

Read Mark 1:1-3. The first word in Mark is the Greek word “arche” meaning both beginning and norm. To what does this verse refer? If it were the title of the whole work what would it be saying?

In verses 2 & 3 who is the speaker? Who is the you that is spoken to?

How is the word “way” used in the early church?

Look at Malachi 3:1 and Exodus 23:20 and Isaiah 40:3.

Read Mark 1:4-8. What does the wilderness bring to mind from Israel’s history? The River Jordan?

What did John proclaim? Was this preparation?

Look at Joel 2:28-29.

Where have the people come from?

Read Mark 1:9-11. From where does Jesus come?

Look at Isaiah 42:1-9. Could this be a job description for Jesus?

Read Mark 1:12-13. Does testing strengthen us?

Read Mark 1:14-15. How does this verse relate to verse 1:1?

Is this repentance the same as the repentance John proclaimed?

What is the good news?

When we speak of the gospel or good new is it the message Jesus brings or the message about Jesus or both?

Read Mark 1:16-20.

Read Mark 1:21-28.

Read Mark 1:29-31.

Read Mark 1:32-34. Jesus does not permit the demons to speak – why do you think that might be?

Read Mark 1:35-39. Has the deserted place been transformed?

Read Mark 1:40-49. Does this man have faith in Jesus? Does faith involve correct understanding?

In verse 41 the most probable reading is “Jesus became angry, stretched out his hand.....” What might Jesus be angry about?

Is this man doing what Christians are to do in telling about Jesus? Is his disobedience a good thing or a bad thing?

In verse 44 “.....as a testimony to them.” Who is spoken of here?

Read Mark 2:1-12. How does Jesus address the paralytic? What might his address mean?

This is the first human opponent Jesus has encountered. What is the issue?

What is “the word” that Jesus was speaking to them? Does this story relate to what was happening in Mark’s time?

Who has faith in this story?

What has the paralytic done or believed as Mark tells the story?

What charge do they make against Jesus?

What authority does Jesus claim for himself? Is this the same as the authority the priests practice?

In verse 12 the word is the word used for resurrection. How is this healing a resurrection?

Read Mark 2:13-17. Has Levi shown any interest in Jesus?

What sorts of sinners are described here?

Is Jesus excluding the righteous?

Read Mark 2:18-22. Is Jesus establishing a principle about fasting?

Do you fast?

In Jesus time fasting was a sign of repentance and also was done to hasten the day of the Lord. What is the purpose of fasting today?

What do these illustrations suggest about blending the old and the new?

What practices in the church blend the old and the new?

Is the old being criticized here?

Read Mark 2:23-28. See Jeremiah 17:21-27; Neh. 13:15-22; Isa. 56:2-8

Is this a case of human need? What point is being made?

Read Mark 3:1-6. Was the Sabbath made for this man?

Does this man ask to be healed? Is this healing an emergency?

Why do you think the Pharisees sought to destroy Jesus?

In what ways would Jesus be a threat to our structures and practices?

Read Mark 3:7-12. How does this list of places from where people have come compare with the list for John the Baptist?

What is the purpose for the boat?

Is Jesus omniscient here or is he unsure of what will the crowd will do? Does Jesus appear to think of himself as all-powerful in this situation?

Are the demons' actions and confessions the same as a Christian believer's response to Jesus?

Do any of the people seem to be catching onto what the demons are revealing?

Read Mark 3:13-19. Is this group different from the disciples mentioned in 3:7?

Who is not mentioned in this group that is already a follower of Jesus?

What happens on mountains in the Old Testament?

Who receives new names? Who have name changes in the Old Testament?

Are some of us more valued by God than others of us? Is there any reason given for the choice of these twelve?

Read Mark 3:20-35. Have you ever wanted to protect someone you loved? What happened?

Could Mary and the brothers have joined in following Jesus? Did they?

Could Jesus whole life and ministry be seen as a battle with Satan?

Who is calling for whom in this story? Do we call Jesus or does he call us?

What family member is missing from Jesus list in verse 35?

Read Mark 4:1-9. Is the boat in this passage to be connected with the boat spoken of in 3:9?

