

Study Guide



*ADULT BIBLE STUDY
IN BASIC ENGLISH*

**JESUS IN THE
GOSPEL OF
MARK**

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Dallas, Texas

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN BASIC ENGLISH
STUDY GUIDE
Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

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Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Who is Jesus? What do we think about Him? That question is one which people have had to answer since Jesus was on the earth. Wherever Jesus went, people had to decide about Him. People had to make a choice. They were either for Him or against Him. The people in all walks of life talked about Jesus. The common people as well as their rulers wondered about Him. Even after His death, people were forced to make decisions about Him. His closest friends said He had risen from the dead. What were people to think?

This same question---Who is Jesus and what do we think about Him? ---was the question for first readers of the Gospel of Mark. We believe the Gospel of Mark was the first Gospel that was written. It came about thirty-five years after Jesus' death and resurrection. The early Christian **preachers** had preached about Jesus. Now Mark wrote down His life's story.

It was hard to be a Christian in Rome at that time. Christians had to know what kind of person Jesus was. They had to understand His message. They had to be so sure of Him that they could be ready to give their lives for Him.

Mark's message about Jesus gives us **hope**. It helps us know we can follow Jesus. It helps us know Him. Reading and studying Mark's message can help us share the message with others.

As you study Jesus in the gospel of Mark, you may see Him in a new way. You may decide to follow Him more closely. You will learn more about Him.

WORD STUDY

preachers: people who proclaim the good news about Jesus

hope: confident expectation and certainty

Unit 1—Beginning His Ministry

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◆ Jesus in the Gospel of Mark ◆



Adult Bible Study in Basic English

UNIT 1: BEGINNING HIS MINISTRY

Lesson 1
**Jesus Proclaims and
Lives the Good News**
Mark 1:9-15, 29-39

Lesson 2
**Jesus Faces Conflict
(Trouble)**
Mark 2:1-17, 3:1-6

Lesson 3
**Jesus Finds Different
Responses**
Mark 3:7-35

Lesson 4
**Jesus Interprets His
Ministry**
Mark 4:1-20

UNIT 1 BEGINNING HIS MINISTRY

Sometimes in my group of internationals we play a game. In this game one person tells another person a story in English. Then, that person repeats the same story to another. This goes on until the last person hears the story. He then tells the story as he heard it. What he tells the group is always different from the first story.

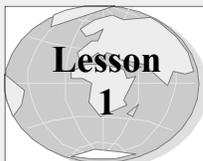
The people playing this game tell the same story. But no two people tell the story the same way. Something is always different. Some things are left out of the story. The story may begin in a different place. The story is true, but it is different in the way it is told.

This is true of the books of the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell the story of Jesus' life. But each book is different. They tell different parts of the life of Jesus.

Why are they different? The men who wrote the gospels were different people. They each saw Jesus in different ways. They wrote with different reasons. This does not make the Bible untrue. It means that we see the richness of God's word. We see Jesus in different ways. We are able to understand more about Him as we read and study the scriptures.

In the four lessons in this unit, Mark starts the story of Jesus' ministry without telling us much about His background. Instead, we see the power of His teaching (Lesson One). We see the problems He had with the religious leaders (Lesson Two). We see how the people responded to His preaching (Lesson Three). We see how Jesus used parables to teach about the kingdom of God (Lesson Four). .

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*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 1:9-15, 29-39

Memory Verse

“A voice came from heaven and said, ‘You are My much-loved Son. I am very happy with you.’”

Mark 1:11

Word List

baptize: to place a person in water; a Christian rite

approve: to agree

dove: a bird, often a sign of peace

gentleness: kindness

wilderness: as in a forest or desert

miracle: an event that is not natural

Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News

Where does a person turn to learn about Jesus? Mark’s Gospel tells the story in an easy-to-understand way. He begins his gospel in the wilderness. It was the place where John the Baptist was preaching. Suddenly, Jesus came on the scene. The attention shifted to Jesus. In these opening verses, Jesus began His ministry.

Jesus Gets Ready for His Ministry (1:9-15)

John the Baptist preached in the desert. He said people should be **baptized** to show that they were sorry for their sins. They were forgiven if they were truly sorry. People from all over the land came to be baptized by John. John told the people that One was coming Who was greater than he.

Jesus left His home in Nazareth. He went to the place where John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing. Jesus was baptized by John. Why do you think Jesus chose to be baptized?

John baptized people to show they were sorry for their sins. They wanted to show they would sin no more. Why would Jesus want to be baptized? He had never sinned. He did not need baptism.

For thirty years Jesus had stayed in Nazareth. He had worked hard and done what He could for His family. He must have known that the time was coming for His work for God. He waited for a sign. John was that sign. This was the time for Jesus to begin His work for the Lord.

It is true that Jesus did not need to repent from sin. His baptism was not for Himself, but so that people could know Who

**Things To
Think About**

1. Jesus came to earth to establish the kingdom of God.
2. Jesus can change darkness into light.
3. He can change death into life.
4. We need to come to Him so He can touch our lives with His power.
5. We need to tell others about Him so they might know the life that comes only through Jesus, our Savior.
6. Do you have a place where you can be alone with God? You need to have a place where you can listen as well as talk to Him.

He was. He wanted people to understand that He was the Son of God.

Jesus needed to be **approved** by God. It was not easy to leave His family and His home. He needed to know that He was doing God's will. He needed to be sure that He was doing what God wanted Him to do.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up. God spoke to Jesus. He said, "You are my much-loved son. I am very happy with you."

At His baptism, Jesus heard God say that He was doing the right thing. He could be sure that God approved of what He was planning to do. For Jesus, it was a moment when He was made ready for action.

The Holy Spirit came down like a **dove**. The dove is a symbol of **gentleness**. John had preached about the terrible things which could happen. Jesus had a message about the good news. From the very beginning, Jesus had a message of gentleness. He would defeat evil, but His ministry would be one of love.

After His baptism, Jesus went into the **wilderness**. It is hard for us to understand the reason He went there. But it was part of God's plan. Jesus would face all kinds of problems. He would be tempted to do things against God's will. It was a time to give Him strength to face the problems to come.

For forty days Satan tried to tempt Jesus. But Jesus did not give in to Satan. He did not take the easy way. Jesus was not fooled by Satan. He was ready to begin His ministry.

The Power of His Ministry (Mark 1:29-34)

Jesus did more than preach to the people. He showed His power. He did many wonderful things. The people were amazed at these things. He did things which worried the religious leaders. By His power, Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee. People became loyal to Him. They saw Him heal people who were sick.

One of the first healings Mark tells us about was Peter's mother-in-law. The lady was very sick. After Jesus healed her, she got out of bed and began to care for them. This tells us something. When we become part of God's children, we begin to care for others. Jesus saves us for service to others.

Neither illness nor demons could stand against Jesus. He came preaching the good news, but He showed compassion, too. Compassion is when we show love and sorrow for another person's problems. We want to help when it is possible. Jesus came preaching, but His ministry was helping others too.

The Purpose of His Ministry (1:35-39)

That was a very busy day for Jesus. He had gone to Capernaum to worship. He taught a Bible lesson. The people were glad to listen. Then Jesus healed a sick man in the synagogue (Jewish house of worship). After Jesus and His disciples went to Peter's house, Jesus healed the mother-in-law. When evening came, people came from all over the city to be healed of their sickness. Jesus healed many of them.

When you or I have had a very busy day, we often rest the next day. But Jesus did not rest long. Early in the morning, before the sun was up, Jesus went to a place where He could be alone. He needed time to pray. He needed time to prepare for the days to come. His time spent in talking with God helped Him prepare for what was ahead of Him.

The main thought of Jesus was to preach the good news. He preached in the synagogues and in the desert. He went through the towns preaching God's word. He did many wonderful **miracles**. Great crowds came to hear Him. Many sick people came also to be healed.

Mark 1:9-15, 29-39

9 Jesus came to the Jordan River from the town of Nazareth in the country of Galilee. He was baptized by John.

10 As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, He saw heaven open up. The Holy Spirit came down on Him like a dove.

11 A voice came from heaven and said, “You are My much-loved Son. I am very happy with You.”

12 At once the Holy Spirit sent Jesus to a desert.

13 He was tempted by Satan for forty days there. He was with wild animals but angels took care of Him.

14 After John the Baptist was put in prison, Jesus came to the country of Galilee. He preached the Good News of God.

15 He said, “The time has come. The holy nation of God is near. Be sorry for your sins, turn from them, and believe the Good News.”

29 Jesus and His followers came out of the Jewish place of worship. Then they went to the house of Simon and Andrew. James and John went with them.

30 They told Jesus about Simon’s mother-in-law who was in bed, very sick.

31 He went and took her by the hand and raised her up. At once her sickness was gone. She got up and cared for them.

32 In the evening as the sun went down, the people took all who were sick to Jesus.

They took those who had demons to Him.

33 All the town gathered at the door.

34 Jesus healed those who were sick of many kinds of diseases. He put out many demons. Jesus would not allow the demons to speak because they knew Who He was.

35 In the morning before the sun was up, Jesus went to a place where He could be alone. He prayed there.

36 Simon and the others looked for Jesus.

37 They found Him and said, “All the people are looking for You.”

38 Jesus said to the followers, “Let us go to the towns near here so I can preach there also. That is why I came.”

39 He went through Galilee. He preached in their places of worship and put out demons.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 2:1-17, 3:1-6

Memory Verse

"I am doing this so that you may know the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins."

Mark 2:10

Word List

conflict: disagreement; to do battle

decision: to make up one's mind

synagogues: a place where Jewish people teach and preach

Sanhedrin: the highest Jewish court

Jesus Faces Conflict

Jesus did things that brought Him into much **conflict** with the religious leaders. Jesus offered forgiveness. He healed a man on the Sabbath. He called a tax collector to be His disciple. All these actions caused conflict with the religious leaders. The religious leaders were not willing to change. They were very traditional. Traditionalism is the belief that only the way things were done in the past is the right way. Jesus had a problem with the religious leaders over traditionalism. He wanted to establish God's kingdom on earth. They wanted to do things as they always had. So they became enemies of Jesus.

Jesus Returns to Capernaum (Mark 2:1-5)

Jesus spent time preaching and ministering in Galilee. Then He returned to Capernaum. Mark calls Capernaum *home*. It is possible that Peter's home in Capernaum was the headquarters for Jesus' ministry.

Jesus became well known in the area. Everywhere He went great crowds gathered. His disciples were among them. They wanted to learn from Jesus and be blessed by Him. In the crowds were people who needed His healing mercy. Some were curious about Him. And some were the religious leaders who were nervous about this person from Galilee.

Jesus' main purpose was not to heal. His main purpose was to speak God's word and tell them of God's love for them. This *word* was the word of God's love and forgiveness. He told them of God's hope for them.

**Things To
Think About**

1. Do you believe that Jesus can forgive us when we sin?
2. Jesus did not return criticism with criticism.
3. What sacrifices have we made to follow Jesus?

One time four men interrupted Jesus' sermon. They wanted Jesus to heal their friend. It was so crowded that they could not get in the door. So the men removed the roof and let the man down to Jesus.

It must have been a wonderful moment. Jesus could see the four friends and the sick man had faith. They believed Jesus could heal their sick friend. They waited to see Jesus work a miracle. And He did.

The religious leaders could see the crippled man stand up and walk. They did not believe Jesus was divine. They thought He must be fooling the people.

The people who saw the miracle thought differently. They were sure of Jesus. They were grateful and amazed. They had never seen anything like that before.

Calling Levi (Mark 2:13-17)

The days came when Jesus could no longer preach in the **synagogues**. The leaders of the synagogues were against Jesus. He preached by the lake. His church was in the open air. He preached on a hillside or in a boat. He would preach and teach as He walked with His followers.

As Jesus walked along, He saw Levi, a tax collector, sitting at his desk. Tax collectors were hated. They were not honest men. They took money from people and kept much of it for themselves. The tax collectors served Rome. They turned their backs on their fellow citizens. People said bad things about tax collectors.

