touch them, but the disciples rebuked those who
were bringing them. [14] But when Jesus saw it, he was moved with indignation, and said to them, "Allow the
little children to come to me! Don't forbid them, for God's Kingdom belongs to such as these. [15] Most
certainly I tell you, whoever will not receive God's Kingdom like a little child, he will in no way enter into it."
[16] He took them in his arms, and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

10.2

Head: Consider the image of the children. Jesus was indignant when the disciples turned children away and said, “Allow the little children to come to me!” (v. 14). What does it mean to receive God’s kingdom “like a little child” (v. 15)?

The Rich Man



17 As he was going out into the way, one ran to him, knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what
shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

18 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except one—God. 19 You know the
commandments: ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not give false testimony,’
‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and mother.’ ”

20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have observed all these things from my youth.”

21 Jesus looking at him loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack. Go, sell whatever you have, and give
to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me, taking up the cross.”

22 But his face fell at that saying, and he went away sorrowful, for he was one who had great possessions. 23
Jesus looked around, and said to his disciples, “How difficult it is for those who have riches to enter into
God’s Kingdom!”

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus answered again, “Children, how hard it is for those who
trust in riches to enter into God’s Kingdom! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye than for a
rich man to enter into God’s Kingdom.”

[26] They were exceedingly astonished, saying to him, “Then who can be saved?”

[27] Jesus, looking at them, said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with God.”

[28] Peter began to tell him, “Behold, we have left all, and have followed you.”

[29] Jesus said, “Most certainly I tell you, there is no one who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or land, for my sake, and for the sake of the Good News, [30] but he will receive one hundred times more now in this time: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land, with persecutions; and in the age to come eternal life. [31] But many who are first will be last; and the last first.”

10.3

Heart: Look at the image for this section. Jesus looked at the rich man and “loved him” (v. 21), then asked him to give up what held him back. What would be hardest for you to give up to follow Jesus?

10.4

Head: “It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye than for a rich man to enter into God’s Kingdom” (v. 25). Why do riches make following Jesus so difficult?

Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

[32] They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus was going in front of them, and they were amazed; and those who followed were afraid. He again took the twelve, and began to tell them the things that were going to happen to him. [33] “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death, and will deliver him to the Gentiles. [34] They will mock him, spit on him, scourge him, and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”

10.5

Heart: Jesus walked ahead toward Jerusalem while his followers were amazed and afraid (v. 32). How do you respond when following Jesus leads you somewhere you would not choose?

The Request of James and John

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came near to him, saying, “Teacher, we want you to do for us
whatever we will ask.”

36 He said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?”

37 They said to him, “Grant to us that we may sit, one at your right hand, and one at your left hand, in your
glory.”

38 But Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and
to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

39 They said to him, “We are able.”

Jesus said to them, “You shall indeed drink the cup that I drink, and you shall be baptized with the baptism
that I am baptized with; 40 but to sit at my right hand and at my left hand is not mine to give, but for whom it
has been prepared.”

41 When the ten heard it, they began to be indignant toward James and John.

42 Jesus summoned them, and said to them, “You know that they who are recognized as rulers over the nations
lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you, but
whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 Whoever of you wants to become first
among you, shall be bondservant of all. 45 For the Son of Man also came not to be served, but to serve, and to
give his life as a ransom for many.”

10.6

Action: James and John asked for the best seats in glory (v. 37). Jesus said he “came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (v. 45). How could you use your position or influence to serve someone this week?

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight



46 They came to Jericho. As he went out from Jericho, with his disciples and a great multitude, the son of
Timaeus, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene,
he began to cry out, and say, “Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Many rebuked him, that he
should be quiet, but he cried out much more, “You son of David, have mercy on me!”

49 Jesus stood still, and said, “Call him.”

They called the blind man, saying to him, “Cheer up! Get up. He is calling you!”

50 He, casting away his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.

51 Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said to him, “Rabboni, that I may see again.”

52 Jesus said to him, “Go your way. Your faith has made you well.” Immediately he received his sight, and
followed Jesus on the way.

10.7

Heart: Consider the image of the person by the road. Many told Bartimaeus to be quiet, “but he cried out much more” (v. 48). What keeps you from crying out to Jesus?

10.8

Action: Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?” (v. 51). If Jesus asked you that question today, what would you say? Bring that request to him in prayer this week.

10.9

Heart: Which image in this chapter do you most identify with right now? Why?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 10 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Jesus Enters Jerusalem



[1] When they came near to Jerusalem, to Bethsphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his
disciples, [2] and said to them, “Go your way into the village that is opposite you. Immediately as you enter into
it, you will find a young donkey tied, on which no one has sat. Untie him, and bring him. [3] If anyone asks you,
‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs him;’ and immediately he will send him back here.”

[4] They went away, and found a young donkey tied at the door outside in the open street, and they untied him. [5]
Some of those who stood there asked them, “What are you doing, untying the young donkey?” [6] They said to
them just as Jesus had said, and they let them go.

[7] They brought the young donkey to Jesus, and threw their garments on it, and Jesus sat on it. [8] Many spread
their garments on the way, and others were cutting down branches from the trees, and spreading them on the
road. [9] Those who went in front, and those who followed, cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord! [10] Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!”

[11] Jesus entered into the temple in Jerusalem. When he had looked around at everything, it being now evening,
he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

11.1

Action: Look at the image that opens this chapter. The crowd shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (v. 9). What would it look like for you to welcome Jesus into your home and your heart today?

11.2

Head: Consider the image of the donkey. Jesus chose a humble young donkey rather than a war horse. What does this say about the kind of King he is?

A Fig Tree Without Fruit



12 The next day, when they had come out from Bethany, he was hungry. 13 Seeing a fig tree afar off having
leaves, he came to see if perhaps he might find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but
leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 Jesus told it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” and his
disciples heard it.

11.3

Heart: Look at the image of the fig tree. The tree had leaves but no fruit (v. 13). Where might your life look full on the outside but lack real fruit?

Jesus Clears the Temple

15 They came to Jerusalem, and Jesus entered into the temple, and began to throw out those who sold and those
who bought in the temple, and overthrew the money changers’ tables, and the seats of those who sold the
doves. 16 He would not allow anyone to carry a container through the temple. 17 He taught, saying to them,
“Isn’t it written, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations?’ But you have made it a den of
robbers!”

18 The chief priests and the scribes heard it, and sought how they might destroy him. For they feared him,
because all the multitude was astonished at his teaching.

19 When evening came, he went out of the city.

11.4

Head: Jesus said, “My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations” (v. 17). What gets in the way of prayer in our churches and in our lives?

Faith That Moves Mountains



20 As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away from the roots. 21 Peter, remembering,
said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which you cursed has withered away.”