The word Mark uses for the place where the whole crowd was is the word for ground, earth, or soil. It is the same word used in the parable that follows in verses five and eight. Matthew changes the word saying the whole crowd was gathered on the beach. What may have been Mark's intent in using the word for soil in describing where the crowd was?

If you had only this parable and knew no explanation what would you think the parable meant? Would Jesus' teaching seem hidden or open?

What would you name this parable? Does Mark name it?

With what message does Jesus begin and end the parable? What do you think this means? See Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

If you were to tell someone about Jesus' teaching is this parable one that you would begin with?

Has Jesus' teaching been mentioned previously? What has been the content of Jesus' teaching up to now?

How is the sowing of seed related to your life? How was the sowing of seed related to the first hearers of Jesus' parable?

Read Mark 4:10-12. What do the disciples ask Jesus to explain?

What is a parable?

What is the function of parables? Is understanding attainable through human effort? How does understanding come?

Who is "you" and who are "those outside"? What mystery is understood? Who has been outside thus far in the gospel?

Jesus quotes Isaiah 6:9-10 here. Is there any connection between the context in Isaiah and this context?

Compare Matthew 13:10-17 and Luke 8:9-10. How do these accounts differ? Can you make any sense out of these differences or draw any conclusions? How do they take care of what may make us uncomfortable in Mark's presentation?

Read Mark 4:13-20. Do the disciples say they do not understand this parable?

What is the seed in each part of the explanation?

Some argue that the explanation is added in Mark's time. If that were so would the explanation be said to have originated with Jesus? Is Jesus' teaching limited to the words Jesus spoke during his earthly ministry?

Read Mark 4:21-25. How does verse 22 relate to 4:10-12?

In Greek the lamp "Comes in". What might this way of speaking about the lamp affect the meaning?

Who is the one that gives? Takes away?

Read Mark 4:26-29. What does this parable suggest to you?

Read Mark 4:30-32. Compare Daniel 4:12,21; Ezek. 17:23, 31:6. What do the birds and beasts symbolize?

The mustard plant is generally considered a weed. Mark calls it a plant –Matthew and Luke a tree. What might this parable mean?

Read Mark 4:33-34. To whom is the word spoken?

Who requires explanations?

Read Mark 4:35-41. Is this a teaching or an actual event?

Does it matter whether this is an actual event? Does the meaning for you change if it is not?

Read Mark 4:35-41. Where is the other side? Who lives there?

What prophet was sent to bring a message to Gentile territory?

Read Jonah 1. What do you notice that is similar about the two stories? How are they different?

Compare to Matthew 8:18-27. How is this similar to Mark? Is there meaning in the differences?

In the early church a boat with a cross for the mast is a symbol for the church. Is this symbolism more apparent in Matthew?

This is the first time the disciples have spoken since 1:37. If Mark is written after Nero's persecution in 64 a.d. what might be the meaning of this question?

The word used for Jesus rebuke of the storm is the same as used when he encountered the demon in the synagogue in 1:25. What might this mean?

Does this experience lead to faith?

Read Mark 5:1-20. Compare this casting out of unclean spirits with the first casting out of an unclean spirit. What are the similarities? the differences?

What are the clues that Jesus is in Gentile territory?

Does the parable in 3:27 have any relationship to this story?

What is the response of the people to the liberation of this man?

Can the kingdom of God be economically costly to some people? Name some for whom this is true.

Does the man who had been freed from the demons obey Jesus?

Read Mark 5:21-43. Compare the woman suffering from hemorrhages with Jairus.

Compare the woman with the girl who was raised from death.

What does the number 12 signify?

What do you learn about Jesus touch in these stories?

Read Mark 6:1-6. Who do you expect to hear wisdom from?

Who do you not expect to hear wisdom from?

Have you every listened carefully to one whom you do not expect to hear wisdom from? What happened?

What kept the people from believing in Jesus?

Read Mark 6:7-30. What authority is the Twelve given?

What does the shaking off of the dust symbolize?

Has Jesus not been received? What has been his response?

Has Jesus anointed the sick with oil? See James 5:14.

Of what did King Herod hear?