When Jesus asked Levi to be His disciple, Levi left his desk immediately. He became Jesus' follower forever. This was not an easy **decision**. The disciples who were fishermen could have returned to fish. But Levi could not be a tax collector again. When he followed Jesus, he gave up his old life completely.

Levi gave a banquet for Jesus. He wanted his friends to meet Jesus. He wanted Jesus to meet his friends. This makes a wonderful picture. Every one of us should want to give our lives to Jesus. And we should honor our friends by introducing them to Jesus.

The religious leaders hated tax collectors. They asked Jesus' disciples why Jesus was eating with them. They told Him what the religious leaders said.

Jesus told them that He was like a doctor. A doctor cannot heal the sick unless he is with them. Jesus could only heal people if He was among them. Jesus came to make us well.

Making the Man's Hand Whole (Mark 3:16)

The third subject in our text is in a

synagogue. It is already clear that Jesus and the religious leaders had problems. To go back to a synagogue was a brave thing to do. Jesus was not one to run away from a problem.

The **Sanhedrin** were at the synagogue. It was their duty to deal with anyone who tried to mislead the people. They were not there to worship and learn.

A man with a crippled hand was there. He had not been born that way. Some illness had caused him to lose his strength. He needed the hand so he could work. He wanted Jesus to heal him.

It was against the religious laws to do work on the Sabbath. Jesus could have refused to help the man. But Jesus healed him even though He knew the religious leaders were looking for a reason to accuse Him.

Jesus told the man to stand up. He wanted everyone to see what He was doing. The religious leaders were quiet. But the people were amazed. They believed. But the religious leaders were angry. They went away and planned to do away with Jesus. They did not understand the wonderful things they had seen.

Mark 2:1-17, 3:1-6

Mark 2:1 After some days Jesus went back to the city of Capernaum. Then news got around that He was home.

2 Soon many people gathered there. There was no more room, not even at the door. He spoke the Word of God to them.

3 Four men came to Jesus carrying a man who could not move his body.

4 These men could not get near Jesus because of so many people. They made a hole in the roof of the house over where Jesus stood. Then they let down the bed with the sick man on it.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the sick man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

6 Some teachers of the Law were sitting there. They thought to themselves,

7 "Why does this Man talk like this? He is speaking as if He is God! Who can forgive sins? Only One can forgive sins and that is God!"

8 At once Jesus knew the teachers of the Law were thinking this. He said to them, "Why do you think this in your hearts?"

9 Which is easier to say to the sick man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your bed, and start to walk?'

10 I am doing this so you may know the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." He said to the sick man who could not move his body,

11 "I say to you, 'Get up. Take your bed and go to your home.'"

12 At once the sick man got up and took his bed and went away. Everybody saw him. They were all surprised and wondered about it. They thanked God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

13 Jesus walked along the seashore again. Many people came together and He taught them.

14 He walked farther and saw Levi (Matthew)

the son of Alphaeus. Levi was sitting at his work gathering taxes. Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." Levi got up and followed Him.

15 Jesus ate in Levi's house. Many men who gather taxes and others who were sinners came and sat down with Jesus and His followers. There were many following Him.

16 The teachers of the Law and the proud religious law-keepers saw Jesus eat with men who gather taxes and others who were sinners. They said to His followers, "Why does He eat and drink with men who gather taxes and with sinners?"

17 Jesus heard it and said to them, "People who are well do not need a doctor. Only those who are sick need a doctor. I have not come to call those who are right with God. I have come to call those who are sinners."

Mark 3:1 Jesus went into the Jewish place of worship again. A man was there with a dried-up hand.

2 The proud religious law-keepers watched Jesus to see if He would heal the man on the Day of Rest. They wanted to have something to say against Jesus

3 Jesus said to the man with the dried-up hand, "Stand up."

4 Then Jesus said to the proud religious law-keepers, "Does the Law say to do good on the Day of Rest or to do bad, to save life or to kill?" But they said nothing.

5 Jesus looked around at them with anger. He was sad because of their hard hearts. Then He said to the man, "Put out your hand." He put it out and his hand was healed. It was as good as the other.

6 The proud religious law-keepers went out and made plans with the followers of King Herod how they might kill Jesus.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 3:7-35

Memory Verse

"Whoever does what
My Father wants is
My brother and My
sister and My
mother."

Mark 3:35

Word List

demon: an evil spirit

Messiah: the prom-
ised deliverer of the
Jews

criticism: finding
fault

Jesus Finds Different Responses

As Jesus continued His ministry, He found different responses from His friends and from His enemies. The people who were close to Him saw something of His greatness. Some thought He might be the Messiah. Others thought He was just a great teacher. Some followed Him because of His miracles. But some thought He was not honest. They thought He was pretending to be something He was not. We will study the different responses of the people in this lesson.

The Crowd (Mark 3:7-12)

Jesus must have been tired. He needed a rest. But crowds of people followed Him everywhere He went. They stood so close to Him that He had a boat ready to leave the crowd. Think what it must have been like. People came from south, east, and west. They wanted to see for themselves.

Why was the crowd rushing to be with Jesus? They had heard that Jesus could heal the sick. He touched sick people and they were healed. There were some who did not want to wait. They wanted to touch Jesus. They pressed so close to Jesus that He told His disciples to have a boat ready if He needed it.

There were also **demons** in the crowd. Jesus spoke strong words to them. He told them not to tell anyone about Him. He did not want the religious people from Jerusalem to think He was friends with demons. Also, He was not ready for people to call Him the **Messiah**.

**Things To
Think About**

1. What are some criticisms about the church today?
2. How can we serve Jesus better today?
3. What talents has the Lord given you that you might use to spread the good news?
4. What does it mean to be a disciple today?

The Twelve (Mark 3:13-19)

The crowds of people followed Jesus. But Jesus knew He had not come to be a popular teacher. He had not come only to heal sick people. The purpose of Jesus' life was to give His life for all of us. He knew He did not have much time. So Jesus looked for men and women to start His church. He chose twelve men to be His special friends and helpers. He called them disciples.

In John 15:16, Jesus told His disciples, "You have not chosen me, I have chosen you. I have set you apart for the work of bringing in fruit. Your fruit should last. And whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you."

Jesus knew the ones who were right for the job. He knew the ones God could use in this special way. So Jesus called the twelve men to be His disciples.

We can learn from this story. Jesus calls all sorts of people to do His work in this world. The disciples came from all walks of life. They had different ways of looking at things. They had different talents, just as we do today. We all can work for the Lord. Each work for the Lord is important.

I have a friend who is very old. She has spent her life doing the Lord's work. Now she has poor health. She cannot get out to go to church. But she can talk on the telephone. She calls people to tell them to come to church. She calls people when they are sick. She keeps in touch with many people in the Lord's name. She does what she can. She shows us what the Lord means to her.

The people chosen by Jesus were not smarter than other people. They were people like you and me. But Jesus saw something special about those people. They were ready to do everything they could to follow Jesus.

The Critics (Mark 3:22-30)

Some religious leaders came to hear Jesus. They decided Jesus must be a friend of Satan. That thought was very strong **criticism** of Jesus. What did they see? They saw great crowds of people coming to hear Jesus speak. They saw many people coming to be healed. Some said Jesus was the Messiah.

The religious leaders saw the great things Jesus did. They could not say He had no power. So they said His power was of evil.

Read Mark 3:23 again. Jesus spoke to the people in parables. (A parable is a picture-story.) Jesus was not working *with* Satan. He was working *against* him.

Jesus' mother and brothers were worried about Him. They were afraid He might be tired and sick. But Jesus said something that is very important to us

today. He let us know that we are all part of the family of God. Anyone--men or women, young or old, rich or poor—if he chooses to do the will of God, can be a part of the family of God. What will your response be to Jesus?

Mark 3:7-35

Mark 3:7 Jesus went with His followers to the sea. Many people followed Him from the countries of Galilee and Judea.

8 They followed from Jerusalem and from the country of Idumea. They came from the other side of the Jordan River and from the cities of Tyre and Sidon. Many people heard all that Jesus was doing and came to Him.

9 He told His followers to have a small boat ready for Him because so many people might push Him down.

10 He had healed so many that the sick people were pushing in on Him. They were trying to put their hands on Him.

11 When demons saw Him, they got down at His feet and cried out, "You are the Son of God!"

12 He spoke strong words that the demons should tell no one who He was.

13 He went up on a mountain and called those He wanted. They followed Him.

14 He picked out twelve followers to be with Him so He might send them out to preach.

15 They would have the right and the power to heal diseases and to put out demons.

16 Jesus gave Simon another name, Peter.

17 James and John were brothers. They were the sons of Zebedee. He named them Boanerges, which means, The Sons of Thunder.

18. The others were Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite,
19 and Judas Iscariot. Judas was the one who handed Jesus over to be killed.

20 When Jesus came into a house, many people gathered around Him again. Jesus and His followers could not even eat.

21 When His family heard of it, they went to take Him. They said, "He must be crazy."

22 Teachers of the Law came down from Jerusalem. They said, "Jesus has Satan in Him. This Man puts out demons by the king of demons."

23 Jesus called them to Him and spoke to them in picture-stories. He said, "How can the devil put out the devil?"

24 A nation cannot last if it is divided against itself.

25 A family cannot last if it is divided against itself.

26 If the devil fights against himself and is divided, he cannot last. He will come to an end.

27 No man can go into a strong man's house and take away his things, unless he ties up the strong man first. Only then can he take things from his house.

28 For sure, I tell you, all sins will be forgiven people, and bad things they speak against God.

29 But if anyone speaks bad things against the Holy Spirit, he will never be forgiven. He is guilty of a sin that lasts forever."

30 Jesus told them this because they said, "He has a demon."

31 Then His mother and brothers came and stood outside. They sent for Jesus.

32 Many people were sitting around Him. They said, "See! Your mother and brothers are outside looking for You."

33 He said to them, "Who is My mother or My brothers?"

34 He turned to those sitting around Him and said, "See! My mother and My brothers!"

35 Whoever does what My Father wants is My brother and My sister and My mother."



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 4:1-20

Memory Verse

The seed that fell on good ground is like people who hear the Word and understand it. Mark 4:20

Word List

grammar and arithmetic: subjects taught in school
immediate: done at once
accepted: took something which was offered

Jesus Interprets His Ministry

Anyone who teaches children is a very important person. That person does more than teach **grammar and arithmetic**. He or she helps children learn the important lessons of life. My parents were both teachers. Early in my life I learned to appreciate good teachers. Good teachers can cause a boy or girl to try harder. They can help a young person succeed to the best of his ability.

Jesus told the good news. He healed many sick people. But He was also a teacher. He explained the kingdom of God by using parables (word pictures). Today we will study one of His most important parables--the parable of the sower.

The Story (Mark 4:19)

The people were beside the lake. The ground sloped up from the water. It was as if the people were in a natural theater. Jesus was sitting in a small boat just off the shore. Jesus told a story of a farmer sowing seed. The people knew what He was talking about. They had either planted seed themselves, or seen others do it. Jesus started His story with things that can be seen by people. Then He went on to get people to understand things they had never thought of before. He led people to think of heavenly things. This is the way Jesus taught.

Jesus told a simple story. But the story had heavenly meanings. What would happen to the seeds planted by the farmer? Jesus gave four possible results.

A farmer would walk as he sowed his seed. Part of the ground had not been broken up by the plow. It was packed hard.

**Things To
Think About**

1. Why did Jesus teach in parables?
2. What does the parable of the sower tell us about the results of telling Jesus' message?
3. How can we sow the Word of God in the world today?

The seeds that fell on this ground could not go into the dirt. They lay on the ground to be eaten by birds. These seeds grew no fruit. They never had time to grow in the field.

Much of the land in Palestine was a thin layer of soil. It was on a bed of rock. When the seed fell on this thin layer of soil, it would grow quickly. But it could not send down roots. The sun quickly dried up the plants. They could not produce any fruit.

Other bits of seed fell on better ground. These seeds grew. But weeds grew there also. The weeds choked the plants before they could produce fruit.

The crop was not a failure though. "Some seed fell on good ground" (4:8). The roots grew and no weeds choked them. The seeds bore fruit--many times more than the farmer expected.