22 Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. 23 For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain,
‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and doesn’t doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening;
he shall have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that
you have received them, and you shall have them. 25 Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have

anything against anyone; so that your Father, who is in heaven, may also forgive you your transgressions. [26] But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your transgressions."

11.5

Heart: Consider the image of the mountain. Jesus said, "Have faith in God" (v. 22) and spoke of faith that could move a mountain (v. 23). What mountain in your life needs faith?

11.6

Action: Jesus connected prayer with forgiveness: "forgive, if you have anything against anyone" (v. 25). Is there someone you need to forgive before you pray? What step toward forgiveness will you take?

By What Authority?

[27] They came again to Jerusalem, and as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him, [28] and they began saying to him, "By what authority do you do these things? Or who gave you this authority to do these things?"

[29] Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. [30] The baptism of John—was it from heaven, or from men? Answer me."

[31] They reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we should say, 'From heaven;' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' [32] If we should say, 'From men' "—they feared the people, for all held John to really be a prophet. [33] They answered Jesus, "We don't know."

11.7

Head: The leaders asked, "By what authority do you do these things?" (v. 28). Who or what has authority in your life? How do you decide whom to trust?

11.8

Heart: Choose an image from this chapter and tell the story you see in it. How might that story connect with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

Jesus said to them, "Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things."

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 11 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



The Tenants of the Vineyard

1 He began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a pit for the
wine press, built a tower, rented it out to a farmer, and went into another country. 2 When it was time, he sent a
servant to the farmer to get from the farmer his share of the fruit of the vineyard. 3 They took him, beat him,
and sent him away empty. 4 Again, he sent another servant to them; and they threw stones at him, wounded
him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. 5 Again he sent another; and they killed him; and many
others, beating some, and killing some. 6 Therefore still having one, his beloved son, he sent him last to them,
saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 7 But those farmers said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s
kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ 8 They took him, killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard. 9
What therefore will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the farmers, and will give the
vineyard to others. 10 Haven’t you even read this Scripture:

> ‘The stone which the builders rejected
> was made the head of the corner.
> 11 This was from the Lord.
> It is marvelous in our eyes’?”

12 They tried to seize him, but they feared the multitude; for they perceived that he spoke the parable against
them. They left him, and went away.

12.1

Action: Look at the image that opens this chapter. The owner planted a vineyard and trusted it to tenants who refused to give him its fruit (v. 1-3). What has God entrusted to you? How will you care for it this week?

12.2

Heart: “The stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner” (v. 10). When has something or someone rejected by others turned out to be precious?

Taxes to Caesar



[13] They sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to him, that they might trap him with words. [14] When they had come, they asked him, “Teacher, we know that you are honest, and don’t defer to anyone; for you aren’t partial to anyone, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? [15] Shall we give, or shall we not give?”

But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, “Why do you test me? Bring me a denarius, that I may see it.”

[16] They brought it.

He said to them, “Whose is this image and inscription?”

They said to him, “Caesar’s.”

[17] Jesus answered them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

12.3

Head: Consider the image of the coins. Jesus said, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (v. 17). If you bear God’s image, what does it mean to give yourself to God?

They marveled greatly at him.

A Question About the Resurrection

[18] Some Sadducees, who say that there is no resurrection, came to him. They asked him, saying, [19] “Teacher, Moses wrote to us, ‘If a man’s brother dies, and leaves a wife behind him, and leaves no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up offspring for his brother.’ [20] There were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and dying left no offspring. [21] The second took her, and died, leaving no children behind him. The third likewise; [22] and the seven took her and left no children. Last of all the woman also died. [23] In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be of them? For the seven had her as a wife.”

[24] Jesus answered them, “Isn’t this because you are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God? [25] For when they will rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. [26] But about the dead, that they are raised; haven’t you read in the book of Moses, about the Bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? [27] He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are therefore badly mistaken.”

12.4

Heart: Jesus said, “He is not the God of the dead, but of the living” (v. 27). How does belief in the resurrection shape the way you face death and loss?

The Greatest Commandment



[28] One of the scribes came, and heard them questioning together, and knowing that he had answered them well,
asked him, “Which commandment is the greatest of all?”

[29] Jesus answered, “The greatest is, ‘Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one: [30] you shall love the Lord
your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This
is the first commandment. [31] The second is like this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no
other commandment greater than these.”

[32] The scribe said to him, “Truly, teacher, you have said well that he is one, and there is none other but he, [33]
and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength,
and to love his neighbor as himself, is more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

[34] When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from God’s Kingdom.”

12.5

Action: Look at the image for this section. Jesus named the greatest commandments: love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself (v. 30-31). Which of these is hardest for you right now? What is one way you will love God or your neighbor this week?

12.6

Head: Jesus told the scribe, “You are not far from God’s Kingdom” (v. 34). What do you think was still missing for him? What might be missing for you?

No one dared ask him any question after that.

Whose Son Is the Christ?

35 Jesus responded, as he taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of
David? 36 For David himself said in the Holy Spirit,

> ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
> “Sit at my right hand,
> until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet.” ’

37 Therefore David himself calls him Lord, so how can he be his son?”

The common people heard him gladly.

Warning About the Scribes

38 In his teaching he said to them, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk in long robes, and to get greetings
in the marketplaces, 39 and the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts: 40 those who devour
widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”

12.7

Action: Jesus warned against those who love greetings, the best seats and long prayers for show (v. 38-40). How will you guard against doing good things to be seen?

The Widow’s Gift



41 Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and saw how the multitude cast money into the treasury. Many who
were rich cast in much. 42 A poor widow came, and she cast in two small brass coins, which equal a quadrans
coin. 43 He called his disciples to himself, and said to them, “Most certainly I tell you, this poor widow gave
more than all those who are giving into the treasury, 44 for they all gave out of their abundance, but she, out of
her poverty, gave all that she had to live on.”

12.8

Head: Consider the image of the two small coins. The widow gave “all that she had to live on” (v. 44). What does her gift teach you about generosity and trust?

12.9

Heart: Which image in this chapter best captures what it means to give your whole self to God? Explain.

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 12 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Signs of the End

1 As he went out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Teacher, see what kind of stones and what kind of buildings!”

2 Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone on another, which will not be thrown down.”

3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us, when will these things be? What is the sign that these things are all about to be fulfilled?”

5 Jesus, answering, began to tell them, “Be careful that no one leads you astray. 6 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and will lead many astray.

7 “When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, don’t be troubled. For those must happen, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places. There will be famines and troubles. These things are the beginning of birth pains. 9 But watch yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils. You will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony to them. 10 The Good News must first be preached to all the nations. 11 When they lead you away and deliver you up, don’t be anxious beforehand, or premeditate what you will say, but say whatever will be given you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

12 “Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child. Children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death. 13 You will be hated by all men for my name’s sake, but he who endures to the end will be saved.

13.1

Heart: Look at the image that opens this chapter. Jesus said of the temple's great stones, "There will not be left here one stone on another" (v. 2). What things that seem permanent in your life could one day pass away?