Josephus, the Jewish historian says that John was arrested because of his popularity. One commentator indicates that Mark sees John the Baptist as Elijah and Herod and Herodias as Ahab and Jezebel. How important to you is the historical accuracy of the Bible?

Mark has told the story of John losing his life in the middle of the story of the mission of the Twelve. Is there any connection between the two stories?

Compare the experience of the Twelve with Jesus' experience in Nazareth.

What is your expectation for a follower of Jesus who is sent? Success? Hardship? Suffering?

What has been your experience as a Christian? Has faith been costly? Has it led to opposition?

Was the mission of the Twelve the same as the mission of the early church?

Read Mark 6:31-44. What did Jesus seek for his apostles? What did they experience?

Where did this feast take place?

What do the details of the story remind you of/ suggest?

This is the only miracle told in all four gospels. What is the significance of this story?

Look at Numbers 27:12-20. Proverbs 9:5. 2 Kings 4:4:42-44.

Read Mark 6:45-52. How is this story like the stilling of the storm (4:35-41)?

What was it that they were to understand about the loaves?

Read Mark 6:53-56. Where did they arrive? For where had they set out?

What do you make of everyone recognizing Jesus?

What does this summary indicate about Jesus?

Read Mark 7:1-23. When did the issue of clean and unclean foods become an issue in the Christian church?

What might be the reason Luke does not include this controversy in his gospel?

What was the purpose of the distinction between clean and unclean foods for Israel?

Read Mark 7:24-30. What does bread represent?

The words for bread (artos) is used 16 times in 6:32-8:21 and after that only at 14:22 in Mark. any thoughts on this?

How does the issue in this encounter relate to the section immediately preceding?

Read Mark 7:31-37. Trace Jesus route on a map. What territory is he in – Jewish or Gentile?

Read Mark 8:1-9. To what does “Once again” in verse one refer?

What did the feeding of the five thousand do for the disciples’ understanding?

What might “three days” trigger in the minds of the readers of this gospel?

See Ephesians 2:11-13. Might there be any connection between this and Mark 8:3?

The word used for hunger here is the same as the word used for fasting in 2:18-20. Might there be any significance in this?

What are the differences between the two feedings? Similarities?

Read Mark 8:10-13. What are some possible reasons for not giving a sign? See also Matt. 16:1-4; 12:38-39; Luke 11:29; Luke 11:16; Luke 12:54-56. Can you think of any time in scripture when God gave a sign?

This is the final encounter of Jesus with the Jewish leadership in Galilee.

Read Mark 8:14-21. Look at Mark 8:6, 6:5-6 and this passage. A section of Mark is ending at each of these points. Are there any similarities?

What has been the disciples’ response in each of the sea crossings: 4:35-41; 6:51-52 and this passage?

What insight have the disciples gained through the feedings?

Does Jesus tell us what leaven is here? See Matthew 16:12 and Luke 12:1.

What are the disciples to remember and understand?

The next time bread will be mentioned is in 14:1, 22. Is this significant?

Does 1 Corinthians 10:17 shed any insight on this?

Read Mark 8:22-26. Look at Mark 6:45. In verse 22 they finally arrive. What has happened in between?

Where does this healing take place?

What do the people want Jesus to do? Does this connect us with any other stories?

Compare this story to Mark 7:31-37. Similarities?

Look at Isaiah 42:6-7; 18-20.

Read Mark 8:27-9:1. Where is Jesus when he asks the disciples the question of who people say he is?

Who do you say that Jesus is? What do people in general say about Jesus today?

What does Jesus say will happen to the Son of Man? Does Jesus say why or what this means?

When have we heard someone “rebuke” someone or something? When has Satan been mentioned?

If Jesus were to rebuke us for setting our minds on human things rather than on divine things what might he rebuke us for?

What is the significance of Jesus calling the crowd with his disciples? If this is a literary device rather than a historical remembrance what does it suggest?

In verse 34 is a cross chosen or does it just happen to those who follow Jesus?

How might the words in verses 34 –9:1 have referred to Christians in the time Mark was being written? How might these words apply to us in our lives?

Compare 9:1 to John 21:20-23.

Read Mark 9:2-13. What does it mean that they went up a “high mountain apart by themselves”?

What does Peter call Jesus? Does this seem appropriate in the context?

Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18 and Malachi 4:4-5. Do they suggest anything about the meaning of this scene?

On what other occasion were these three disciples with Jesus?

Look at Matthew 17:10-13. What differences do you notice?

How do you understand the command from God?

Is this command to silence like all the other commands to silence?

Where is it written that the Son of Man is to endure great suffering?

Read Mark 9:14-29. What causes Jesus to express his frustration?

Who is it that Jesus is speaking of when he says all things are possible for the one who believes? What does the spirit keep the boy from doing?

Did Jesus pray? What is the meaning of his last statement?

Read Mark 9:30-32. Compare this with 8:31-33. What is different? What is the same?

Read Mark 9:33-50. To where are they on the way?

Who will be servant of all? Does he do it so that he can be first of all?

In what way does the Corinthian congregation reflect the truth of what Jesus says about the child?

In Christ's name – Was this from the time of Jesus ministry or the time of the church?

To what do the disciples object in verse 38? Who has just been unable to cast out a demon?

Do the disciples at this time bear the name of Christ?

Look at Isaiah 66:24. Is Jesus point to teach about Gehenna?

Read Mark 10:1-12. In what way are the Pharisees seeking to test Jesus?

Could divorce have been a disputed question among the early Christians?

What do you make of "in the house"?

Do we follow this word of Jesus in the church today? Should we?

Compare this passage with Matthew 19:1-12. What differences do you notice?

Read Mark 10:13-16. What effect has Jesus touch had?

Why might the disciples have objected to the children? What is Jesus' reaction?

What does verse 15 mean?

Read Mark 10:17-31. Did Jesus get the commandments right?

Mark tells us that Jesus loved this man. Does love change expectations for a person?

Can we follow Jesus and hang onto many possessions?

How did the disciples react to Jesus statement in verse 25? What does their reaction indicate about their attitude toward wealth? See Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

This is the only time Jesus calls the disciples children though it is a different Greek word than the word used in 10:13-16. Is there a connection to verse 15?

Have you given up anything for Jesus? Do you have to sacrifice anything now for Jesus?

Is there anything that Jesus would want you to give up or do that gets in the way of your following him?

Have you received a abundance of anything in return for sacrifices you have made?

Do you expect eternal rewards from Jesus for anything you do?

Read Mark 10:32-45. Who was amazed and afraid? What do you think caused the amazement and fear?

How does this prediction compare with the previous predictions (8:31, 9:31)? Does the number three have any significance in this gospel?

Does rivalry for power afflict the church today? Do you think this was an issue in the early church?

Who was the first disciple of the 12 to be martyred for his witness to the gospel?

Is it clear that the greatest of Jesus' followers are slaves of all? How do the practices of the church hide this truth?

Of whom are you a slave?

Three times Jesus predicts his death and three times the disciples next words or actions seem to contradict the message of Jesus. What might this suggest about us?

Read Mark 10:46-52. Who else received resistance when they wanted to come to Jesus?

Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted him to do for him. Who else was asked this question? How did their requests differ?

What was Bartimaeus response to seeing? What has he left behind?

The words that are translated "by the roadside" in 10:46 is the same Greek phrase used in Mark 4:4 and 4:15 to describe where the seed was sown. Does this suggest anything about the parable of the sower or about the healing of Bartimaeus?

Read Mark 11:1-11. Look at Zechariah 9:9-10 and Psalm 118:25-27. "Save us" in Hebrew is "Hoshianna (Hosanna).

Who arranges for this event? What meaning might it have?

What expectations might the disciples have had during this procession?

Matthew and Luke do not include verse 11. What do you make of this verse?

Read Mark 11:12-14. What do you notice in this incident?

Read Mark 11:15-19. Who does Jesus drive out? What is the effect of his action?

Look at Isaiah 56:6-8. Look at Malachi 3:1. Jeremiah 7:11.

Read Mark 11:20-26. What has happened in between the cursing of the fig tree and its withering? Is the cleansing of the temple related to the fig tree?

What does Jesus teach about after the disciples remark about the fig tree?

Where did the first Christians gather to worship? Acts 2:46.

If the temple has just been destroyed when the gospel according to Mark is being written how might this passage relate to the dilemma the church faces?