Jesus ended the parable by telling the people, "You have ears, then listen" (4:9). He was not talking about the kind of hearing we do with our ears. He was talking about hearing with our hearts.

The Disciples Have Questions

Jesus' disciples were having a hard time understanding Jesus' parables. They wondered why He taught in parables. Why did Jesus teach this way?

Jesus found many things in life which are signs that lead people to God. We only have to look around ourselves. Jesus did not study His stories before He told them. They

were not rehearsed. Jesus thought of and told His stories at once.

The parables were meant to be heard. They were told to bring an **immediate** understanding. It is only now that we can read and study them. We must not try to find a hidden meaning in every word. We must look for the great idea that jumps out at us.

Jesus showed the disciples, through parables, that God's rule in our hearts is shown in Jesus' coming. Jesus showed the truth to His disciples and to all of us who have **accepted** Him in real faith. Jesus explains (4:13-20).

It is easy to see that Jesus was not telling the people how to farm the land. The parable is not about a farmer who sows seed. It is about a witness who sows the word of God. The farmer in the story shows how we are to spread that word. It shows how different people will respond to the word.

The person who sows the word can be anyone. It is the responsibility of all of us. We are to be witnesses. We are to tell others about God and His Son, Jesus.

Jesus told us as the word of God is

sown some people will respond. The love of God will take root in their hearts. The fruit of the kingdom of God is produced. These people will grow in their understanding. They will put their understanding into practice in their lives. They will bear fruit for God.

Things to Think About

Jesus' parable reminds us that we are to be His witnesses. We can share the message of the gospel with the people we know. How will others hear about Jesus unless we tell them?

Everyone who hears the message will not respond. But many will hear and understand. Often our work for the Lord seems to produce no fruit. But this parable lets us know that a great harvest will come at the end of the day.

Mark 4:1-20

Mark 4:1 Jesus began to teach by the sea-shore again. Many people gathered around Him. There were so many He had to get into a boat and sit down. The people were on the shore.

2 He taught them many things by using picture-stories. As He taught, He said,

3 “Listen! A man went out to plant seed.

4 As he planted the seed, some fell by the side of the road. Birds came and ate them.

5 Some seed fell among rocks. It came up at once because there was so little ground.

6 But it dried up when the sun was high in the sky because it had no root.

7 Some seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew and did not give the seed room to grow. This seed gave no grain.

8 Some seed fell on good ground. It came up and grew and gave much grain. Some gave thirty times as much grain. Some gave sixty times as much grain. Some gave one hundred times as much grain.”

9 He said to them, “You have ears, then listen!”

10 Those who were with Jesus and the twelve followers came to Him when He was alone. They asked about the picture-story.

11 He said to them, “You were given the secrets about the holy nation of God. Everything is told in picture-stories to those who are outside the holy nation of God.

12 They see, but do not know what it means. They hear, but do not understand. If they did, they might turn to God and have their sins forgiven.”

13 Jesus said to them, “Do you not understand this picture-story? Then how will you understand any of the picture-stories?”

14 What the man plants is the Word of God.

15 Those by the side of the road are the ones who hear the Word. As soon as they hear it, the devil comes and takes away the Word that is planted in their hearts.

16 The seed that fell among rocks is like people who receive the Word with joy when they hear it.

17 Their roots are not deep so they live only a short time. When sorrow and trouble come because of the Word, they give up and fall away.

18 The seed that was planted among thorns is like some people who listen to the Word.

19 But the cares of this life let thorns come up. A love for riches and always wanting other things let thorns grow. These things do not give the Word room to grow so it does not give grain.

20 The seed that fell on good ground is like people who hear the Word and understand it. They give much grain. Some give thirty times as much grain. Some give sixty times as much grain. Some give one hundred times as much grain.”

Sharing His Power



Adult Bible Study in Basic English

UNIT 2: SHARING HIS POWER

Lesson 5
Jesus Shows His Power
Mark 4:35-41, 5:21-43

Lesson 6
Jesus Shows
Compassion for People
Mark 6:30-52

Lesson 7
Jesus Broadens His
Ministry
Mark 7:1-8, 14-38

Lesson 8
Jesus Calls for Personal
Decision
Mark 8:27-38

UNIT 2 SHARING HIS POWER

We see all kinds of power every day. We see electrical power. We see the power of money. We see our elected officials using political power. We also see the power of sin. Drugs and alcohol have power over people. A selfish person has power to hurt others. But we also see God's power present in our world. He helps us in many ways. His power is present through the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of Mark begins by telling of the wonderful things Jesus was doing. In Mark 1:27 we read, "The people were all surprised and wondered. They asked each other, 'What is this? Is this a new teaching? He speaks with power even to the demons and they obey Him!'"

Unit Two, Showing His Power, tells us more about what Jesus did. His actions tell us about Who He was and is. In Mark 8:27-38 we see the call for each of us to decide for ourselves Who He is. The first half of Mark's message is about Jesus' power. We can understand Him more easily. It also sets the scene for His suffering.

These lessons show Jesus' special power. They show that He was the real Son of God. He was God's Son Who came to rule with power and love.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 4:35-41;5:21-43

Memory Verse

He said to His followers, "Why are you so full of fear? Do you not have faith?"

Mark 4:40

Word List

opportunity: a good time or occasion

grief: sadness

resurrection: coming alive again

Jesus Shows His Power

Christ has power over nature, sickness, and death. We can be sure that Jesus cares about people. He loves us. He has the power to help us through all our troubles.

Have you been to a hospital lately? There are room after room full of sick people. Illness and death come to all of us at sometime. Does this mean that Jesus does not care for us?

A few years ago, I was very ill. I had two cancer operations. The doctors gave me chemotherapy. Chemotherapy drugs kill the cancer cells. The drugs do good but they also make you very sick. The doctors told me I might not live.

It may seem strange to you, but I was not afraid. I knew that I might die. I might have to leave my husband and family. But all through that illness, I was happy. I knew that I would go to a better place. I knew that I would go to be with Jesus.

All of us have problems. We often face real problems, but we can face them full of power. That power comes through belief in the power of God. Through faith in Jesus Christ, our problems are turned into **opportunities**.

Power over Nature (Mark 4:35-41)

Jesus asked the disciples, some of whom had been boatmen for many years, to take Him to the other side of the lake. It was late in the afternoon. Jesus had been teaching all day. He was very tired. It would be good to rest a while away from the crowd of people.

The crowd could have followed around the lake, but it was

**Things To
Think About**

1. When have you felt without power in your own strength?
2. How do these scriptures help us find strength for the problems of life?
3. These scriptures tell us that Jesus cares for us. He will help us through all the storms of life.

almost dark. Mark tells us that other boats went with them. A very strong storm came up. Storms were common on this lake. But this was not a small storm.

Mark says the waves were coming over the side of the boat. Imagine how afraid the boatmen were. They were afraid they would sink. Think how they must have been rowing the boat, bailing water as fast as they could. They held on to keep from washing overboard. The storm lasted a long time. They must have been tired as well as afraid. Against nature, they were without power.

Jesus was asleep. He was sleeping in the back part of the boat. The boat was tossing about in the water. The waves pounded the boat. The wind screamed. The disciples were shouting to each other. And still Jesus slept.

The storm was too much for the disciples to stand. They were very afraid. So they woke Jesus. They said, “Teacher, do you not care that we are about to die?” (4:38). Jesus got up and spoke to the winds and waves. “Be still,” He said, and they were still.

The disciples believed in Jesus, but they had much to learn. It was harder for Jesus to help them understand than it was for Him to calm the wind and waves. They came to respect Jesus more than they feared the storm. They saw His power over nature.

We, too, are to respect God more than we fear the problems we face in our lives. God is more powerful than anything on earth.

Power over Disease and Death (Mark 5:21-34)

Jesus and the disciples crossed the lake back to Galilee. They found another crowd there. There were other problems too. Jairus was a ruler of the Jewish place of worship. It took courage for Jairus to come to Jesus. His place in the house of worship might be taken away from him.

Jairus must have seen Jesus teach and heal. Jairus was frightened. His dear daughter was very sick. He was afraid she would die. He wanted to do anything he could to save her. So he came to Jesus.

Jesus started to go to the home of Jairus. The crowd was all around Him. A woman in the crowd was sick. She had been sick many years. She only wanted to touch His robe. She knew she could be made well again if only she could touch His clothing. As soon as she touched His robe, she was healed.

Jesus knew that power had gone out of Him. He said, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be healed of your sickness" (Mark 5:34). Then Jesus went on to Jairus' house.

Grief (Mark 5:35-41)

Some people came from Jairus' house to say that his daughter had died. They said Jesus was not needed. Jairus was full of **grief**. But Jesus gave a surprising answer. He said to the father of the dead girl, "Do not be afraid. Just believe" (Mark 5:36).

Faith always wins against fear. "Just believe" is the most important thing. Peter, James, and John went with Jesus. When they got to the house, there was much grief. The child was dead. But Jesus said, "Why is there so much noise and crying? The girl is not dead. She is sleeping" (Mark 5:29).

There were people who laughed at Jesus. They knew the child was dead. How could He bring her back to life? Those people knew that a sick child could be made well. But no one could bring a dead child back to life.

Still today there are people who laugh at Jesus' death and **resurrection**. They make fun of believers. But the power of Christ will have the last word. He will have the last word in life and in life after death.

Mark 4:35-41; 5:21-43

Mark 4:35. It was evening of that same day. Jesus said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.”

36 After sending the people away, they took Jesus with them in a boat. It was the same boat He used when He taught them. Other little boats went along with them.

37 A bad wind storm came up. The waves were coming over the side of the boat. It was filling up with water.

38 Jesus was in the back part of the boat sleeping on a pillow. They woke Him up, crying out, “Teacher, do You not care that we are about to die?”

39 He got up and spoke sharp words to the wind. He said to the sea, “Be quiet! Be still.” At once the wind stopped blowing. There were no more waves.

40 He said to His followers, “Why are you so full of fear? Do you not have faith?”

41 They were very much afraid and said to each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey Him!”

Mark 5:21 Then Jesus went by boat over to the other side of the sea. Many people gathered around Him. He stayed by the sea-shore.

22 Jairus was one of the leaders of the Jewish place of worship. As Jairus came to Jesus, he got down at His feet.

23 He cried out to Jesus and said, “My little daughter is almost dead. Come and put your hand on her that she may be healed and live.”

24 Jesus went with him. Many people followed and pushed around Jesus.

25 A woman had been sick for twelve years with a flow of blood.

26 She had suffered much because of having many doctors. She had spent all the money she had. She had received no help, but became worse.

27 She heard about Jesus and went among the people who were following Him. She touched His coat.

28 For she said to herself, “If I can only touch His coat, I will be healed.”

29 At once the flow of blood stopped. She felt in her body that she was healed of her sickness.

30 At the same time Jesus knew that power had gone from Him. He turned and said to the people following Him, “Who touched My coat?”

31 His followers said to Him, “You see the many people pushing on every side. Why do You ask, ‘Who touched My coat?’”

32 He looked around to see who had done it,

33 The woman was filled with fear when she knew what had happened to her. She came and got down before Jesus and told Him the truth.

34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free from your sickness.”

35 While Jesus spoke, men came from the house of the leader of the place of worship.

They said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher anymore?”

36 Jesus heard this. He said to the leader of the Jewish place of worship, “Do not be afraid, just believe.”

37 He allowed no one to go with Him but Peter and James and John, the brother of James.

38 They came to the house where the leader of the place of worship lived. Jesus found many people making much noise and crying.

39 He went in and asked them, “Why is there so much noise and crying? The girl is not dead. She is sleeping.”

40 They laughed at Jesus. But He sent them all out of the room. Then He took the girl’s father and mother and those who were with Him.

They went into the room where the girl was.

41 He took the girl by the hand and said, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”

42 At once the girl got up and walked. She was twelve years old. They were very much surprised and wondered about it.

43 He spoke sharp words to them that they should not tell anyone. He told them to give her something to eat.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 6:30-52

Memory Verse

He said, "Take hope.
It is I, do not be
afraid." Mark 6:50

Word List

shore: land by edge of
water

ghost: a spirit

possibility: something
which can happen, be
done, or be used

Jesus Shows Compassion for People

Christians should be like Jesus in the way we help other people. We need to feel compassion toward others. Compassion is at the heart of the Christian faith. Compassion means we feel sorry for others and try to help them.