13.2

Head: Jesus said, "Be careful that no one leads you astray" (v. 5). What voices today might lead people away from Jesus? How can you recognize them?

13.3

Action: "He who endures to the end will be saved" (v. 13). What helps you keep going in faith when life becomes hard? What will you do this week to strengthen your endurance?

Days of Distress



[14] But when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought
not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, [15] and let him who is on
the housetop not go down, nor enter in, to take anything out of his house. [16] Let him who is in the field not
return back to take his cloak. [17] But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babies in those
days! [18] Pray that your flight won't be in the winter. [19] For in those days there will be oppression, such as there
has not been the like from the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will be. [20]
Unless the Lord had shortened the days, no flesh would have been saved; but for the sake of the chosen ones,
whom he picked out, he shortened the days. [21] Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look,
there!' don't believe it. [22] For there will arise false christs and false prophets, and will show signs and wonders,
that they may lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones. [23] But you watch.

13.4

Heart: Consider the image of the storm. Jesus spoke of great distress, yet he said, "I have told you all things beforehand" (v. 23). How does it help to know that nothing surprises God?

"Behold, I have told you all things beforehand.

The Coming of the Son of Man



[24] But in those days, after that oppression, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, [25] the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. [26] Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. [27] Then he will send out his angels, and will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

[28] "Now from the fig tree, learn this parable. When the branch has now become tender, and produces its leaves, you know that the summer is near; [29] even so you also, when you see these things coming to pass, know that it is near, at the doors. [30] Most certainly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things happen. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

13.5

Action: Look at the image of the budding tree. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (v. 31). Which words of Jesus are an anchor for you? Write one down and keep it with you this week.

Stay Awake



[32] But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Watch, keep alert, and pray; for you don't know when the time is.

[34] "It is like a man, traveling to another country, having left his house, and given authority to his servants, and to each one his work, and also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. [35] Watch therefore, for you don't know when the lord of the house is coming, whether at evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning; [36] lest coming suddenly he might find you sleeping. [37] What I tell you, I tell all: Watch."

13.6

Action: Consider the image of the person keeping watch. Jesus said, "What I tell you, I tell all: Watch!" (v. 37). What does it look like to stay awake spiritually in daily life? What will that look like for you this week?

13.7

Head: In Jesus' day there were only a few images. Today we see thousands of images that shape how we picture the future. How do the images in this chapter compare with the pictures of the future you see in the media?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 13 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



The Plot to Kill Jesus

[1] It was now two days before the feast of the Passover and the unleavened bread, and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might seize him by deception, and kill him. [2] For they said, “Not during the feast, because there might be a riot among the people.”

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

[3] While he was at Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster jar of ointment of pure nard—very costly. She broke the jar, and poured it over his head. [4] But there were some who were indignant among themselves, saying, “Why has this ointment been wasted? [5] For this might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor.” So they grumbled against her.

[6] But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for me. [7] For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want to, you can do them good; but you will not always have me. [8] She has done what she could. She has anointed my body beforehand for the burying. [9] Most certainly I tell you, wherever this Good News may be preached throughout the whole world, that which this woman has done will also be spoken of for a memorial of her.”

14.1

Action: Look at the image that opens this chapter. The woman broke an expensive jar of ointment and poured it on Jesus (v. 3). Some called it waste; Jesus called it “a good work” (v. 6). What would a costly act of love for Jesus look like in your life this week?

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

10 Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went away to the chief priests, that he might deliver him to them.
11 They, when they heard it, were glad, and promised to give him money. He sought how he might conveniently deliver him.

14.2

Head: Judas went to the chief priests, and they promised to give him money (v. 10-11). What do you think led Judas to betray Jesus? What could lead someone to betray a friend today?

The Passover Meal

12 On the first day of unleavened bread, when they sacrificed the Passover, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare that you may eat the Passover?”

13 He sent two of his disciples, and said to them, “Go into the city, and there you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, 14 and wherever he enters in, tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?” ’ 15 He will himself show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Get ready for us there.”

16 His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found things as he had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

17 When it was evening he came with the twelve. 18 As they sat and were eating, Jesus said, “Most certainly I tell you, one of you will betray me—he who eats with me.”

19 They began to be sorrowful, and to ask him one by one, “Surely not I?” And another said, “Surely not I?”

20 He answered them, “It is one of the twelve, he who dips with me in the dish. 21 For the Son of Man goes, even as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born.”

14.3

Heart: At the meal the disciples each asked, “Surely not I?” (v. 19). Why do you think none of them were certain? How honest are you with yourself about your own weaknesses?

The Lord’s Supper



22 As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had blessed, he broke it, and gave to them, and said,
“Take, eat. This is my body.”

23 He took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave to them. They all drank of it. 24 He said to them,
“This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Most certainly I tell you, I will no
more drink of the fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it anew in God’s Kingdom.” 26 When they had
sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

14.4

Heart: Consider the image of bread and wine. Jesus said, “Take, eat. This is my body” and “This is my blood of the new covenant” (v. 22, 24). What does the Lord’s Supper mean to you?

Peter’s Promise

27 Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of me tonight, for it is written, ‘I will strike
the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ 28 However, after I am raised up, I will go before you into
Galilee.”

29 But Peter said to him, “Although all will be offended, yet I will not.”

30 Jesus said to him, “Most certainly I tell you, that you today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice,
you will deny me three times.”

31 But he spoke all the more, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” They all said the same thing.

14.5

Action: Peter said, “Although all will be offended, yet I will not” (v. 29). When have you promised more than you were able to keep? What promise to God or to someone else do you need to keep this week?

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane



[32] They came to a place which was named Gethsemane. He said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I pray.” [33] He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be greatly troubled and distressed. [34] He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here, and watch.”

[35] He went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass away from him. [36] He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Please remove this cup from me. However, not what I desire, but what you desire.”

[37] He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn’t you watch one hour? [38] Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

[39] Again he went away, and prayed, saying the same words. [40] Again he returned, and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they didn’t know what to answer him. [41] He came the third time, and said to them, “Sleep on now, and take your rest. It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. [42] Arise! Let’s get going. Behold: he who betrays me is at hand.”

14.6

Head: Look at the image of the old olive tree. In Gethsemane Jesus prayed, “Not what I desire, but what you desire” (v. 36). What does this prayer show about Jesus and his Father? What is hardest about praying it in your own life?

14.7

Action: Jesus asked his friends to stay awake with him, but three times they slept (v. 37-41). How can you be present for someone who is going through deep sorrow? Who could you reach out to this week?

Jesus Is Arrested

43 Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came—and with him a multitude with
swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. 44 Now he who betrayed him had given
them a sign, saying, “Whomever I will kiss, that is he. Seize him, and lead him away safely.” 45 When he had
come, immediately he came to him, and said, “Rabbi! Rabbi!” and kissed him. 46 They laid their hands on him,
and seized him. 47 But a certain one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high
priest, and cut off his ear.

