

Gospel of Mark – NOTES

>>>>>> Lesson 23 <<<<<<<

1) We will NOT meet April 2nd (Guess Who's Coming to Dinner) or April 9th (Easter).

Mark 9:30-32 (NIV)

- 1) As we have said earlier, Jesus has now finished His public ministry.
- 2) They are most likely in the area of Caesarea Philippi and they leave there and head thru Galilee heading for Capernaum.
- 3) This was a time of teaching and final preparation of the disciples for what is coming shortly and most likely preparing them for the events that will take place after He returns to heaven.
- 4) On this journey, Jesus tells them again that He will be killed and after three days rise to life again.
- 5) This time however, He tells them that He will be betrayed.
- 6) Again, they cannot comprehend this situation.
- 7) A “crucified Messiah” was a stumbling block for the disciples,
- 8) A “dying Messiah” was utterly incomprehensible and unacceptable to them.
- 9) It is interesting to me that they appear to completely miss this element of betrayal.
- 10) Mark indicates they did not understand and were afraid to ask.
- 11) Remember, last time they showed their disagreement (especially Peter) with what He is saying, they were scolded.
- 12) Not much had changed for the other nine, but, I wonder if the perspective had changed for Peter, James, and John?
- 13) One other point here is what they did not understand.
- 14) We know that they were struggling with the whole dying part – as we said a moment ago, a crucified Messiah did NOT fit their idea of how things should go.
- 15) Beyond that, there is the issue of His returning from the dead.
- 16) The disciples were aware that Jesus himself had raised people from the dead but who would raise Him?
 - a) We must remember, the resurrections they had seen were of the physical person.
 - b) The question comes to my mind – was Jesus explaining to them His new body and of course the ascension?
- 17) Add to that, the concept of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit may not have been in their total understanding at this point.
- 18) It was difficult to make the connection and see the eternal side of Jesus, their teacher and leader of the past 3 years and a risen Son of God.
- 19) Mark goes on ...

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Mark 9:33-37 (NIV)

- 1) Some of the things that have happened to the disciples and who Jesus truly is (the Messiah), is finally beginning to sink in.
- 2) This episode and the next show that what comes to the surface is not necessarily good.
- 3) The disciples are, as one commentator put it, “having prestige issues”.
- 4) They were jostling for position among themselves **and** trying to preserve their special status of their group with the rest of the world.
- 5) I wonder who was involved in this conversation on the road to Capernaum?
- 6) Was it just between Peter, James, and John or were all twelve vying for the top spot?
 - a) My guess is, it was the three.
- 7) Interestingly and yet not surprisingly, when Jesus asked them what they were arguing about they would not say.
 - a) This is interesting because, by this time you would think that they would know that He already knew what they were thinking.
 - b) Not surprising because they must have realized that what they were doing would in no way please Jesus.
- 8) Without being confrontational, Jesus begins another teaching session.
- 9) He calls the twelve to Him and addresses the issue.
- 10) What He is now saying to them directly, they have undoubtedly heard Him say to audiences many times in the past.
- 11) Whether it was the three or all twelve, they know now that He knew exactly what they were arguing about on the road.
- 12) This concept was hard for them – regardless of having heard it before.
- 13) In saying to them ““If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.” He was totally going against Jewish customs of the day.
- 14) In the Jewish culture of that day, rank was highly valued.
- 15) Then, to top-off the conversation, Jesus places a child in their midst and told them they must welcome one of these.
- 16) The word translated welcome or receive or accept in the Greek means just that.
- 17) However another important difference in meaning is in the word for child.
 - a) Likely, Jesus would have been speaking Aramaic in this group.
 - b) In that language, the word for child and servant is the same.
- 18) So, when Jesus uses this Aramaic word in relation the conversation and context of the disciples bickering, it would have had much more impact.
- 19) His explanation of greatness would have been even more distinct.

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- 20) The disciples should have understood completely at this point what Jesus was saying.
- 21) The very attitude they had – to even have a conversation like they were having – was putting their very entry into the kingdom in jeopardy.
- 22) Not even considering who would be first and who would be second.
- 23) Matthew’s wording of this response to this question clarifies Jesus’ response even more.

Matt 18:3-5 (NIV)

Do we ever have issues of “whose the boss here” questions?

Unless you are not human, you probably have had.

However, what does this passage scream at us that we should do in these cases?

Other