Jesus, the Son of God, was filled with compassion. Every time we help others we are being more like Jesus. Our church tries to be helpful to people. We have a clothing room for poor people who need clothes. We give food to those who are hungry. At Thanksgiving we take baskets of food to needy families. We do many more things for others. It is good to do all these things. It is important for each of us to have compassion for others. We can all do something to help others.

Rest and Retreat (Mark 6:30-34)

The disciples were tired. They had worked long and hard. They had worked preaching and healing. Yet they were excited. They were eager to tell of the things they had done. They had tried to do and say what they had seen Jesus say and do.

Jesus had compassion on the disciples. He led them into a retreat. This means they would have time to rest. They would have time to get ready for what was to come. He took them by boat to an area by the shore of Galilee. It was a place where they could rest.

The disciples needed rest. But they needed to be healed if they were going to heal others. They needed to be fed with God's

**Things To
Think About**

1. How do you show compassion to others?
2. Are you compassionate toward your enemies as well as your friends?
3. Does your church help others?
4. Does God still do miracles today? Can you tell of one you know about?

word if they were to feed others. If they were to give gifts to others, they needed to receive gifts from God.

But it is not always possible to rest when it is needed. The crowd could see the boat in the water. They ran around the lake to the other side. They were waiting when Jesus and the disciples came to the **shore**. Jesus did not turn them away. He had compassion for them.

A Ministry of Giving (Mark 6:35-44)

It was late afternoon. The people were tired and hungry. The disciples told Jesus about the people. They thought they should send the people away so they could buy something to eat. This was a big crowd of men plus women and children (Mark 6:36)

Sending the people away was the only thing the disciples could think of. It would cost eight months of a person's wages to feed them. There are always those who would push a problem on someone else. But Jesus can help those who want to help others. This is what He did that day.

He had five loaves of bread and two fish. First, He looked up to heaven and gave thanks. Then, He divided the loaves and fish into pieces. When He finished, there were twelve baskets of food left over. Everyone was fed.

We can learn from this story. God will give us help when we need it. Nothing is too big or too hard for our God. We should keep open to the **possibilities** of God. With God as our strength, nothing is impossible.

Jesus Calms the Storm

(Mark 6:45-52)

After the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus told the disciples to go to Bethsaida. He sent the crowds away and went to the hills for prayer. As the disciples rowed away in their boat, the winds blew against them. They were having a hard time crossing the lake.

Jesus saw them from the shore. He saw that they were in trouble. So Jesus came toward them, walking on the lake. The disciples thought Jesus was a **ghost** on the water. They were afraid. But Jesus told them Who He was. He climbed into the boat. He calmed their fears and the sea.

It seems that the disciples were slow learners. They had seen Jesus' miracles before. But they were still amazed at what they saw. Even today, we are often amazed at what we see. It is hard for us to understand. But Christ is always with us. He cares for us and helps us through our troubles. We are never alone.

Mark 6:30-52

Mark 6:30 The followers of Jesus came back to Him. They told Jesus all they had done and taught.

31 He said to them, “Come away from the people. Be by yourselves and rest.” There were many people coming and going. They had had no time even to eat.

32 They went by themselves in a boat to a desert.

33 Many people saw them leave and knew who they were. People ran fast from all the cities and got there first.

34 When Jesus got out of the boat, He saw many people gathered together. He had loving-pity for them. They were like sheep without a shepherd. He began to teach them many things.

35 The day was almost gone. The followers of Jesus came to Him. They said, “This is a desert. It is getting late.

36 Tell the people to go to the towns and villages and buy food for themselves.”

37 He said to them, “Give them something to eat.” They said to Him, “Are we to go and buy many loaves of bread and give it to them?”

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

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

39 Then He told them to have all the people sit down together in groups on the green grass.

40 They sat down in groups of fifty people and in groups of one hundred people.

41 Jesus took the five loaves of bread and

two fish. He looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He broke the loaves in pieces and gave them to the followers to set before the people. He divided the two fish among them all.

42 They all ate and were filled.

43 After that the followers picked up twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish.

44 About five thousand men ate the bread.

45 At once Jesus had His followers get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to the town of Bethsaida. He sent the people away.

46 When they were all gone, He went up to the mountain to pray.

47 It was evening. The boat was half-way across the sea. Jesus was alone on the land.

48 He saw His followers were in trouble.

The wind was against them. They were working very hard rowing the boat. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came to them walking on the sea. He would have gone past them.

49 When the followers saw Him walking on the water, they thought it was a spirit and cried out with fear.

50 For they all saw Him and were afraid. At once Jesus talked to them, He said, “Take hope. It is I, do not be afraid.”

51 He came over to them and got into the boat. The wind stopped. They were very much surprised and wondered about it.

52 They had not learned what they should have learned from the loaves because their hearts were hard.



Adult Bible Study in
Basic English

Bible Text

Mark 7:1-8, 14-37

Memory Verse

"You are putting away the Word of God to keep your own teaching. You are doing many other things like this." Mark 7:13

Word List

tradition: things that have always been done a certain way

argument: for or against something, a debate

Gentile: any person not born a Jew

relationship: a connection between people or things

Jesus Broadens His Ministry

A barrier is like a fence. It stops a person or idea from getting across. We find barriers every day. One barrier is **tradition**. It tries to stop us from trying new things. Another barrier is prejudice. This is when we do not like someone because of his or her race or color. The barrier of hypocrisy is another. It causes people to pay no attention to the truth. Without the truth, we can do nothing. Sometimes it is these barriers that keep us from doing our best.

Jesus never let barriers keep Him from doing the right thing. Being willing to do God's will and having the courage to do the right thing is most important.

Clean and Unclean (Mark 7:1-5)

The difference between Jesus and the religious leaders was more than just an **argument**. Jesus was very different from the religious leaders of the time. In the beginning, the Jewish people had two laws. First, they believed the Ten Commandments. Second, they believed the first five books of the Old Testament.

It is true that the books had rules. But religious leaders had added to those rules. Life was made up of endless rules. Everything had a rule. For example, there was a rule that a person must always wash his or her hands before eating.

This is a good rule. But there are times when it is not possible to wash. The religious leaders were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus. This is why they asked about the disciples not washing their hands before eating.

**Things To
Think About**

1. Did Jesus come to save people from their sin? Or did He come to bless old traditions?
2. What is a genuine relationship with Jesus based on?

The word “unclean” is used here not because the hands were dirty. The religious leaders thought the disciples’ hands were unfit for God’s use.

These rules were religion to the religious leaders. They had made many rules for religion. Jesus’ ideas about religion were very different from the ideas of the religious leaders.

Jesus Explains (Mark 7:14-23)

These verses are most important. Jesus ignored some of the rules which the religious leaders taught. The people must have been amazed to hear what He was saying. Jesus said that it is not what we take *into* the body that is sinful. Evil thoughts, murder, adultery and greed all come *out* of the body. Turning to God brings change to the inside of the body. It is inside where pure hearts are made clean before God.

At first, Jesus’ teaching was hard for the disciples to understand. These were new ideas. Later, it led to a full understanding of Jesus’ kingdom.

The Barrier of Prejudice (Mark 7:24-30)

After His debate with the religious leaders, Jesus needed rest and quiet. He left Galilee and went to a place about forty miles away. He chose a place where He could rest from all the stress on His body and soul.

The place Jesus went was in the area of Phoenicia. Phoenicia was between Galilee and the sea coast. Sidon was a very old town in Phoenicia. It had a natural harbor. It was

very important. The people had their own kings, their own gods, and their own money.

Jesus was in the land of the **Gentiles**. In that day, Gentiles were thought to be *unclean*. Jesus had just taught the difference between what makes a person clean or unclean. Do you think Jesus was teaching about the difference between clean and unclean people?

Perhaps Jesus was saying that the Gentiles are not unclean. He may have meant that Gentiles have their place in God's kingdom. It is true that we all have a place in God's kingdom.

In His own country, Jesus was being attacked. The religious leaders had said He was a sinner because He had broken their rules. The people of Nazareth had not liked Him either.

The time would come when He would face His enemies. But it was not yet time for that. Meanwhile, He would look for peace and quiet.

The story of Jesus and the woman of Phoenicia is interesting. She came to Jesus. She probably had a Greek religion. She probably spoke Syrian. Everything

about this Gentile woman was different to Jewish pride and prejudice. But she came to Jesus anyway, seeking help for her daughter.

Sometimes Christians avoid **relationships** with people who are different. This story tells us we must be ready to help all people any place on earth. Jesus' helped people regardless of race, language, or color.

Hypocrisy

The word *hypocrisy* means pretending we are something we are not. It is pretending to be good when we are not. A hypocrite is a false teacher. The religious leaders were false teachers. They spent much time on detailed rules. These rules were more important to them than a good heart.

Hypocrisy and prejudice are examples of the worst kind of religion. They show a false kind of religion. They are great barriers to helping people become Christians. Our religion must be real. No national, racial, or language barrier should stand in the way of reaching out to all people in the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-37

Mark 7:1. The proud religious law-keepers and some of the teachers of the Law had come from Jerusalem. They gathered around Jesus.

2 They had seen some of His followers eat bread without washing their hands.

3 The proud religious law-keepers and all the Jews never eat until they wash their hands. They keep the teaching that was given to them by their early fathers.

4 When they come from the stores, they never eat until they wash, There are many other teachings they keep. Some are the washing of cups and pots and pans in a special way.

5 Then the proud religious law-keepers and the teachers of the Law asked Jesus, “Why do Your followers not obey the teaching given to them by their early fathers? They eat bread without washing their hands.”

6 He said to them, “Isaiah told about you who pretend to be someone you are not. Isaiah wrote, ‘These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.

7 Their worship of Me is worth nothing. They teach what men say must be done.’ (Isaiah 29:13)

8 You put away the Laws of God and obey the laws made by men.”

14 Jesus called the people to Him again. He said, “Listen to Me, all of, and understand this.

15 It is not what goes into a man’s mouth from the outside that makes his mind and heart sinful. It is what comes out from the inside that makes him sinful.

16 You have ears, then listen!”

17 He went into the house away all the people. His followers to ask about the picture-story.

18 He said to them, “Do you not understand yet? Do you not understand that whatever goes into a man cannot make him sinful?

19 It does not go into his heart, but into his stomach and then on out of his body.” In this way, He was saying that all food is clean.

20 He said, “Whatever comes out of a man is what makes the man sinful.

21 From the inside, out of the heart of men come bad thoughts, sex sins of a married person, sex sins of a person not married, killing other people,

22 stealing, wanting something that belongs

to someone else, doing wrong, lying, having a desire for sex sins, having a mind that is always looking for sin, speaking against God, thinking you are better than you are and doing foolish things.

23 All these bad things come from the inside and make the man sinful.”

24 Jesus went from their towns and cities to the cities of Tyre and Sidon. He went into a house and wanted to stay there without people knowing where He was. But He could not hide Himself.

25 A woman who had a daughter with a demon heard of Him. She came and got down at His feet.

26 The woman was not a Jew. She was from the country of Syrophenicia. She asked Jesus if He would put the demon out of her daughter.

27 Jesus said to her, “Let the children have what they want first. It is wrong to take children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

28 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the pieces that fall from the children’s table.”

29 He said to her, “Because of what you have said, go your way. The demon is gone out of your daughter.”

30 So she went to her house and found the demon was gone and her daughter was lying on the bed.

31 Then Jesus left the cities of Tyre and Sidon. He came back to the Sea of Galilee by way of the land of Decapolis.

32 They took a man to Him who could not hear or speak well. They asked Jesus to put His hand on him.

33 Jesus took him away from the other people. He put His fingers into the man’s ears. He spit and put His finger on the man’s tongue.

34 Then Jesus looked up to heaven and breathed deep within. He said to the man, “Be opened!”

35 At once his ears were opened. His tongue was made loose and he spoke as other people.

36 Then Jesus told them they should tell no one. The more He told them this, the more they told what He had done.

37 They were very much surprised and wondered about it. They said, “He has done all things well. He makes those who could not hear so they can hear. He makes those who could not speak so they can speak.”