48 Jesus answered them, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? 49 I was
daily with you in the temple teaching, and you didn’t arrest me. But this is so that the Scriptures might be
fulfilled.”

50 They all left him, and fled. 51 A certain young man followed him, having a linen cloth thrown around himself
over his naked body. The young men grabbed him, 52 but he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

14.8

Heart: When Jesus was arrested, “they all left him, and fled” (v. 50). How do you think Jesus felt? Have you ever felt abandoned by friends?

Jesus Before the Council

53 They led Jesus away to the high priest. All the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes came together with
him.

54 Peter had followed him from a distance, until he came into the court of the high priest. He was sitting with
the officers, and warming himself in the light of the fire. 55 Now the chief priests and the whole council sought
witnesses against Jesus to put him to death, and found none. 56 For many gave false testimony against him, and
their testimony didn't agree with each other. 57 Some stood up, and gave false testimony against him, saying, 58
"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another
made without hands.' " 59 Even so, their testimony didn't agree.

60 The high priest stood up in the middle, and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it which these testify
against you?" 61 But he stayed quiet, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the
Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

62 Jesus said, "I am. You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds
of the sky."

63 The high priest tore his clothes, and said, "What further need have we of witnesses? 64 You have heard the
blasphemy! What do you think?" They all condemned him to be worthy of death. 65 Some began to spit on
him, and to cover his face, and to beat him with fists, and to tell him, "Prophesy!" The officers struck him with
the palms of their hands.

14.9

Head: Asked if he was the Christ, Jesus answered, "I am" (v. 62). Why do you think he spoke so plainly now after keeping quiet before?

Peter Denies Jesus



66 As Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the maids of the high priest came, 67 and seeing Peter warming
himself, she looked at him, and said, “You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus!”

68 But he denied it, saying, “I neither know, nor understand what you are saying.” He went out on the porch,
and the rooster crowed.

69 The maid saw him, and began again to tell those who stood by, “This is one of them.” 70 But he again denied
it. After a little while again those who stood by said to Peter, “You truly are one of them, for you are a
Galilean, and your speech shows it.” 71 But he began to curse, and to swear, “I don’t know this man of whom
you speak!” 72 The rooster crowed the second time. Peter remembered the word, how that Jesus said to him,
“Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” When he thought about that, he wept.

14.10

Heart: Consider the image of the rooster. When the rooster crowed, Peter remembered Jesus’ words, “When he thought about that, he wept” (v. 72). When have you felt the pain of failing someone you love? How does Jesus meet you there?

14.11

Heart: Which image in this chapter stirs the strongest feelings in you? What are those feelings, and how might they connect with Jesus' final night?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 14 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Jesus Before Pilate

1 Immediately in the morning the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a
consultation, bound Jesus, carried him away, and delivered him up to Pilate. 2 Pilate asked him, “Are you the
King of the Jews?”

He answered, “So you say.”

3 The chief priests accused him of many things. 4 Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer? See how many
things they testify against you!”

5 But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate marveled.

6 Now at the feast he used to release to them one prisoner, whom they asked of him. 7 There was one called
Barabbas, bound with his fellow insurgents, men who in the insurrection had committed murder. 8 The
multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do as he always did for them. 9 Pilate answered them, saying, “Do
you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” 10 For he perceived that for envy the chief priests had
delivered him up. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the multitude, that he should release Barabbas to them
instead. 12 Pilate again asked them, “What then should I do to him whom you call the King of the Jews?”

13 They cried out again, “Crucify him!”

14 Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done?”

But they cried out exceedingly, “Crucify him!”

15 Pilate, wishing to please the multitude, released Barabbas to them, and handed over Jesus, when he had
flogged him, to be crucified.

15.1

Action: Pilate, “wishing to please the multitude,” released Barabbas and handed Jesus over (v. 15). When have you been tempted to go along with the crowd rather than do what is right? Where might you need to stand apart from the crowd this week?

15.2

Heart: Barabbas, a guilty man, went free while Jesus, an innocent man, was condemned. How might Barabbas have felt? How does his story connect with yours?

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

16 The soldiers led him away within the court, which is the Praetorium; and they called together the whole
cohort. 17 They clothed him with purple, and weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on him. 18 They began to
salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 19 They struck his head with a reed, and spat on him, and bowing their
knees, did homage to him. 20 When they had mocked him, they took the purple off him, and put his own
garments on him. They led him out to crucify him.

15.3

Heart: Look at the image that opens this chapter. The soldiers dressed Jesus in purple, crowned him with thorns and mocked him as king (v. 17-18). How do you respond to the image of a king who suffers?

The Crucifixion



21 They compelled one passing by, coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and
Rufus, to go with them, that he might bear his cross. 22 They brought him to the place called Golgotha, which
is, being interpreted, “The place of a skull.” 23 They offered him wine mixed with myrrh to drink, but he didn’t
take it.

24 Crucifying him, they parted his garments among them, casting lots on them, what each should take. 25 It was
the third hour, and they crucified him. 26 The superscription of his accusation was written over him, “THE
KING OF THE JEWS.” 27 With him they crucified two robbers; one on his right hand, and one on his left. 28
The Scripture was fulfilled, which says, “He was counted with transgressors.”

29 Those who passed by blasphemed him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Ha! You who destroy the temple,
and build it in three days, 30 save yourself, and come down from the cross!”

31 Likewise, also the chief priests mocking among themselves with the scribes said, “He saved others. He can’t
save himself. 32 Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, that we may see and believe
him.” Those who were crucified with him also insulted him.

15.4

Head: Consider the image of the three crosses. People passing by shouted, “Save yourself, and come down from the cross!” (v. 30). Why did Jesus not come down? What does this tell you about his love?

15.5

Action: Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry Jesus’ cross (v. 21). Have you ever been asked to carry a burden you did not choose? Whose burden could you help carry this week?

The Death of Jesus



33 When the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 At the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is, being interpreted, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

35 Some of those who stood by, when they heard it, said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.”

36 One ran, and filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Let him be. Let’s see whether Elijah comes to take him down.”

37 Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and gave up the spirit. 38 The veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. 39 When the centurion, who stood by opposite him, saw that he cried out like this and breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

40 There were also women watching from afar, among whom were both Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; 41 who, when he was in Galilee, followed him and served him; and many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

15.6

Heart: Look at the image for this section. Jesus cried, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (v. 34). When have you felt forsaken? How does it help to know Jesus prayed these words?

15.7

Head: The centurion said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” (v. 39). What do you think he saw that changed his mind? What leads you to the same conclusion?

