

THE GOSPEL of

MARK

What are You Asking?

Gospel of Mark

- written by John Mark
- accounts from Peter inspired with intention

3 Big Chunks

Galilee – encountering Jesus, who is this?

Jerusalem – disciples struggling to understand

Journey to Jerusalem – how Jesus will fulfill the role of Messiah King

- Mark is cryptic, big picture with carefully chosen stories and details introducing you to Gospel

“And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.” And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?”

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

Mark 10:32-52

And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

Mark 10:32-52

and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.”

1. For the Third Time

- on the road to Jerusalem – Passover

a) Two Carefully Chosen Words

- insight into those hearing – amazed and afraid
- following encounter with rich young ruler
- camel and eye of a needle talk
- vs. 31 “But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

b) teaching with the twelve

- third time Jesus clearly lays out the path ahead

- Delivered into the hands of my enemies
- Tried, condemned, handed over to the Gentiles
- Mocked, abused, and killed
- Rise to life in three days

c) listening vs. hearing

- hear something – interpret it through our own lenses
- often come to Jesus that way – what I want to hear
- Jesus clear – mission I am on looks different, not going to look how you expect or anticipate

2. Jesus – We have a question

a) The Ask

- James and John approach with a request 'we want you to do whatever we ask of you'
- trusted followers, believe the rule & reign coming, some assurance
- Peter in vs. 28 – what about us.....

b) The Clarifying Question

- what do you want
- what is behind your asking this

- places of honor, power, recognition in the coming kingdom
- the pay off, reward, on your left and right

c) Response

- don't know what you are asking
- cup I drink suffering
 - garden – take this cup from me
- baptism dying to & rising to life
 - laying down His life
- the cup and baptism will be yours
- God the Father determines reward, place in coming kingdom

- others hear about it and are indignant – with James & John

d) Jesus gathers to explain

- worlds system is elevating leaders, pecking orders, those with talent and power keeping others in their place
- re-define greatness and what God rewards 'not so among you'
- serving others will define greatness
- giving up rights and self for others will be the first
- this is what I have come to do:
 - not to be served but to serve
 - give life as a ransom for many

3. Blind Bart

- Jericho – huge crowd making way to Jerusalem
- Bartimaeus – son of Timaeus, blind beggar

a) Making a Fuss

- heard who was passing by
- shouting 'Jesus, son of David' (promised King)
- blind guy seeing truth about Jesus
- rebuked – 'be silent', role in society and importance
- persisted – kept on hollering

b) Jesus Stops & Calls Him

- middle of questions, throngs, teaching
- facing difficult days, huge mission
- responds to one crying out

c) The Question – What do you want me to do for you?

- recovered sight
- faith made you well, go
- followed him on the way

So What?

1. Four Interesting Questions – Reveal Hearts

- what can I do to inherit eternal life?
- who then can be saved? What about us....?
- will you grant us what we ask? Looking for position....
- have mercy on me – restore my sight.

2. What have you been asking of Jesus?

- what does it reveal about your heart
- reminder – God desires your heart, response, place in your life

3. Listening with Care to Christ

- have our lenses, world view, expectations, hopes & dreams
- receive truth with some distortions and selective listening

a) Jesus Clear about

- costs of following
- response of the world
- sin, salvation, eternity, the days to come

b) Perspective on reward, honor, prestige needs to be challenged

- have different values in Kingdom of God

4. Greatness Redefined

- Phil. 2:3-11 “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”