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 8:27-38

Memory Verse

Jesus called the people and His followers to Him. He said to them, “If anyone wants to be My follower, he must give up himself and his own desires. He must take up his cross and follow Me.”

Mark 8:34

Word List

missionary: one who goes to other places to spread the good news

decision: to make up one's mind

commitment: a pledge or a promise

Jesus Calls for Personal Decision

When we realize Jesus is the true Son of God, we must decide to follow Him even if we face disgrace or persecution.

Rindo Nong is from Cambodia. He has two jobs. During the week he works and on Sundays Rindo is the pastor of a Cambodian church. He works very hard. He is busy all the time.

Rindo tells of the bad time he and his family had in Cambodia. They had to leave their homes for fear of being killed by bad soldiers. Rindo’s family went to Thailand, to a refugee camp. They did not know anyone. But they met a Baptist **missionary**. They learned about Jesus and decided to follow Him.

Rindo came to the United States as a refugee a long time. Several years ago he went back to Cambodia for a visit. The war is over. The Cambodian people are rebuilding their country.

Now Rindo wants to teach the Cambodian people about Jesus. So every two years, he goes back to his country. He has started several churches there. He saves his money to help them.

One person can do a lot for Jesus. Rindo Nong is making a difference in Cambodia. It would be wonderful if we could all be like Rindo Nong.

The Ministry of Jesus (Mark 7:31-8:26)

After Jesus healed the daughter of the Gentile woman, Mark tells us that Jesus went into the part of the country called Decapolis. There, Jesus healed a man who was deaf. We believe

Things To Think About

1. Why do you think Peter knew who Jesus was, but did not understand the cross?
2. If following Christ doesn't cost you anything, is it worth doing?
3. What has following Jesus cost you?
4. Does anyone you know have trouble realizing Jesus is the Christ? Why?

the man was a Gentile. Jesus was again teaching the disciples that the gospel was for anyone, Gentile or Jew.

Jesus and the disciples got into a boat and crossed the lake again. They went to Dalmanutha. There was a crowd of people there. The religious leaders (Pharisees) joined the crowd. They asked Jesus to give them a sign from heaven. But Jesus would not give them a sign.

Then they went to Bethsaida, where He healed a blind man. On the way back across the lake, the disciples worried. They had brought nothing to eat. Jesus scolded them. He had just fed 5000 people. They should not always worry about food. The disciples were slow to learn and understand.

Revealing the Christ (Mark 8:27-30)

After months of being with Jesus, the disciples had seen many things. They had seen His miracles. He had taught them many things. The disciples now faced a test. Jesus wanted them to know for sure Who He was. He wanted them to know what was coming. This was important for Him and them.

We are faced with the same test. We must make a **decision** too. We must decide if we will follow Jesus. This is a question each person must answer.

Jesus and the disciples went to Caesarea. The name means Caesar's Town. There was a great temple there. Worship of the emperor was very important in this town. Jesus asked them a question, "Who do people say that I am?"

The disciples answered, “Some say John the Baptist and some say Elijah and others say one of the early preachers.” Some people thought He was a great teacher. Others thought He was one of their early leaders.

Later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, they saw what is called “the transfiguration.” This word means that Jesus was changed before their eyes. The disciples saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. “A cloud came over them and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my much-loved Son. Listen to Him.’” It was clear that Jesus was the true Son of God.

Then Jesus asked another question, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ.” As Christ, Jesus is King. He is the high Priest. He will deliver all people from their sins. Peter knew that Jesus was the Christ. But he and the other disciples did not yet understand about His death and glory.

Revealing the Cross (Mark 8:31-33)

Jesus began to explain about His

death. He told them He must be killed. Also, He would come alive again in three days. Peter found the words of Jesus shocking. He scolded Jesus. Jesus was upset to be scolded by one of His chosen ones. Jesus turned on Peter as well as Satan. He said, “Get behind me, Satan!”

Jesus was telling Peter he had missed the point. He did not understand the things of God. He was thinking of the things of men. Peter had much to learn before he understood what Jesus really was doing. He did not understand the deeper meaning of Jesus’ life and death.

Revealing the Commitment (Mark 8:35-37)

The disciples had to accept the coming of Jesus’ crucifixion. They had to be ready to die also. This was hard for the disciples to understand. Today, in some parts of the world, Christians must be ready to die for their beliefs. Jesus taught to lose one’s life for Him is the way to save one’s soul. The high calling of life is to give our lives to Jesus. Gaining the whole world is not worth a single soul.

Mark 8: 27-38

Mark 8:27 Jesus and His followers went from there to the towns of Caesarea Philippi. As they went, He asked His followers “Who do people say that I am?”

28 They answered, “Some say John the Baptist and some say Elijah and others say one of the early preachers.”

29 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said, “You are the Christ.”

30 He told them with strong words that they should tell no one about Him.

31 He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things. He told them that the leaders and the religious leaders of the Jews and the teachers of the Law would have nothing to do with Him. He told them He would be killed and three days later He would be raised from the dead.

32 He had said this in plain words. Peter took Him away from the others and began to speak sharp words to Him.

33 Jesus turned around. He looked at His followers and spoke sharp words to Peter. He said, “Get behind Me, Satan! Your thoughts are not thoughts from God but from men.”

34 Jesus called the people and His

followers to Him. He said to them, “If anyone wants to be My follower, he must give up himself and his own desires. He must take up his cross and follow Me.”

35 If anyone wants to keep his own life safe, he will lose it. If anyone gives up his life because of Me and because of the Good News, he will save it.

36 For what does a man have if he gets all the world and loses his own soul?

37 What can a man give to buy back his soul?

38 Whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words among the sinful people of this day, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in the shining-greatness of His Father and His holy angels.”

Sharing His Power



Adult Bible Study in Basic English

UNIT 3: SUFFERING FOR US

Lesson 9 Jesus Teaches About Service

Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-45

Lesson 10 Jesus Shows His Authority

Mark 11:15-18, 27-12:12

Lesson 11 Jesus Gives His life

Mark 14:12-26, 32-42

Lesson 12 Jesus Is Condemned

Mark 14:53– 15:20

Lesson 13 Jesus Dies and Lives Again

Mark 15:21-41; 16:1-8

UNIT 3 SUFFERING FOR US

In the book of Mark we sense the wonder of Jesus' miracles. We read of His teachings. We look forward to His entry into Jerusalem. In this section we will learn of Jesus' death and burial. We will see His glorious resurrection. (Resurrection is when a person is dead and comes alive again.)

The Gospel is the greatest good news. In it, we can find hope. We can see that the Lord is always with us. He knows of our troubles. He cares about us. He will take care of us when all else is against us.

Some have called this story the greatest story ever told. I think that must be true. I hope you will read these scriptures carefully. Here we can find everything we need to live happy, useful lives.

This unit has an extra lesson. This extra lesson on Mark 13 is put here because it is so important. The meaning of this lesson will be clear as it is studied. Your class can decide how and when to study it.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 9:33-37;
10:35-45

Memory Verse

“For the Son of Man did not come to be cared for. He came to care for others. He came to give His life so that many could be bought by His blood and be made free from sin.” Mark 10:45

Word List

sacrifice: giving up something for one's God

disgusted: unhappy with someone or something

betrayed: to be false or disloyal to another

Jesus Teaches About Service

The disciples were having an argument over who was the greatest. Jesus made them look at a little child. He wanted to teach them that true greatness is found in humble service and self-giving **sacrifice**.

Polly Lyles is a great Christian. She has been “mother” to many different international students for years and years.

Polly meets the young people when they get off the airplane. She brings them to the university. Often these young people have never been away from home. They have come to a new town, in a new country. Many feel lost and afraid. Sometimes Polly has dinners in her home for the international students. The students meet others from different countries. They begin to feel “at home.”

No one pays Polly to do what she does. She does it because she loves Jesus and wants to do what He would do. Polly's health is not very good. But she keeps on doing what she can for international students. It would be wonderful if more people were like Polly Lyles. Polly's life shows that true greatness is found in serving others.

Jesus Tells of His Death (Mark 9:30-32)

We can learn two things about Jesus. First, He was ready to face the cross. But He also faced the little problems of life. People often can face the big problems that come, but little problems bother us. We get excited when someone is late. We

Things To Think About

1. If a person tries to help others, but wants to be praised for it, is he or she great in God's sight?
2. Why did the disciples have so much trouble understanding about His death?
3. The way to be great is to "be last of all and care for all" (Mark 9:35).

are upset over something someone says. We let little things build up in our minds until they are big things.

It is an amazing fact that Jesus could face the cross, and still deal with the small things that came up every day. He did not save only big problems for God's help. Jesus always depended on God. Even for small things, God was His strength.

Second, Jesus had come into the world to save the world. Still, He could give His time to help one person when His help was needed. It is much easier to love the whole world than to care for the needs of one person.

Jesus had the gift of giving Himself to every person. Even today He gives Himself to us if we will accept Him.

While Jesus taught His disciples about His coming death, He did not want anyone to disturb them. He spent time with them. He was getting them ready for what was to come.

Jesus Teaches About the Faith of a Child (9:33-36)

The disciples and Jesus were walking to the city of Capernaum. The disciples were having an argument. They were arguing about who was the greatest. That argument must have upset Jesus.

Jesus knew what would happen to him. He had decided to give His life to pay the penalty for the sin of the entire world. And now, His disciples were spending time worrying about who among them was the greatest. It is easy to understand why Jesus was **disgusted**.

He must have wondered if He could ever make men of the world into men of God. We also get discouraged. There are so many problems in the world. We cannot fix everything. But we can take care of the problems around us. There is always something to be done. We must do what we can.

The disciples still had not realized what was to come. Jesus had told them what waited for Him in Jerusalem. The disciples were still thinking about a kingdom on earth. They thought they would be important in that kingdom.

Jesus gathered the disciples around Him. He explained that they would not become great by being first. They would become great by being servants of others. He showed them that doing good things for others was more important than serving oneself.

Jesus showed the disciples a little child. A little child is not very important. He cannot do much. He needs things done for him. So Jesus was saying, we must give to the person who needs things. By doing this, we are doing what God wants us to do.

On to Jerusalem (10:32-45)

Jesus and the disciples started out on their last trip to Jerusalem. As they walked, Jesus told them again what would happen. When they arrived at the city of Jerusalem, He would be **betrayed**. People would spit upon Him. They would beat Him. And they would finally kill Him.

The other disciples became angry with James and John. The two asked Jesus if they might sit next to Him in heaven. James and John were showing their human side. They did love Jesus and wanted to be with Him.

Jesus did not scold them for wanting to share His glory. Instead, Jesus taught them what they needed to know. He taught them about true greatness. He showed them how to become great.

If a person wants to become great, that person must obey God as well as be a servant to others. That person must be willing to give his or her life for others. Jesus became truly great by doing these things. To become great, we must be willing to do as He showed us.

Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-45

Mark 9:33 They came to the city of Capernaum and were in the house. Jesus asked His followers, “What were you arguing about along the road?”

34 They did not answer. They had been arguing along the road about who was the greatest.

35 Jesus sat down and called the followers to Him.

He said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all. He will be the one to care for all.”

36 Jesus took a child and stood it among them. Then He took the child up in His arms and said to the followers,

37 “Whoever receives one of these little children in My name, receives Me. Whoever will receive Me, receives not Me, but Him Who sent Me.”

Mark 10:35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. They said, “Teacher, we would like to have You do for us whatever we ask You.”

36 He said to them, “What would you like to have Me do for you?”

37 They said to Him, “Let one of us sit by Your right side and the other by Your left side when You receive Your great honor in heaven.”

38 Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Can you take the suffering I am about to take? Can you be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

39 They said to Him, “Yes, we can.” Jesus said to them, “You will, for sure, suffer the way I will suffer. You will be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with.

40 But to sit on My right side or on My left side is not for Me to give. It will be given to those for whom it has been made ready.”