The Burial of Jesus



[42] When evening had now come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, [43] Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent council member who also himself was looking for God’s Kingdom, came. He boldly went in to Pilate, and asked for Jesus’ body. [44] Pilate marveled if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead long. [45] When he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. [46] He bought a linen cloth, and taking him down, wound him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of a rock. He rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. [47] Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joses, saw where he was laid.

15.8

Action: Consider the image of the tomb. Joseph of Arimathea “boldly went in to Pilate” to ask for Jesus’ body (v. 43). What act of courage might faith call you to this week?

15.9

Heart: As you look at the images in this chapter, what do you think these images are trying to say to you? How do you respond?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 15 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?



Jesus Is Risen

[1] When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices,
that they might come and anoint him. [2] Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the
sun had risen. [3] They were saying among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb
for us?” [4] for it was very big. Looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back.

[5] Entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were
amazed. [6] He said to them, “Don’t be amazed. You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has
risen. He is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him! [7] But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He goes
before you into Galilee. There you will see him, as he said to you.’ ”

[8] They went out, and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come on them. They said nothing
to anyone; for they were afraid.

16.1

Heart: Look at the image that opens this chapter. The women went to the tomb wondering, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” (v. 3). What stone in your life seems too heavy to move?

16.2

Head: The angel said, “Don’t be amazed. You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen. He is not here” (v. 6). What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for you today?

16.3

Head: The women fled from the tomb “for trembling and astonishment had come on them” (v. 8). Why might the good news of the resurrection be frightening as well as joyful?

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene



[9] Now when he had risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. [10] She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. [11] When they heard that he was alive, and had been seen by her, they disbelieved.

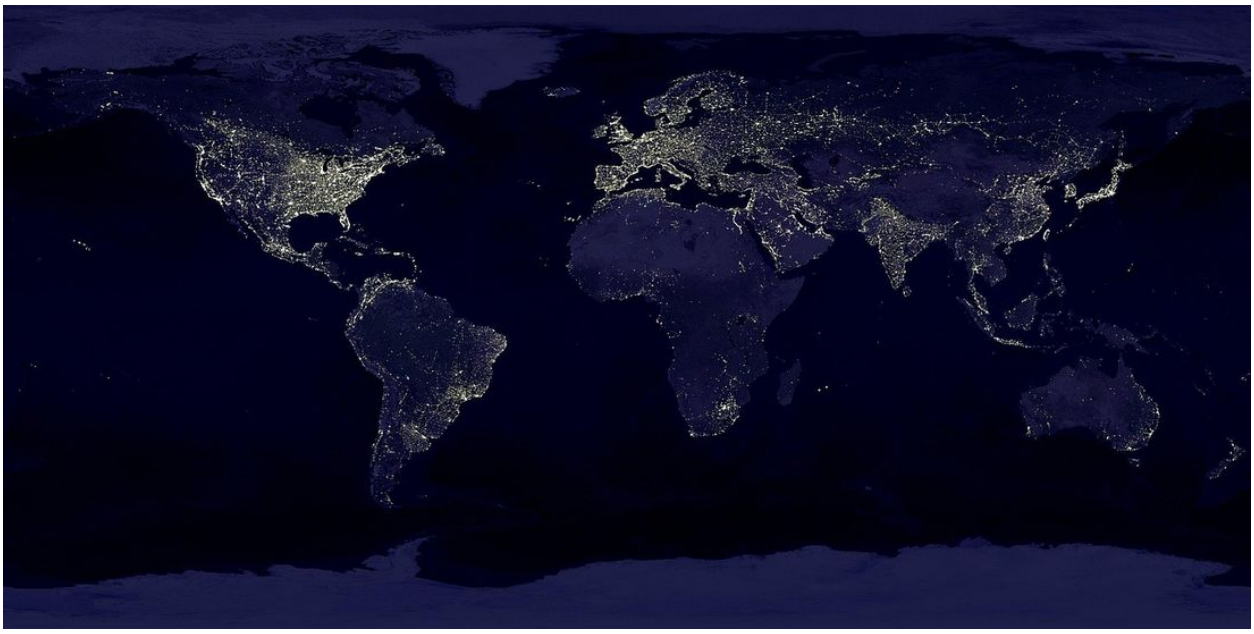
16.4

Action: Consider the image for this section. Mary Magdalene told the others, but “they disbelieved” (v. 11). How do you share good news when people do not believe you? Who will you share it with this week?

Jesus Appears to Two Followers

12 After these things he was revealed in another form to two of them, as they walked, on their way into the
country. 13 They went away and told it to the rest. They didn’t believe them, either.

Jesus Sends Out His Followers



14 Afterward he was revealed to the eleven themselves as they sat at the table, and he rebuked them for their
unbelief and hardness of heart, because they didn’t believe those who had seen him after he had risen. 15 He
said to them, “Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation. 16 He who believes and
is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned. 17 These signs will accompany those who
believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; 18 they will take up
serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and
they will recover.”

16.5

Head: Jesus rebuked the Eleven for their “unbelief and hardness of heart” (v. 14), yet still sent them out. What does this tell you about the people God chooses to use?

16.6

Action: Look at the image of the map. Jesus said, “Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation” (v. 15). Where is your “world” — the places and people God has given you? Whom in that world will you share the Good News with?

Jesus Is Taken Up to Heaven



[19] So then the Lord, after he had spoken to them, was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. [20] They went out, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen.

16.7

Heart: Consider the image of the sky. Jesus was received up into heaven, and the disciples “went out, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them” (v. 20). How have you seen the Lord working with you?

16.8

Action: Mark’s Gospel began with “the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ” (1:1). Now that you have read the whole story, how would you tell the Good News in your own words? Who will you tell?

16.9

Heart: As you look back over the images in all of Mark, which one will stay with you? Why?

Master Questions

Step back and look at Mark 16 as a whole.

MASTER QUESTION · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

MASTER QUESTION · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

MASTER QUESTION · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?

HEAD · HEART · ACTION

AFTER MARK 16

Summary

You have read all 16 chapters of Mark. This Summary looks back over the whole book through the three Master Questions. Read each review, then write your own response in the boxes at the end.

Head

> **HEAD:** What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

Here is what we can say about the people who first read Mark.

Written for believers far from Galilee. Early church writers say that Mark wrote down what the apostle Peter preached, and that he wrote in Rome. Mark explains Jewish customs for readers who did not know them (7:3–4) and translates Aramaic words, such as "Talitha cumi!" (5:41), so many of his first readers were probably Gentile Christians.

A church under pressure. Many scholars date Mark to the 60s A.D., when Christians in Rome suffered under the emperor Nero. Jesus' warning would have spoken directly to them: "You will be hated by all men for my name's sake, but he who endures to the end will be saved" (13:13).

What the book meant to them. Mark showed them a Messiah who suffered. Jesus said, "Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (8:34). Their suffering did not mean God had left them. It meant they were walking the road their Lord had walked.