Read Mark 11:27-33. When have we heard authority mentioned before? See 1:27.

From where does Jesus derive his authority? From where does the church derive authority?

Who or what has authority for you? What does that mean for you?

What are some possible reasons that Jesus did not want to answer these questions?

Can asking questions be away to control someone? Can asking questions be an expression of wanting to learn? which was the case here?

Is Jesus afraid of the crowd? Is the church afraid of the crowd?

Can you think of issues on which fear of the crowd sets the political agenda?

Read Mark 12:1-12. Compare this parable to Isaiah 5:1-???? What similarities do you notice between the two passages? Do the causes for God's anger with the people of Isaiah's time still apply in Jesus time?

How much of the Isaiah passage applies to the parable Jesus told?

Are there any clues that this parable is about Jesus?

At what point in time does the addition of the reference to Psalm 118:22-23 make sense when applied to Jesus?

If this gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple does that affect how the parable would be heard?

Who is “they” in verse 12? Compare to Mark 8:31.

The fear of the crowd is mentioned again. Should religious leaders be guided by what people want?

Is the meaning of this parable hidden from those “outside”?

Read Mark 12:13-17. What two groups are sent by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes? Are the groups sent to ask the question particularly appropriate for this question?

In today’s political context what question might be posed by those who seek to trap?

Does Jesus answer solve any dilemmas that arise between obedience to God and obedience to the government? Are there any times that you would disobey the government because of your obedience to God?

The word for image is the Greek word icon. It is the word used in the Greek translation of Genesis 1:26 and in Exodus 20:4. Is that significant for interpreting Jesus saying?

In Hitler’s Germany were Lutherans being obedient to God’s word when they were obedient to the Nazis? See Romans 13.

If the Herodians and Pharisees had come and asked Jesus this question without their intent being to trap him do you think his answer might have been different?

Read Mark 12:18-27. See Deut. 25:5-6. Is the resurrection a continuation of the situations of this life?

For whom would this be good news? For whom is it bad news?

Do you think that our human families or God’s family will have priority in eternal life?

Will national groupings exist in eternal life? Gender? Economic status? See Galatians 3:28.

Is resurrection the same as life after death? Do you think of those who have already died as living? Do you think of them as resurrected?

Was Jesus living between Good Friday and Easter? Or was he asleep in death? Is death simply the transfer to another realm or is death the ceasing of life?

If you believed that none of our human institutions and relationships continue into eternal life would that change your priorities?

What do you hope for in eternal life? What do you fear?

Read Mark 12:28-34. Is this man trying to trap Jesus? What causes him to ask Jesus this question?

Do you think of Jesus answer as the most important of all the commandments or as the meaning and center of all God's commandments?

Where was this discussion held? Does this affect how verse 33 is heard? What does the man who speaks this do for a living?

How do you understand verse 34? Is there something more that the man could have said or known that would have put him in the kingdom? (See Mark 14:25 – Is Jesus in the kingdom?)

If you only had these verses as your guide would you have enough to guide your living?

Read Mark 12:35-37. See Psalm 110:1. What point is Jesus making?

Is Jesus descending from David important to your faith? Is Jesus as Messiah important to your faith?

In Mark 10:47 and 11:10 Jesus is hailed as a son of David. How might this be helpful? confusing?

Has God chosen America? Are there some ways that national symbols and Christian symbols get linked?

How do you know when politicians are using "god-talk" only to gain political advantage for themselves? Is this "god-talk" a good thing? Do you think it is pleasing to God?

Is Jesus defined by the scripture that is fulfilled in him or is what is prophetic defined by who Jesus is?

Read Mark 12:38-40. How does the behavior of some of the scribes contrast with the behavior Jesus has called his followers to?

What do robes signify? Is it helpful for priests and pastors to wear robes?

Is Jesus in favor of public prayer? Who is the audience for public prayer?

When prayers are prayed in worship what is happening in your heart? Are you praying? Listening in? Sitting in judgement?

Is it important to you how the pastor or priest is addressed?

Widows at this time could not inherit according to first century Jewish culture. Are Jesus words carrying the same meaning in a culture where widows control a great deal of the wealth?