41 The other ten followers heard it. They were angry with James and John.

42 Jesus called them to Him and said, “You know that those who are made leaders over the nations show their power to the people. Important leaders use their power over the people.

43 It must not be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great among you, let him care for you.

44 Whoever wants to be first among you, must be the one who is owned and cares for all.

45 For the Son of Man did not come to be cared for. He came to care for others. He came to give His life so that many could be bought by His blood and be made free from sin.”



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 11:15-18;
v. 27– 12:12

Memory Verse

Jesus said to them,
"Have faith in God."

Mark 11:22

Word List

authority: persons in
charge

accepted: received

defended: to guard
against or fight for

Jesus Shows His Authority

On September 11, 2001, the United States had a crisis. Four airplanes were taken over by hijackers. They caused the planes to crash into the World Trade Center and into the Pentagon. Many people were killed or hurt.

People were shocked. Other bad people sent letters through the mail. These letters carried a terrible disease, anthrax. People were worried and afraid.

The president of the United States took charge. He showed his **authority**. Many people helped him, but he was in charge of everything. It made the people feel better. We need people to take charge who try to do the right thing. It makes us all try to do our part and help make things better.

As Jesus led His disciples into Jerusalem, He took charge of everything. He was sure about what He was doing. Why this change? His time had come. He was preparing for His death and resurrection. He was ready to show that He was the King. He was ready to die for us. In the background verses, we can see Jesus showing His authority in many important actions.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-10)

Jesus and a large group of people went from Bethany early in the morning. The people knew about Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead. They hoped Jesus would do even more wonderful things in Jerusalem.

This large crowd met another even larger crowd just outside Jerusalem. The disciples brought a donkey for Jesus to

**Things To
Think About**

1. Does Jesus' criticism of worship apply to our churches today? How?
2. What can churches learn from the parable of the vineyard?

ride. They put their robes on the donkey for Jesus to sit on. This large group of people, with Jesus riding on the donkey, walked to the Beautiful Gate of Jerusalem.

The people shouted. "Greatest One! Great and honored is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9)

Until this time Jesus had not let anyone tell Who He was. But now, He was glad for people to know He was the Son of God. When He **accepted** the royal honors, Jesus gave the religious leaders a challenge. He showed His authority.

**Jesus Condemns the Fig Tree
(Mark 11:12-14, 20-23)**

Jesus and the disciples spent that night in Bethany. The next day they went again to Jerusalem. On the way Jesus saw a fig tree. It did not have fruit because it was the wrong time of the year. It had only leaves. So Jesus spoke hard words to the tree. Why?

There is a deeper meaning here. When Jesus cursed the fig tree, He was explaining the religious life in Israel. Later, Jesus' actions in the temple carried out the same idea. The barren fig tree was like the barren temple worship, empty and without meaning.

Like the tree, Israel seemed to be healthy. But it was not true. Like the fig tree, Israel was all leaves and no fruit.

Jesus Drives Out the Money Changers (Mark 11:15-18)

During the last week before Jesus died, He entered

Jerusalem again. The broad entrance to the temple had been turned into a market place. There were people selling cattle and sheep. They also sold doves and pigeons for use as sacrifices (gifts to God).

Think of the scene--noisy animals, noisy merchants, and coins changing hands. There were priests, soldiers, children, and beggars. The temple must have been a noisy place and a terrible mess.

Jesus began to drive out the merchants and the money changers. He was angry. He said, "Is it not written, 'My house is to be called a house of prayer for all nations'? You have made it a place of robbers."

What was Jesus doing? He was showing that God wanted His house to be a place where people from all countries could come to worship. It was not just for the people of Israel. It is for all people.

Jesus Defends His Claims

(Mark 11:27-12:12)

Jesus showed His authority by actions. He **defended** His teachings. The

religious leaders asked Him, "How do you have the power to do these things? Who gave you the power and right to do them?"

During that last week, Jesus answered many of their questions. There was a series of debates and parables. The religious leaders tried to trick Jesus by what He said. But He did not fall into their trap. He answered their question by asking a question.

He told the religious leaders a parable about a vineyard. In the parable the owner represents God, the vineyard represents Israel, the tenants represent the religious leaders. The main idea is God gave Israel everything to make it a happy, fruitful nation. The tenants failed to follow God's instructions. In the end, they killed God's son. They were punished by God and He was victorious.

We get a quick look into Jesus' heart. He knew Himself to be God's only Son. He knew that He was going to die. But He knew that He would be resurrected (come back to life again). There is no doubt that Jesus boldly showed His authority.

Mark 11:1-18, 27-12:12

Mark 11:15 Then they came to Jerusalem. Jesus went into the house of God. He began to make the people leave who were selling and buying in the house of God. He turned over the tables of the men who changed money. He turned over the seats of those who sold doves.

16 He would not allow anyone to carry a pot or pan through the house of God.

17 He taught then saying, "Is it not written, 'My house is to be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? You have made it a place of robbers."

18 The teachers of the Law and the religious leaders of the Jews heard it. They tried to find some way to put Jesus to death. But they were afraid of Him because all the people were surprised and wondered about His teaching.

19 When evening came. Jesus and His followers went out of the city.

27 They came again to Jerusalem. Jesus was walking around in the house of God. The religious leaders and the teachers of the Law and other leaders came to Him.

28 They asked, "How do You have the right and the power to do these things? Who gave You the right and the power to do them?"

29 Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing also. If you tell Me, then I will tell you by what right and power I do these things.

30 Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men? Tell Me."

31 They talked among themselves. They said, "If we say from heaven, He will say, 'Why did you not believe him?'"

32 But how can we say men'?" They were afraid of the people because everyone believed that John was one who spoke for God.

33 So they said, "We do not know." Then Jesus said, "Then I will not tell you by what

right and power I do these things."

Mark 12:1 Jesus began to teach them by using picture-stories, saying, "There was a man who planted grapes in a field. He put a fence around it and made a place for making wine. He built a tower to look over the field. Then he let farmers rent it and went into another country.

2 The time came for gathering the grapes. He sent his servant to the farmers to get some of the grapes.

3 The farmers took him and beat him. They sent him back with nothing.

4 The owner sent another servant. The farmers threw stones at him and hit him on the head and did other bad things to him.

5 Again the owner sent another servant. The farmers killed that one. Many other servants were sent. They beat some and they killed others.

6 He had a much-loved son to send yet. So last of all he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

7 The farmers said to themselves, 'This is the one who will get everything when the owner dies. Let us kill him and we will get everything.'

8 They took him and killed him. They threw his body outside the field.

9 What will the owner of the field do? He will come and kill the farmers. He will give the field to other farmers.

10 Have you not read what the Holy Writings say? 'The Stone that was put aside by the workmen has become the most important Stone in the corner of the building.

11 The Lord has done this. It is great in our eyes.'"

12 The leaders wanted to take Him but they were afraid of the people. They knew He had told the picture-story against them. They left Him and went away.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 14:12-26, 32-42

Memory Verse

In the evening He came with the twelve followers. They sat at the table and ate.

Jesus said, “For sure, I tell you, one of you will hand Me over to be killed. He is eating with me.”

Mark 14:17-18

Word List

victor: one who wins

Passover meal: a religious festival observed by the Jews

Lord’s day: Sunday, the day Christians gather to worship

Jesus Gives His Life

Would you give your life so that another might live? That is a hard question. I know that I would give my life for my children. I would give my life for my husband. But would I have the same feeling about a stranger? I don’t know. I hope I would, but I can’t be sure until that happened.

Sometimes we hear about people dying to save others. On September 11, 2001, two airplanes hit the World Trade Center in New York City. The buildings were on fire. Many, many firemen rushed into the buildings to save people in the buildings. When the buildings fell down, the firemen were killed.

This reminds us of a verse of scripture in Romans 5:7. “No one is willing to die for another person, but for a good man someone might be willing to die.”

However, this lesson tells us that Jesus willingly gave His life to save not only good people but also sinners like you and me. “But God showed His love to us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Nowhere is there a record of self-sacrifice any more powerful than this story of Jesus giving His life so that others might live.

Preparing the Passover Meal (Mark 14:12-16)

The Passover was a celebration of the time when the Egyptian firstborn children were to be killed. God told the Jews to put blood on their houses. The angel of death passed over their

Things To Think About

1. Why did Jesus choose the Passover meal to establish the meal we now call the Lord's Supper?
2. Why did Jesus feel it necessary to make a reminder that He died for the sins of the world?
3. How does Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane show His divine-human nature?
4. What does Jesus' giving of Himself say to you about how you should respond to Him.

houses. Their children were not killed. They also had another reason to celebrate the Passover. They were reminded that at that same time they ate unleavened bread (bread with no yeast) and left Egypt.

Each year at the celebration of Passover, the head of each Jewish family would bring a lamb to the temple. It was killed, its blood sprinkled on the altar, and parts of it burned. The remainder was cooked and eaten by the family in the evening.

Many people came to Jerusalem during the festival of Passover and Unleavened Bread. Every Jewish man wanted to eat the **Passover meal** once in his lifetime in Jerusalem. The historian, Josephus, said the year of Jesus' death, 256,000 lambs were killed. If ten people ate one lamb, there may have been more than 2.5 million people in Jerusalem.

Jesus and the disciples were staying in Bethany. They had to go to Jerusalem to prepare for the feast. Jesus gave instructions to the disciples. They were to look for a man carrying a water pot. Usually women were the ones who carried water. So a man carrying a water pot would be easy to spot.

Jesus was in charge. He was directing the whole drama of His death. He was not a helpless victim. He gave Himself freely to the cross. Nothing could have caused Jesus to die like that except His love.

Eating the Passover Meal (Mark 14:17-21)

Jesus and the disciples probably sat in a circle around a low table as they ate the Passover meal. Jesus said He would be betrayed. “For sure, one of you will hand me over to be killed. He is eating with me.”

In Jesus’ times, eating together was an act of friendship. It was terrible for someone to betray a friend shortly after eaten together. The disciples were sad. They asked one another, “Is it I?”

Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples in a spirit of sadness. But Jesus ended the meal with a note of hope. After eating the Passover meal, Jesus took some bread and broke it. He also took a cup of wine. Then He blessed them. He used these common things so that when His followers sat down to a meal, they would remember His death on the cross for them. This meal is done somewhere around the world every **Lord’s day**.

Even in the face of death, Jesus showed His belief that He would be the **victor** in God’s plan. With that hope, the

disciples sang a hymn. Then they left the room and went out with Jesus.

Here is one of the saddest parts of the story. Jesus wanted His friends to be with Him as He prepared for His death. He asked Peter, James, and John to come with Him into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. But they fell asleep.

These three disciples had promised to be with Jesus no matter what happened. But they failed to keep their promises. It was only after Jesus rose from the dead that they kept that promise.

As Jesus prayed, He used the term *Abba* which is like our term *Daddy*. When He used this term, He showed a special, close relationship with God. Jesus trusted His Father’s love the same way a little child trusts an earthly father.

Here we see Jesus’ human side. He did not want to face what He knew was coming. Even His friends were asleep. He was all alone, but Jesus accepted His death.

God was His Father. That is why He could go on. The soldiers came. Jesus could have run away. But He faced them. He would not turn back.

Mark 14:12-26, 32-42

Mark 14:12 The first day of the supper of bread without yeast was the day to kill an animal. It was for the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. His followers said to Jesus, "What place do You want us to make ready for You to eat this special supper?"

13 Jesus sent two of His followers on ahead and said to them, "Go into the city. There a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him.

14 He will go into a house. You say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, "Where is the room you keep for friends, where I can eat this special supper with My followers?"'

15 He will take you to a large room on the second floor with everything in it. Make it ready for us."

16 The followers went from there and came into the city. They found everything as Jesus had said. They made things ready for the special supper.

17 In the evening He came with the twelve followers.

18 They sat at the table and ate. Jesus said, "For sure, I tell you, one of you will hand Me over to be killed. He is eating with Me."

19 They were very sad. They said to Him one after the other, "Is it I?"

20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve followers. It is the one who is putting his hand with mine into the same dish.

21 The Son of Man is going away as it is written of Him. But it will be bad for that man who hands the Son of Man over to be killed! It would have been better if he had not been born!"