Good news for Romans too. Readers in Rome would notice who speaks at the cross. A Roman centurion said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (15:39). The good news was for them as well.

Knowing their world helps you hear Mark as they did. Then ask what God is saying to you through it.

Heart

> **HEART:** What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

In the storm the disciples asked, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (4:41). Here is what Mark shows about who God is in Jesus.

The beloved Son. At Jesus’ baptism a voice came from heaven: “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (1:11).

Powerful over storm, sickness and death. Jesus calmed the wind and the sea with a word (4:39). He took a girl who had died by the hand and said, “Girl, I tell you, get up!” (5:41).

Full of compassion. Moved with compassion, Jesus touched a man with leprosy (1:41). When he saw the crowds, “he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd” (6:34).

He forgives sins. Jesus said that “the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (2:10).

He came to serve and to give his life. “For the Son of Man also came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (10:45).

He does not give up on those who fail. After Peter denied Jesus three times, the angel at the tomb said, “Go, tell his disciples and Peter” (16:7).

Am I judging God? The people of Nazareth “were offended at him” (6:3). The disciples in the storm cried, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are dying?” (4:38). How does your heart respond to who Jesus is? Is your heart open to him, or are you judging him?

Action

> **ACTION:** What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?

Mark’s story ends with a command to go and tell. Here are steps the book impresses on its readers.

Repent and believe. “The time is fulfilled, and God’s Kingdom is at hand! Repent, and believe in the Good News” (1:15).

Follow Jesus. “Come after me, and I will make you into fishers for men” (1:17).

Take up your cross. “Whoever will lose his life for my sake and the sake of the Good News will save it” (8:35).

Serve others. “Whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant” (10:43).

Pray and trust. “Have faith in God” (11:22). In his hardest hour Jesus prayed, “Not what I desire, but what you desire” (14:36).

Stay alert. “What I tell you, I tell all: Watch” (13:37).

Go and tell. “Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation” (16:15).

Carry this with you: Jesus is the Son of God who came to serve and to give his life for you. “Don’t be afraid, only believe” (5:36).

Your responses

Now answer the Master Questions for the whole Gospel of Mark.

SUMMARY · HEAD

HEAD: What was the historical and cultural context of the original readers? What did this passage mean to them? (Context can be hard to know for sure, but it is important and helpful to consider.)

SUMMARY · HEART

HEART: What does this passage reveal about who God is? How does my heart respond to who He is? Is my heart open to Him as He reveals Himself? Am I judging God?

SUMMARY · ACTION

ACTION: What actions is God impressing on me to take? What should I carry with me into the future from this book?

OVERVIEW · HISTORY · CHART · THEMES · RESOURCES

AFTER MARK 16

Going Deeper

Going Deeper is a short study guide to the whole Gospel of Mark. Use it after you finish reading, or alongside it, to see the big picture: who wrote Mark and when, the world it comes from, how the book is built, the themes and emotions that run through it, and free websites for further study.

Author and book overview

Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels and probably the earliest. It tells the good news about Jesus with speed and vivid detail, moving quickly from his baptism to the cross and the empty tomb.

Title	The book opens, “The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1:1). The title “According to Mark” was added by the early church.
Author	John Mark, whose mother’s house in Jerusalem was a meeting place for believers (Acts 12:12). He helped Paul and Barnabas, and Peter called him “Mark, my son” (1 Peter 5:13). Early church writers, beginning with Papias in the early 100s A.D., say Mark wrote down Peter’s preaching.
Date	Most scholars date Mark to the late 50s or the 60s A.D., before the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70.
Place and readers	Early tradition says Mark wrote in Rome. He explains Jewish customs (7:3–4) and translates Aramaic words, which suggests that many of his readers were Gentiles.
Purpose	To show who Jesus is, “the Christ” (8:29) and “the Son of God” (15:39), and what it means to follow him on the way of the cross.
Key verses	1:1; 1:15; 8:29; 8:34; 10:45; 15:39; 16:6.
Mark in the New Testament	Mark left Paul and Barnabas on their first journey (Acts 13:13), which later caused a sharp disagreement (Acts 15:37–39). Years afterward Paul wrote, “Take Mark, and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service” (2 Timothy 4:11).
The ending	The oldest manuscripts end at 16:8. Verses 9–20 appear in most later manuscripts. The World English Bible includes them, and so does Visual Mark.

Historical and cultural insights

Under Roman rule. Rome ruled the land. Herod Antipas governed Galilee for Rome (6:14–29), and the Roman governor Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus (15:1–15).

Life by the Sea of Galilee. Much of Jesus' work in Mark happens around the Sea of Galilee, a lake about 13 miles (21 km) long. Fishing was a major business there, and sudden storms were common (4:37).

Synagogue and Sabbath. Jewish towns gathered in the synagogue on the Sabbath to hear Scripture read and taught (1:21). Jesus' healings on the Sabbath brought conflict with the Pharisees (3:1–6).

Religious leaders. Pharisees stressed careful keeping of the law and the traditions of the elders (7:3–5). Scribes were experts in the law. Sadducees, from the leading priestly families, said there is no resurrection (12:18).

Clean and unclean. The law treated leprosy, bleeding and contact with the dead as making a person unclean. Jesus touched a man with leprosy (1:41), let a bleeding woman touch him (5:27) and took a dead girl by the hand (5:41).

Tax collectors. Tax collectors such as Levi gathered money for Rome or for Herod and were often treated as traitors and sinners (2:14–16).

Aramaic words. Jesus spoke Aramaic. Mark keeps some of his words and translates them: "Talitha cumi!" (5:41), "Ephphatha!" (7:34) and "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" (15:34).

Roman words and money. Mark uses Latin words such as "Legion" (5:9) and "centurion" (15:39), and he explains that the widow's two small coins "equal a quadrans coin" (12:42), signs of readers who knew Roman ways.

Passover in Jerusalem. Passover remembered Israel's rescue from Egypt. Jerusalem filled with pilgrims, and Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples the night before he died (14:12–25).

Crucifixion and burial. Crucifixion was Rome's cruelest punishment, used for slaves and rebels. Tombs were often cut into rock and closed with a large stone (15:46; 16:3–4).

Chart of the book

The whole Gospel of Mark, drawn to scale by verses and colored by section.



