

Questions for the study of Saint Mark's Gospel (by Laura Berquist)

Chapter 1

1. In the first fifteen verses, does it seem that the teaching of Jesus is the same? In what way is it the same and in what way (if any) is it different?
2. In verse 38, Jesus says He has come to preach. Where else in this chapter is there evidence that His teaching is more to Him important than His miracles?

Chapter 2

1. Answer the question in verse 9 and give a reason for your answer.
2. Answer the question in verse 7.
3. Find three names or descriptive terms which Jesus uses for Himself.

Chapter 3

1. In verse 27, what does the strong man represent? What does his house represent?
2. For what work did Jesus select the Twelve? What powers did he give them? How would these powers help them in their work?

Chapter 4

1. In verse 11, to whom do you think our Lord refers with the words 'those outside'?

Chapter 5

1. Do you think the people in verses 14-17 were more afraid of Jesus than they had been of the unclean spirit? What might they be afraid of? (verse 16)
2. What does St Mark say about why Jesus felt the touch of the woman in verses 27-30 as distinct from the general press of the crowd? Why did He ask the question He did?
3. After what earlier miracles were people charged to tell no-one as in verse 43? (see chapters 1+ 3)

Chapter 6

1. What was the message of the Twelve when Jesus sent them out two by two? Was it a new message, or had it previously been announced by another?
2. In verse 34, mark says Jesus began to teach the crowd, but He had come to that desert place for another reason. What was it?

Chapter 7

1. What does Our Lord mean in verse 15 by the things that enter a man from the outside? What would His listeners first think of as 'things that enter from the outside'? When discussing the laws of cleanliness?
2. In verse 27, who are the 'children'?
3. How is the healing in verses 28-30 like that in 5: 28-34? How is it unlike it?
4. How is the manner of healing in verse 31-36 different from that in 5: 38-43? How is it alike?

Chapter 8

1. Can you tell when or where the bread is multiplied? (After..., but before...)
2. Think of what leaven (yeast) does to bread: what leaven is like before and after it is put in bread. Leaven is useful, indeed necessary, in making bread. It also smells good. In these ways it is unlike the Pharisees and Herod. How is it like them?
3. In verses 26 and 30, who is told not to speak, and what is he told not to speak about? Do you think this silence is to be temporary or permanent? Why do you think so?
4. In verse 35, does 'gospel' refer to 'a certain book of holy scripture', or 'this good news'? How can you tell?

Chapter 9

1. Refer to question 2 for chapter 1 above. In the transfiguration account, find another piece of evidence that Jesus' teaching was more important than his miracles.
2. Jesus again tells someone not to tell others, but now He also says when he can tell. Whom does He tell, and when is the silence to end?
3. In the cure of the possessed boy, Our Lord asks for something from the father. Can you see things in the father's response that must have pleased Jesus?
4. The disciples could not cast out this unclean spirit. What other evidence is there that this was a particularly powerful or difficult spirit to cast out?
5. In verse 31, the disciples are said to be 'afraid'. What can this mean?

Chapter 10

1. Before, it was the sick who sought to be touched by Jesus. Why do these people want Jesus to touch their children? Is touching a physical or a spiritual act here?
2. Why are the ten angry at James and John? Explain how Jesus turns away their anger.

Chapter 11

1. Why did Our Lord throw out the money changers?
2. What happened to the fig tree that had no fruit? Of what might this be a sign or symbol?
2. Our Lord says we should forgive when we start to pray. What reason does He give?

Chapter 12

1. About whom was Jesus speaking in the parable of the vineyard (verse 12)? Why?
2. What is Jesus' answer to those who wish to catch Him in His words (verse 13)?
3. How did the Sadducees err in their question about whom the woman with the seven husbands would be married to in heaven?
4. In what way did the poor widow put more money in than all the others?

Chapter 13

1. Why will we be hated by all men (verse 13)?
2. What are the various things Our Lord warns us about in this chapter?

Chapter 14

1. Why was what the woman with the ointment did acceptable? Why did those who grumbled do so?
2. Who betrays Jesus, and what does he receive for his act? What does our Lord say about him?
3. Who goes with Jesus to Gethsemane? What does He do there? What do they do?
4. Did Peter betray Christ? Is he like Judas in this? How does he differ from Judas?
5. What did Jesus say that the High priest objected to? How did those around Our Lord act once the judgement was pronounced?

Chapter 15

1. Why had the chief priests delivered up Jesus? Does Pilate know this? Why does he have Jesus crucified?
2. Why does the centurion who is present at the crucifixion say, 'Indeed this man was the son of God'?

Chapter 16

1. Where is Peter singled out from the other disciples? Why do think that might be?
2. Did those who heard Jesus was alive believe it? What did Jesus say to them when He appeared?
3. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?