22 As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread. He gave thanks and broke it in pieces. He gave it to them and said, "Take, eat, this is My body."

23 Then He took the cup and gave thanks. He

gave it to them and they all drank from it.

24 He said to them, "This is My blood of the New Way of Worship which is given for many.

25 For sure, I tell you, that I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the holy nation of God."

26 After they sang a song, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

32 They came to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to His followers, "You sit here while I pray."

33 He took Peter and James and John with Him. He began to have much sorrow and a heavy heart.

34 He said to them, "My soul is very sad. My soul is so full of sorrow I am ready to die. You stay here and watch."

35 He went a little farther and got down with His face on the ground. He prayed that this time of suffering might pass from Him if it could.

36 He said, "Father, You can do all things. Take away what must happen to Me. Even so, not what I want, but what You want."

37 Then Jesus came to the followers and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not able to watch one hour?"

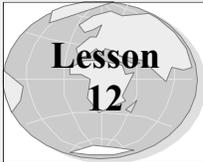
38 Watch and pray so that you will not be tempted. Man's spirit wants to do this, but the body does not have the power to do it."

39 Again Jesus went away and prayed saying the same words.

40 He came back and found them sleeping again. Their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to Him.

41 He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! Listen, the time has come when the Son of Man will be handed over to sinners.

42 Get up and let us go. See! The man who will hand Me over to the head religious leader is near."



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 14:53-15:20

Memory Verse

“Are You the Christ, the Son of the Holy one?” Jesus said, “I am! And you will see the Son of Man seated on the right side of the All-powerful God. You will see Him coming again in the clouds of the sky.”

Mark 14:61-62

Word List

mob: a group of hostile people

confidence: sure of what one believes

reed: marsh plants with a firm stem

Jesus Is Condemned

During the last hours before Jesus’ death, He faced everything with calm confidence. He acted very differently from those around Him.

Things were moving very quickly to the end. The Sanhedrin was the high Jewish court. This court had power over all religious things. It also had some police power. But the Sanhedrin had no power to give the death penalty. The meeting of this court was not to give a verdict. It was to prepare a charge for which the prisoner could be tried before a Roman court.

Jesus was very calm. He showed much self-control. All around Him were people who were very excited. Let us think about how Judas, the High Priest, and Simon Peter acted. The Sanhedrin judges, Pilate, and the Roman soldiers were all affected by what was happening. It must have been like what we call a “mob scene.”

Judas Iscariot (Mark 14:43-52)

Judas met Jesus. He became one of His followers. Judas believed Jesus would be an earthly king. He became dissatisfied with Jesus. Jesus was not whom he expected. Judas Iscariot was one of the twelve disciples. He went to the head religious leaders of the Jews to talk about how he might hand Jesus over to them.

Read about how Jesus was betrayed in Mark 14:43. Judas knew Jesus would be in the Garden of Gethsemane. He came to the garden with soldiers. They had swords and sticks. There were

Things To Think About

1. Who is really to blame for the death of Jesus-- the Jewish leaders, the Roman authorities, or the mob? Or was it really God's plan?
2. When we meet unexpected problems, how can the example of Jesus help us?
3. Does anything excuse the actions of Judas, Peter, Pilate, and the disciples?

members of the Sanhedrin and temple police. It was a **mob**.

Since it was dark, the mob needed to be told which man was Jesus. So Judas gave Jesus a kiss. A kiss was usually an act of respect but Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

Only Simon Peter tried to defend Jesus (John 18:10). He used his sword against a slave of the high priest. Sometimes Peter is criticized. But he was the only one who tried to defend Jesus.

Jesus did not use force against the mob because He trusted God. He knew that God's plan for Him was to die for all people. Jesus stayed loyal to the Father. He followed God's plan in spite of what it would cost Him. He had **confidence** He was following God's will. He was not afraid.

The High Priest (Mark 14:53-64)

The first of the two trials was before the Sanhedrin. Caiaphas, the high priest, was to prepare a charge against Jesus. The religious leaders were looking for a way to condemn Jesus to death.

The law said that there must be two witnesses who would tell what had happened. There were many in Jerusalem who could tell of the wonderful things Jesus had done. But they did not want that kind of witnesses. So they got witnesses who would not tell the truth.

The witnesses did not all say the same things. So Caiaphas asked a questions himself. He asked Jesus if He was the Messiah. "Jesus said, 'I am! And you will see the Son of

Man seated on the right side of the All-powerful God. You will see Him coming again in the clouds of the sky.”

Caiaphas needed nothing more. He tore his clothes. It was a sign of disgust. He asked the court to give the verdict for death. The charge was blasphemy.

Blasphemy was when one spoke against God. All of the court voted to kill Jesus.

Pilate (Mark 15:1-15)

The second trial was held early on Friday morning. Although the Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus, they had to wait until Pilate, the Roman governor, sentenced Him. The Romans would be the ones who did the killing.

The charge brought by the Sanhedrin was not blasphemy. They charged Jesus with political wrong doings. They said He was against Caesar. And they said He called Himself a king. (see Luke 23:15)

They and Pilate knew it was a lie. Pilate thought he could turn the crowd away from the chief priests. He asked the crowd whom he should release--Jesus or Barabbas, a criminal. The Sanhedrin

caused the crowd of people to choose Barabbas. They cried out for Jesus to be crucified.

The Roman Soldiers (Mark 15:16-20)

There were many Roman soldiers who joined together mocking Jesus. They put a purple cloth on Him. They put a crown made of thorns on His head. They hit Him with a **reed**. Then they pretended to bow down and worship Him. After this, they led Jesus to be crucified.

Now Jesus was quiet. He had confidence in His Father. He taught us how to suffer with peace and grace. We can be sure that God will save us from bad things. It is up to us to follow Jesus in all things.

Mark warns us than we can become a jealous Judas. We can be like the judge, Caiaphas. We can be like the hate-filled mob. We can be like the soldiers. And too, we can be like the disciples, hiding in fear. We are the ones on trial, not Jesus.

Mark 14:53-15:20

Mark 14:53 They led Jesus away to the head religious leader. All the religious leaders and other leaders and the teachers of the Law were gathered there.

54 But Peter followed a long way behind as they went to the house of the head religious leader. He sat with the helpers and got warm by the fire.

55 The religious leaders and all the court were looking for something against Jesus. They wanted to find something so they could kill Him. But they could find nothing.

56 Many came and told false things about Him, but their words did not agree.

57 Some got up and said false things against Him. They said,

58 “We have heard Him say, ‘I will destroy the house of God that was made with hands. In three days I will build another that is not made with hands.’”

59 Even these who spoke against Him were not able to agree.

60 The head religious leader stood up in front of the people. He asked Jesus, “Have You nothing to say? What about the things these men are saying against You?”

61 Jesus said nothing. Again the head religious leader asked Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Holy One?”

62 Jesus said, “I am! And you will see the Son of Man seated on the right side of the All-powerful God. You will see Him coming again in the clouds of the sky.”

63 Then the head religious leader tore his clothes apart. He said, “Do we need other people to speak against Him?”

64 You have heard Him speak as if He were God! What do you think?” They all said He was guilty of death.

65 Some began to spit on Him. They covered Jesus’ face, and they hit Him. They said, “Tell us what is going to happen.” Soldiers hit Him with their hands.

66 Peter was outside in the yard. One of the servant-girls of the head religious leader came.

67 She saw Peter getting warm. She looked at him and said, “You were with Jesus of Nazareth.”

68 Peter lied, saying, “I do not know Jesus and do not understand what you are talking about.” As he went out, a rooster crowed.

69 The servant-girl saw him again. She said to the people standing around, “This man is one of them.”

70 He lied again saying that he did not know Jesus. Later, those who stood around said to Peter again, “For sure you are one of them. You are from the country of Galilee. You talk like they do.”

71 He began to say strong words and to swear. He said, “I do not know the Man you are talking about.

72 At once a rooster crowed the second time. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him, “Before a rooster crows two times, you will say three times you do not know Me.” When he thought about it, he cried.

15:1 Early in the morning the head religious leaders of the Jews and other leaders and the teachers of the Law and all the court gathered together to talk about Jesus. Then they tied up Jesus and led Him away. They handed Him over to Pilate.

2 Pilate asked Jesus, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He said to Pilate, “What you say is true.”

3 The religious leaders spoke many things against Him. Jesus did not say a word.

4 Pilate asked Him again, “Have You nothing to say? Listen to the things they are saying against You!”

5 Jesus did not say a word. Pilate was much surprised and wondered about it.

6 Each year at the special supper Pilate would let one person who was in prison go free. It would be the one the people asked for.

7 The name of one of those in prison was Barabbas. He, together with others, had killed people while working against the leaders of the country.

8 All the people went to Pilate and asked him to do as he had done before.

9 Pilate said, “Do you want me to let the King of the Jews go free?”

10 He knew the religious leaders had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous.

11 The religious leaders talked the people into thinking that Pilate should let Barabbas go free.

12 Pilate said to them again, “What do you want me to do with the Man you call the King of the Jews?”

13 They spoke with loud voices again, “Nail Him to a cross.”

14 Then Pilate said to them, “Why? What bad thing has He done?” They spoke with loud voices all the more, “Nail Him to a cross!”

15 Pilate wanted to please the people. He gave Barabbas to them and had Jesus beaten. Then he handed him over to be nailed to a cross.

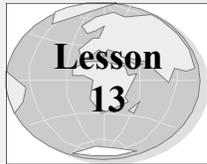
16 The soldiers led Jesus away to a large room in the court. They called all the soldiers together.

17 The soldiers put a purple coat on Him. They put a crown of thorns on His head,

18 and said to Him, “Hello, King of the Jews!”

19 They hit Him on the head with a stick and spit on Him. They got down on their knees and worshiped Him.

20 After they had made fun of Him, they took the purple coat off of Him and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they led Him away to be nailed to a cross.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 15:21-41;16:1-8

Memory Verse

The captain of the soldiers was looking at Jesus when He cried out. He saw Him die and said, “For sure, this Man was the Son of God.”

Mark 15:39

Word List

narcotic: medicine to take away pain or make someone sleep

sarcastic: a bitter, ugly way of speaking

prophecy: a fore-telling

abandoned: left alone

Jesus Dies and Lives Again

Sometimes difficult and frightening times in life can bring great joy. Think of how a mother struggles to give birth to a new baby. It can be a difficult and frightening time for the mother.

But when the child is born healthy, the mother is filled with great joy. Jesus’ death by crucifixion was difficult and frightening for all who loved Him. But His resurrection showed that Jesus was truly God’s Son. There was great joy when His followers knew Jesus was alive. This proved that He is Who He said He was, the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

The earliest Christians didn’t celebrate the birth of Jesus. Every week they had a day when they thought about the death and resurrection of Jesus. These two events were at the heart of the gospel. They are the main subject of the New Testament.

The Crucifixion of Jesus (Mark 15:21-41)

A crucifixion was usually carried out this way. The man who was to die had to carry a heavy wooden cross to the place where he would die. He walked in the middle of guards. A sign was carried in front telling what crimes he had done.

The longest route was usually taken to the place of execution. They wanted as many people to see as possible. When they arrived at the place, the hands of the man were nailed to the crossbeam. They nailed his feet to the up-right piece. Then they put the cross in the ground.

The man hung there until he died. It usually took several days for him to die. There was terrible pain from hanging on the

**Things To
Think About**

1. How do we know that Jesus rose from the dead?
2. Mark tells how Simon carried the cross of Jesus. What does it mean for us to take up our cross and follow Jesus?
3. How did Mark learn about the details of the secret, nighttime trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin?
4. How did Mark learn about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus?

cross such a long time.

Jesus was very weak as He carried His cross. He had not eaten and had been beaten. As He walked, He fell under the load of the cross. A soldier named Simon of Cyrene, a man in the crowd, carried Jesus' cross. They went to Golgotha, which was on a hill. Golgotha means skull. Carrying the cross must have been a hard thing for Simon to do.

Soldiers Execute Jesus (Mark 15:22-27)

It is not known exactly where Golgotha was. Executions were held outside the city gates of Jerusalem. They were held near public roads.