Mark 1 4 8 12 16

Section	Passage	What happens · key verse
Beginning	1:1–13	John prepares the way. Jesus is baptized and tested in the wilderness. *1:11 “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*
Ministry in Galilee	1:14–3:6	Jesus calls disciples, heals, forgives sins and meets opposition. *1:15 “The time is fulfilled, and God’s Kingdom is at hand!”*
Teaching and wonders	3:7–6:6	Jesus chooses the Twelve, teaches in parables and calms the storm. *4:41 “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”*
Beyond Galilee	6:7–8:26	The Twelve are sent out. Jesus feeds great crowds and reaches Gentiles. *8:21 “Don’t you understand yet?”*
On the way to the cross	8:27–10:52	Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus three times predicts his death. *10:45 “For the Son of Man also came not to be served, but to serve”*
Jesus in Jerusalem	11:1–13:37	Jesus enters Jerusalem, clears the temple and teaches about the end. *11:9 “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”*
Suffering and death	14:1–15:47	Jesus is anointed, betrayed, tried and crucified. *15:39 “Truly this man was the Son of God!”*
Resurrection	16:1–20	The tomb is empty. The risen Jesus sends his followers into all the world. *16:6 “He has risen. He is not here.”*

Three times Jesus predicts his death

Prediction	Jesus says	The disciples respond	Jesus teaches
First	8:31	Peter rebukes him (8:32)	Take up your cross and follow me (8:34)
Second	9:31	They argue about who is the greatest (9:34)	Be last of all and servant of all (9:35)
Third	10:33–34	James and John ask for the best seats (10:37)	Whoever wants to be great must serve (10:43–45)

Each time Jesus speaks of his suffering, the disciples misunderstand, and each time he teaches them what it means to follow him.

Major themes and emotions

Themes

Who is Jesus?. Mark opens by calling Jesus “the Son of God” (1:1). The disciples’ question in the storm (4:41) runs through the book until Peter says, “You are the Christ” (8:29), and a Roman centurion says, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” (15:39).

God’s Kingdom has come near. Jesus announces that “God’s Kingdom is at hand” (1:15) and shows its power by healing, forgiving and setting people free.

The suffering servant. The Messiah came to suffer, die and rise again (8:31), and “to give his life as a ransom for many” (10:45).

Following Jesus. Following Jesus means leaving things behind, taking up the cross and serving others (8:34; 10:43–45).

Faith instead of fear. Again and again Jesus asks people to trust him rather than fear: “Don’t be afraid, only believe” (5:36). Even his closest followers struggle to believe.

Good news for all nations. Jesus crosses into Gentile lands (5:1–20; 7:24–31) and calls the temple “a house of prayer for all the nations” (11:17).

Emotions: the heart of Jesus

Mark tells us more about Jesus’ feelings than any other Gospel. Follow them through the book, and let them show you his heart, and the hearts of the people around him.

Compassion (1:41; 6:34) → **Anger and grief** (3:5) → **Amazed at unbelief** (6:6) → **Deep sighs** (7:34; 8:12) → **Indignation** (10:14) → **Love** (10:21) → **Sorrow and distress** (14:33–34) → **Forsaken** (15:34) → **Fear and wonder at the empty tomb** (16:8)

Free resources online

These free websites can help you study Mark further. They are independent of Visual Mark, and you need an internet connection to open them.

Blue Letter Bible: Mark with Greek word study

Read Mark with Strong’s numbers linked to Greek definitions, plus cross-references and commentaries for every verse.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mar/1/1/ss1

Blue Letter Bible: Introduction to Mark

The ESV Global Study Bible’s introduction, with author, date, themes and an outline of the book.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/esv-study-bible/new-testament/introductions/introduction-to-mark.cfm

Blue Letter Bible: Executable Outlines on Mark

A short introduction, outlines and review questions, useful for group study.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/eo/Mar/Mar000.cfm

Matthew Henry’s Commentary on Mark

A classic devotional commentary from the early 1700s, chapter by chapter.

https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/matthew-henry/Mark

Enduring Word Commentary on Mark

David Guzik’s verse-by-verse commentary, with audio teaching on each section.

https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/mark-1/

BibleProject: Overview of Mark

A short animated video on the design and message of the book.

https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/mark/

Blue Letter Bible: Map of the setting of Mark

A map of Galilee, Judea and the surrounding regions where the events of Mark take place.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/esv-study-bible/new-testament/maps/the-setting-of-mark.cfm

OpenBible.info: Map of places in Mark

An interactive map of the places named in Mark, such as Capernaum, Bethsaida, Jericho and Jerusalem.

https://www.openbible.info/geo/mark

Ideas for Group Discussions

Asking Image-Based Questions

Linking LIFE and SCRIPTURE using IMAGES is best done by asking questions. Visual Mark provides many such questions within the chapters. Below are ten types of image-based questions. These types and examples can help you craft your own questions as you lead group discussions and reflect personally on a passage.

1. Image to Story

a. What story do you see in this image?

b. If an image is worth a thousand words, what words would you put with this image?

2. Response to Image

a. How do you respond to this image?

b. What emotions or feelings surface in you as you look at the picture?

c. How might these emotions link to your life story?

3. Imaginations (a mental image, without looking at a picture)

a. As you consider the Bible story, how would you imagine it playing out?

b. How might you imagine yourself in that story?

4. Link Image to Person

a. If you put yourself in this picture, where would you be?

b. What would you be feeling? Thinking? Doing? Saying?

c. How might this image connect with your longings as a human being? (Consider longings such as: belong, intimacy, protect, provide, build, order, nurture, change, justice, mercy, explore, know, create, transcend.)

d. What message does this image convey? How might the image appeal to your decisions in life (choice of friends, career, purchases)?

5. Link Image to Concept

a. As you look at this image, how might it connect with the concept of grace, mercy, identity or power?

b. Consider these deep metaphors: balance, transformation, journey, container, connection, resource, control. (Gerald and Lindsay Zaltman, 2008). Which metaphor best relates to this image? Explain.

6. Link Image to Attractions, Aversions and Decisions

a. Are you attracted to this image? If so, why? How do you usually manage your attractions?

b. Do you dislike this image? If so, why? How do you usually manage your aversions?

c. How might this image influence the way you make decisions?

7. Link Image to God

a. Where would you imagine God in this picture?

b. What is he doing? Thinking? Feeling? Saying? Explain why.

8. Link Image to Bible

a. How do you see this image connecting with this passage?

b. What image might better connect with this passage for you?

9. Link Image to Culture

a. Our culture surrounds us with images. Which images in the past week relate to this passage? How did you respond to them?

b. What is the message of that image from the culture?

c. Does that cultural message align with the message of the Bible? Explain.

10. Link Image to Transformation

a. As you reflect on this image and the passage, what surfaces in your heart? Where are you open to change, or closed to change?

b. How do this image and passage shape your view of God and his purposes? Is your heart aligned with God’s purposes?

c. How might this image encourage you in your daily walk with God?

About Visual Mark

Visual Mark follows the pattern of each book within the Visual Bible Project: the full text of a book of the Bible set beside photographs and questions that link life and Scripture.

Scripture is from the World English Bible (WEB), a public-domain modern English translation. Section headings and reflection questions were written for Visual Mark.

Prepared by Ralph C. Ennis, www.ralphennis.com, using artificial intelligence.

