

The Gospel of Mark – Reflection Questions (Week 2)

Sunday, March 29, 2020 **Mark 5:1-43** (or Mark 5:20-43)

- 1) What message did this synagogue ruler send to the rest of the community when he approached Jesus in his hour of deepest need?

- 2) Two very different family stories intersect in Mark 5:21-43. What comparisons and contrasts can we make between the different characters involved (Jairus the synagogue ruler, the unnamed woman, Jairus' daughter)?

- 3) With the life of his daughter hanging in the balance, how would Jairus have felt about Jesus' delay with the woman in the crowd?

- 4) Why do you think Jesus made such a public spectacle about the healing of the woman, who had secretly touched him?

- 5) The opposite of question 3 can be asked in the case of the little girl. Why did Jesus so 'strictly order' everyone to keep quiet about the raising of the little girl?

- 6) When you think of your own 'testimony of faith,' are you one who likes to keep it secret or one who likes others to know? Why?

- 7) How can your testimony of God's actions in your life impact others?

The Gospel of Mark – Reflection Questions (Week 2)

Monday, March 30, 2020 **Mark 6:1-56** (or Mark 6:30-44)

- 1) What is the context of the Feeding of the 5,000? From where had the disciples just returned (see Mark 6:7-13)?

- 2) With this context in mind, what was Jesus' plans for himself and his disciples (see Mark 30-32)? What role does rest, devotion, and time with Jesus play within your busy schedule?

- 3) How might we describe the desires and intentions of this 'unwanted' crowd that has gathered to greet Jesus and his disciples?

- 4) Think about your natural reactions to others when you are tired, wearied, and worn out. Think about your natural responses to those who show up when you desire some quiet, alone time. How does this make Jesus' reaction, even more amazing?

- 5) How do the disciples respond in 6:37, when Jesus invites them to become a part of the solution to the problems of the world?

- 6) How do you respond when Jesus invites you to become a part of the solution to the problems of the world? What applications from this text can you take away for your own faith walk in this world?

The Gospel of Mark – Reflection Questions (Week 2)

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 **Mark 7:1-37** (or Mark 7:24-37)

- 1) What similarities are there between the people and events involved in the healing of the Syrophenician woman's daughter and the healing of the deaf, mute man?

- 2) What differences are there between the people and events involved in the healing of the Syrophenician woman's daughter and the healing of the deaf and mute man?

- 3) The vast majority of the content of the Gospels focus on Jesus' personal interaction with individuals, not large groups or crowds. As you think of the many different people that Jesus interacts with, does he approach any of them in the same way? What lessons might we draw from Jesus of how he treats each and every individual?

- 4) In 7:36-37, we see the "Markan secret" at work again. Repeatedly throughout Mark, we hear Jesus commanding people not to tell what they have seen, heard, or experienced from him. Why would Jesus be so secretive? What is he so worried about getting out?

- 5) Do we still live under the same strictures of Jesus to be silent about what he has done on our behalf? So, what keeps us from speaking up?

The Gospel of Mark – Reflection Questions (Week 2)

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 Mark 8:1-9:1 (or Mark 8:27-9:1)

- 1) Welcome to the Department of Redundancy Department??? Am I mistaken or have we already heard this story back in Mark 6:35-44? Looking at this account, why do you think Mark might take time to share the account of another miraculous feeding?
 - a. Hint #1: What is the disciples' response, even though they had already experienced the first feeding (8:4)?
 - b. Hint #2: What is the Pharisees' response immediately following the miraculous feeding (8:11-12)?
 - c. Even though Jesus has been doing many miracles and teaching many things, how might we describe the general level of understanding present both among his disciples and his opponents?
- 2) How does this previous context of misunderstanding help us better understand Peter's contradictory responses in 8:29-33?
- 3) How does Mark repeatedly portray even the disciples' understanding of Jesus throughout his gospel?
- 4) How do even our failures and misunderstandings present opportunities for us to share Jesus with others? What lessons would you not have learned if you did not experience your share of doubts, mistakes, or mess-ups?

The Gospel of Mark – Reflection Questions (Week 2)

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Mark 9:2-50 (or Mark 9:2-12)

- 1) As we cross the “mid-point” of Mark’s Gospel, what themes begin to develop in this section 8:31-9:12?

- 2) Where else in Mark’s gospel have we heard this voice from heaven (9:7) speak?
 - a. Who benefitted from the voice in that scenario (1:9-10)?

 - b. Who benefitted from the voice in this scenario (9:5-9)?

- 3) Considering the surrounding context, is God the Father in 9:7 simply encouraging the disciples to listen to Jesus in general or does He desire for them to listen to something specific? (See 8:31-9:1 and 9:9-10.)

- 4) Where in your life do you have a hard time being willing to listen to Jesus’ direction or guidance? Are there any topics that you wish the Bible wasn’t so clear upon? How do you respond when God’s Word contradicts your desires?

The Gospel of Mark – Reflection Questions (Week 2)

Friday, April 3, 2020

Mark 10:1-31(or Mark 10:13-31)

- 1) What contrasts and comparisons do we see between the little children of 10:13-16 and the rich young man of 10:17-25?
 - a. How does each come to Jesus?
 - b. How does each respond to Jesus?
 - c. How does each depart from Jesus?
 - d. How do the disciples react to each situation?
 - i. Why were the disciples indignant when the little children came to Jesus?
 - ii. Why were the disciples incredulous when the rich young man was sent away from Jesus?
- 2) In a culture and society that associated power as a gift of God (9:33-34), wealth as a sign of blessedness (10:22-26), and status as a mark of holiness (10:35-38), Jesus turned all of their expectations upside down. The disciples are left asking, “Who then can be saved?” (10:26). What hope does 10:27 have for us sinners?

The Gospel of Mark – Reflection Questions (Week 2)

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Mark 10:32-52 (or Mark 10:32-45)

- 1) What were they thinking with such a blatant request of favoritism? What were James and John really looking for in their special request in 10:37?

- 2) Do the disciples seem to comprehend more or less of Jesus, faith, and forgiveness the further we get into the Gospel of Mark (see 8:32-33; 9:10-11; 9:33-34; 9:38-39; 10:13; 10:26-28; 10:35-41)?

- 3) When you think of yourself, why do you follow Jesus? Do you follow Jesus because you love him or because you love what he offers in return?

- 4) We know how we want to answer the last question, but we all struggle with less than perfect motives and we are all growing each day in our walk of faith. We may talk the talk, but do we always walk the walk?
 - a. Diagnostic test #1: How do you respond when suffering, disappointment, or hardship enters your life?
 - i. Do you get overly angry, disappointed, or saddened?

 - ii. Do you lean into God or away from him?

 - b. Diagnostic test #2: How do you respond when God doesn't answer your prayer(s)?
 - i. Do you become angry, feeling as if God didn't do His part? (He owes you.)

 - ii. Do you become guilty, feeling as if you didn't do your part? (You owe Him.)

Wherever we stray and whenever we fall short, Jesus invites us to receive the free gift of his forgiveness and love. This is a gift that is not dependent upon us, but dependent upon Him. Thanks be to God!