The soldiers mixed wine with myrrh as a kind of **narcotic** given to dying men to deaden the pain. Jesus did not take it. He faced death in complete control. The soldiers got to keep the property of the man being put to death. Jesus' only property was His clothes. The soldiers threw dice to see who would get Jesus' clothing. It was one more way to embarrass Jesus.

According to Mark, Jesus was crucified at 9 a.m. It became dark around noon. At about three p.m., Jesus cried out with a loud voice and died.

Before He died, the crowd of people mocked Jesus. The chief priests and scribes made **sarcastic** comments. They dared Him to come down from the cross and save Himself. They said that He should prove to them that He was the king

of the Jews. Jesus could have done it. But He did not. He would prove His power in a greater way later.

Jesus Bore the Sins of the World (Mark 15:33-39)

This story is written to convince readers that Jesus is the Son of God. It shows Jesus has a divine-human nature. As the Son of God, Jesus was in control. He made God's **prophecy** come true. He forgave sins. But as a man, Jesus was tired. He bled and was thirsty. He felt alone. He said, "Why have you left me alone?" The last words of Jesus from the cross show His death to be a sacrifice for the sins of the world. He felt **abandoned** by God. He was feeling the inner pains of sin. Even though He had not sinned against God, He felt the sin of all people.

The words of the Roman soldier are interesting. "Surely this man was the Son of God." He had probably seen many crucifixions. But this one was different. Jesus was Who He said He was. Gentiles like you and me would believe in Jesus too.

The Resurrection of Jesus (Mark 15:42-16:8)

The burial of Jesus proved that Jesus really died. He did not just faint and then later wake up. Not much is known about Joseph of Arimathea who buried Jesus' body in his own tomb. He was a member of the Sanhedrin. He was a respected man. He was waiting for the kingdom of God.

Joseph must have had much courage. He did not agree with the priests of the Sanhedrin. Being wealthy, he had servants to help him prepare Jesus' body. It was Jewish custom to seal the tomb with a stone.

Early on Sunday morning, the two Marys went to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body. They were surprised to see the stone had been rolled away. Jesus' body was gone. An angel told them Jesus was raised from the dead. The Jesus' resurrection is a clear picture of the central truth of the Christian faith. Jesus, the Christ, is alive today. He rose from the dead.

Mark 15:21-41;16:1-8

Mark 15:21 They came to a man called Simon who was coming from the country of Cyrene. He was the father of Alexander and Rufus. They made Simon carry the cross of Jesus.

22 They led Jesus to a place called Golgotha. This name means the place of the skull.

23 They gave Him wine with something in it to take away the pain, but He would not drink it.

24 When they had nailed Jesus to the cross, they divided His clothes by drawing names to see what each man should take.

25 It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed Him to the cross.

26 Over Jesus' head they put in writing what they had against Him, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 They nailed two robbers on crosses beside Jesus. One was on His right side and the other was on His left side.

28 It happened as the Writings said it would happen, "They thought of Him as One Who broke the Law." (Isaiah 53:12)

29 Those who walked by shook their heads and laughed at Jesus. They said, "You were

the One Who could destroy the house of God and build it again in three days.

30 Save Yourself and come down from the cross."

31 The head religious leaders and the teachers of the Law made fun of Him also. They said to each other, "He saved others but He cannot save Himself.

32 Let Christ, the King of the Jews, come down from the cross. We want to see it and then we will believe." Those who were on the crosses beside Jesus spoke bad things to Him.

33 From noon until three o'clock it was dark over all the land.

34 At three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have You left Me alone?"

35 When some of those who stood by heard that, they said, "Listen! He is calling for Elijah."

36 One of them ran and took a sponge and filled it with sour wine. He put it on a stick and gave it to Him to drink. He said "Let Him alone. Let us see if Elijah will come and take Him down."

37 Then Jesus gave a loud cry. He gave up His spirit and died.

38 The curtain in the house of God was torn in two from top to bottom.

39 The captain of the soldiers was looking at Jesus when He cried out. He saw Him die and said, "For sure, this man was the Son of God."

40 Women were looking on from far away. Among them was Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome.

41 These cared for Him when He was in the country of Galilee. There were many other women there who had followed Him to Jerusalem.

Mark 16:1 The Day of Rest was over. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices. They wanted to put the spices on Jesus' body.

2 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, they came to the grave. The sun had come up.

3 They said to themselves, "Who will roll the stone away from the door of the grave for us?"

4 But when they looked, they saw the very large stone had been rolled away.

5 They went into the grave. There they saw

a young man with a long white coat sitting on the right side. They were afraid.

6 He said, "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth Who was nailed to a cross. He is risen! He is not here! See, here is the place where they laid Him.

7 Go and tell His followers and Peter that He is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see Him there as He told you."

8 They ran from the grave shaking and were surprised. They did not say anything to anyone because they were afraid.



*Adult Bible Study in
Basic English*

Bible Text

Mark 13:1-37

Memory Verse

Jesus began to say to them, “Be careful that no one leads you the wrong way.”

Mark 13:5

Word List

destruction: tearing down, ruin

scholars: learned people

persecution: bad treatment because of religious beliefs

Jesus Teaches About the Future

When I was a little girl, my Mother listened every day to a preacher on the radio. One day, this preacher said the world would end on a certain day. It would be in about two weeks. Every day the man preached about the end of the world. At last the day came. Nothing happened. And the world is still here and I am still here.

All my life I have heard people tell that the end is coming. Perhaps if we study this chapter, we will learn a wise view of the end of the world.

Mark 13 is one of the most difficult parts of the New Testament to understand. It is filled with ideas that the Jews of Jesus’ day understood very well. It is hard for us to understand today. But we should not skip over this chapter. It tells us something about the second coming of Christ.

Jesus Gives Hope (Mark 13)

During Jesus’ last days on earth, the disciples wanted to know about when the end of the world would come. They said, “Tell us when this will be? What are we to look for when these things are to happen?”

Jesus used terms not often used today. **Scholars** call this *apocalyptic* writing. It uses dreams and visions to explain things. Jesus chose this way of explaining about the future events.

Jesus gave the disciples hope. He encouraged them. They faced uncertain times. He told them of the destruction of the

**Things To
Think About**

1. Why do you think Jesus did not tell us the exact time the world would end?
2. Is it right to expect Jesus to return at any time?
3. There is much in this chapter that is difficult to understand. What things are very clear?

temple. He told them about His second coming. He told them about the end of the world.

**Warnings About the Destruction of the Temple
(Mark 13:1-12)**

Jesus left the temple for the last time. He sat down to teach the disciples. In the distance they could see the temple. Jesus told that the temple would be completely destroyed. It happened just as He said. The disciples were shocked to hear this!

Jesus also gave some more warnings. (1) False teachers would try to lead them away from God. (2) There would be wars. Bad things would happen. But they are not signs of the end of the world. The disciples would face persecution. It would be like the **persecution** Jesus would face.

As well as the warnings, Jesus gave the disciples hope. He promised the Holy Spirit would be with them. He told the disciples no matter how difficult, telling people the good news must go on. It is true that Christianity has spread all over the world.

In AD 66, Rome fought the Jewish people. They conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. The historian, Josephus, said that more than one million people died and one hundred thousand were taken captive. Only a few stones were left. Today, what is left is called *The Wailing Wall*.

Warnings About the Second Coming and the End of the World

(Mark 13:13-27)

Jesus told more than the **destruction** of the temple. “In those days there will be much trouble and pain and sorrow. It has never been this bad from the beginning of time and never will be again.”

Jesus said that the end would come suddenly. No one would have much warning. Here Jesus used apocalyptic language to describe the end of the world. The sun, moon, and stars would become dark. Then Jesus would come again in all His glory.

Nothing is said here about the last judgment. He said nothing about resurrection, heaven, or hell. These verses say only that when the Son of Man comes, He will gather all His people together. He meant, all those who have been people of faith.

Jesus did not tell when these things would happen. He wants all of us to be ready for the end. We should do the things God would have us to do. We should not stop and look for the end. We

should keep on being faithful.

The Need to be Watchful

(Mark 13:28-37)

Jesus finished His teaching with two parables. The first is about a fig tree. It tells about the destruction of Jerusalem. Just as certain as a fig tree sprouts leaves in the spring, the city would be taken. Within forty years, the temple and the city were in ruins.

The second parable is about Jesus’ return to earth. Jesus is like the master of the house returning from a trip. He put his servants in charge before leaving. They do not know when he will return. The servants must keep watch so they will not be surprised. We must keep watch because we do not know the exact time of His return. The Lord is surely coming again. But no one but God knows when. We should be careful of anyone who says he knows when Jesus will return. We just need to be ready.

Mark 13:1-37

Mark 13:1 Jesus went out of the house of God. One of His followers said to Him, “Teacher, look at the big stones and these great buildings!”

2 Jesus said, “Do you see these great buildings? All these stones will be thrown down. Not one will be left standing on another.”

3 Jesus sat down on the Mount of Olives at a place where He could see the house of God. Peter and James and John and Andrew came to Him. They asked without anyone else hearing,

4 “Tell us when this will be. What are we to look for when these things are to happen?”

5 Jesus began to say to them, “Be careful that no one leads you the wrong way.

6 Many people will come using My name. They will say, ‘I am Christ.’ They will turn many to the wrong way.

7 When you hear of wars and much talk about wars, do not be surprised. These things have to happen. But the end is not yet.

8 Nations will have wars with other nations. Countries will fight against countries. The earth will shake and break apart in different places. There will be no food for people. There will be much trouble. These things are the beginning of much sorrow and pain.

9 Watch out for yourselves. They will take you to the courts. In the places of worship they will beat you. You will be taken in front of rulers and in front of kings because of Me. You will be there to tell them about Me.

10 The Good News must first be preached to all the nations.

11 When you are put into their hands, do not be afraid of what you are to say or how you are to say it. Whatever is given to you to say at that time, say it. It will not be you who speaks, but the Holy Spirit.

12 A brother will hand over a brother to death. A father will hand over his son. Children will turn against their parents and have them put to death.

13 You will be hated by all people because of Me. But he who stays true to the end will be saved.

14 You will see a very sinful man-made god standing in the house of God where it has no right to stand. Then those in the country of Judea should run to the mountains. It was spoken of by the early preacher Daniel. (Daniel 9:27; 12:11) The one who reads this should understand.

15 He that is on the top of the house should not take the time to get anything out of his house.

16 He that is in the field should not go back to get his coat.

17 It will be hard for women who will soon be mothers. It will be hard for those feeding babies in those days!

18 Pray that it will not be during the winter.

19 In those days there will be much trouble and pain and sorrow. It has never been this bad from the beginning of time and never will be again.

20 If the Lord had not made those days short,

no life would have been saved. Because of God's people whom He has chosen, He made the days short.

21 If anyone says to you, 'See! Here is the Christ,' or, 'There He is!' do not believe it.

22 Some will come who will say they are Christ. False preachers will come. These people will do special things for people to see. They will do surprising things, so that if it can be, God's people will be led to believe something wrong.

23 See! I have told you about these things before they happen.

24 After those days of much trouble and pain and sorrow are over, the sun will get dark. The moon will not give light.

25 The stars will fall from the sky. The powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and shining-greatness.

27 He will send His angels. They will gather together God's people from the four winds. They will come from one end of the earth to the other end of heaven.

28 Now learn something from the fig tree. When the branch begins to grow and puts out its leaves, you know summer is near.

29 In the same way, when you see all these things happen, you know the Son of Man is near. He is even at the door.

30 For sure, I tell you, the people of this day will not pass away before all these things have happened.

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away.

32 But no one knows the day or the hour. No! Not even the angels in heaven know. The Son does not know. Only the Father knows.

33 Be careful! Watch and pray. You do not know when it will happen.

34 The coming of the Son of Man is as a man who went from his house to a far country. He gave each one his servants some work to do. He told the one standing at the door to watch.

35 In the same way, you are to watch also! You do not know when the Owner of the house will be coming. It may be in the evening or in the night or when the sun comes up or in the morning.

36 He may come when you are not looking for Him and find you sleeping.

37 What I say to you, I say to all. Watch!