AI Disclaimer

Artificial intelligence can increase efficiency and provide useful expertise, but it is not fully reliable. Do not trust it uncritically. Like a frog in slowly heating water, users can gradually accept AI outputs without noticing growing errors, dependence, deception or manipulation.

When using AI with Biblical resources, be especially careful. AI can misinterpret Scripture or introduce subtle inaccuracies. Always check its results against the Bible itself and maintain your own discernment. AI is only a tool; responsibility for discerning truth remains with the user.

“But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” — Hebrews 5:14 (ESV)

Photo credits

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Cover: A desert road running toward mountains under a colorful sunrise sky. View on Pixabay

Welcome page: Hands holding a black Holy Bible. View on Pixabay

Welcome page: A single candle flame reflected in the dark. View on Pixabay

Welcome page: Footprints along the shore toward the setting sun. View on Pixabay

Mark 1, opening photo: A road through barren desert hills in the wilderness. View on Pixabay

Mark 1, Jesus Is Baptized: Sunlight sparkling on rippling water. View on Pixabay

Mark 1, Jesus Calls Four Fishermen: A fisherman casting a net in a forest river. View on Pixabay

Mark 1, Jesus Prays in a Quiet Place: A man kneeling in prayer at sunrise among the mountains. View on Pixabay

Mark 2, opening photo: Rescue workers carrying a person on a stretcher. View on Pixabay

Mark 2, Four Friends and a Paralyzed Man: Old clay tiles on a roof. View on Pixabay

Mark 2, Jesus Calls Levi: Friends sharing a meal around a table. View on Pixabay

Mark 2, New Wine and New Wineskins: Rows of wooden barrels in a cellar. View on Pixabay

Mark 3, opening photo: A crowd of people walking through an old city street. View on Pixabay

Mark 3, Healing on the Sabbath: Wrinkled old hands resting on a cane. View on Pixabay

Mark 3, Jesus Chooses the Twelve: A group of students walking together along a street. View on Pixabay

Mark 3, Jesus’ True Family: A family walking hand in hand along the beach. View on Pixabay

Mark 4, opening photo: A farmer working a plowed field. View on Pixabay

Mark 4, The Meaning of the Story: Young seedlings sprouting from the soil. View on Pixabay

Mark 4, A Lamp on a Stand: An ancient green clay oil lamp. View on Pixabay

Mark 4, Jesus Calms the Storm: A small sailboat on a lake under a dark storm. View on Pixabay

Mark 5, opening photo: A heap of heavy rusty chains. View on Pixabay

Mark 5, A Man Set Free: Tombs cut into a rock cliff. View on Pixabay

Mark 5, A Woman Touches Jesus' Cloak: A hand reaching toward the light in a blue sky. View on Pixabay

Mark 5, Jairus's Daughter Lives: A smiling young girl with braided hair. View on Pixabay

Mark 6, opening photo: Carpenter's chisels on a wooden bench. View on Pixabay

Mark 6, Jesus Sends Out the Twelve: A dusty dirt road in golden light. View on Pixabay

Mark 6, Jesus Feeds Five Thousand: A basket with bread, fish and fruit. View on Pixabay

Mark 6, Jesus Walks on the Water: Moonlight over a dark sea with a small boat. View on Pixabay

Mark 7, opening photo: Water poured from a jug over a person's hands. View on Pixabay

Mark 7, What Makes a Person Unclean: Many hands of different skin tones forming a red heart. View on Pixabay

Mark 7, A Mother's Faith: A mother kissing her daughter on a city street. View on Pixabay

Mark 7, Jesus Heals a Deaf Man: A girl resting her face on her hand and listening closely. View on Pixabay

Mark 8, opening photo: Golden fields of grain at sunset. View on Pixabay

Mark 8, The Yeast of the Pharisees: Bread dough with a rolling pin and flour. View on Pixabay

Mark 8, A Blind Man Sees in Stages: Trees blurred as if seen out of focus. View on Pixabay

Mark 8, Take Up Your Cross: A wooden cross on a grassy hill. View on Pixabay

Mark 9, opening photo: Sunbeams breaking over a dark mountain peak. View on Pixabay

Mark 9, A Father's Plea: "Help My Unbelief!": A father holding his young son close. View on Pixabay

Mark 9, Who Is the Greatest?: A laughing little girl in a scarf. View on Pixabay

Mark 9, Salt and Stumbling Blocks: Coarse salt in a spoon. View on Pixabay

Mark 10, opening photo: A groom placing a ring on his bride's finger. View on Pixabay

Mark 10, Jesus Welcomes the Children: A little girl running across the grass. View on Pixabay

Mark 10, The Rich Man: A pile of gold coins. View on Pixabay

Mark 10, Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight: An old man sitting by a stone wall beside his donkey. View on Pixabay

Mark 11, opening photo: Palm branches against a blue sky. View on Pixabay

Mark 11, Jesus Enters Jerusalem: A young donkey resting in a field. View on Pixabay

Mark 11, A Fig Tree Without Fruit: Fig tree branches full of leaves. View on Pixabay

Mark 11, Faith That Moves Mountains: A mountain reflected in a still lake. View on Pixabay

Mark 12, opening photo: Rows of grapevines in a vineyard. View on Pixabay

Mark 12, Taxes to Caesar: Old silver coins stamped with faces. View on Pixabay

Mark 12, The Greatest Commandment: Hands holding a red heart. View on Pixabay

Mark 12, The Widow's Gift: A hand holding a few small coins. View on Pixabay

Mark 13, opening photo: Ruins of an ancient stone temple. View on Pixabay

Mark 13, Days of Distress: Lightning in dark storm clouds. View on Pixabay

Mark 13, The Coming of the Son of Man: Fresh new leaves budding on a fig branch. View on Pixabay

Mark 13, Stay Awake: A man carrying a lantern through the dark. View on Pixabay

Mark 14, opening photo: A carved alabaster jar. View on Pixabay

Mark 14, The Lord's Supper: Bread and a cup of wine on a cloth. View on Pixabay

Mark 14, Jesus Prays in Gethsemane: The twisted trunk of an ancient olive tree. View on Pixabay

Mark 14, Peter Denies Jesus: A rooster perched on a branch. View on Pixabay

Mark 15, opening photo: A crown of thorns on purple cloth. View on Pixabay

Mark 15, The Crucifixion: Three crosses against the sunset. View on Pixabay

Mark 15, The Death of Jesus: A dim sun behind dark clouds. View on Pixabay

Mark 15, The Burial of Jesus: A tomb entrance cut into rock. View on Pixabay

Mark 16, opening photo: A rock tomb with its round stone rolled aside. View on Pixabay

Mark 16, Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene: Three people singing joyfully with arms raised. View on Pixabay

Mark 16, Jesus Sends Out His Followers: A map of the world lit at night. View on Pixabay

Mark 16, Jesus Is Taken Up to Heaven: Sunbeams breaking through clouds over green hills. View on Pixabay