Who should be given discounts – senior citizens or parents with young children?

Read Mark 12:41-44. Is Jesus pleased with the widow? What does he say about her?

Has she done the right thing in giving her whole living?

Is this story related to the preceding account?

When the pastor or priest lives better than the poor who contribute is God pleased?

Is the maintenance of the buildings and the institution of the church as important to God as care for the poor?

In your giving do you give mostly to maintain the institution or to the needs of the poor?

Do you think of your giving as “giving to God”?

Read Mark 13:1-4. See Ezekial 10:18-19; 11:22-23. Any connection?

Does this passage relate to Mark 12:38-40 and 12:41-44?

Is there any connection this account and the cleansing of the temple, the cursing of the fig tree, and the statement about throwing a mountain into the sea?

Are the disciples asking one question or two in verse 4?

Read Mark 13:5-23. What is the purpose of what Jesus teaches here – what does he hope will happen in the hearer (reader)?

In Mark 4 what sense is emphasized? What sense is emphasized in this chapter?

Are the signs in verses 7 & 8 to be associated with the end of the world?

What does it mean to endure to the end?

Do these warnings have to do with the times we live in? If so, how so?

Has the time spoken of in verses 14 & 15 already happened with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.? Do verses 21 & 22 always apply to the present?

Read Mark 13:24-27. What does this section say about the end?

Is verse 26 to be understood literally? How do you think about the end?

Read Mark 13:28-37. In verse 28 the word translated “lesson” is the word “parable.” What is the parable of the fig tree?

Do you think Jesus expected the end of the world during the lifetime of some people who were living on earth when he was crucified? Has the thrust of this chapter been to convince the reader that the end was near or that the end was not yet?

Read Mark 13:32-37. What is the emphasis of these verses? Is this the emphasis of the entire chapter?

What does it mean for you to keep alert? What do we need to be awake to in our time?

What are you doing that you would like your master to find you doing when he comes?

Are there any ways in which you are asleep?

Read Mark 14:1-2. What are the leaders determined to do? When are they determined not to do it?

Who is in charge here?

Who is in charge of the events of your life?

Read Mark 14:3-9. What is the woman doing?

Have you ever done anything like what the woman is doing?

How are your giving offerings like what the woman has done? How are your offerings different?

Can money be “wasted” on God? Do you “waste” money on one you love?

Has this woman been given a name? What is remembered about her?

Will the same thing be remembered about you?

Read Mark 14:10-11. What is remembered about Judas?

What does Mark tell us about Judas’ motive?

Have you ever betrayed anyone?

Has anyone ever betrayed you?

Is Judas doing the will of God?

Read Mark 14:12-16. Is Jesus or God the Father in charge here? Does the text give any indication?

What meal will they eat? What is the significance of this meal?

Read Mark 14:17-21. Are the disciples and The Twelve the same? Is he only eating this meal with the twelve?

Do the disciples seem to know whether they will be faithful or not? Do you?

Can you do something to take you out of the love of God?

Read Mark 14:22-25. What do you think the disciples thought Jesus meant when he shared the bread and cup?

When will Jesus drink the fruit of the vine new in the kingdom of God? Does this mean that there will be grapes in the kingdom of God?

What will be new in the kingdom of God? Will anything be the same?

Read Mark 14:26-31. Did Peter have confidence in himself? Do you?

Is having confidence in our faithfulness a good thing?

Read Mark 14:32-42. Peter, James and John are singled out in Mark 5:37, 9:2, 13:3 (with Andrew). See also 10:39-40 ff., 8:31-34, and 13:37. Mark's readers know that James (Acts 12:2) has suffered martyrdom. (Peter also? John?) Is what they have witnessed any help to them?

When Jesus addresses Simon by name this is the only instance of Jesus addressing someone by name in this gospel. Any thoughts on this?

Are you like Peter, James and John in any way? Is it to be expected that we would fall asleep in the time of trial?

What do you think is the meaning of Jesus throwing himself to the ground? Prayer? Exhaustion? Desperation?

Compare 9:23 to 14:35. Is Jesus believing that the cross can be avoided? Is God free?

Does God answer Jesus prayer or do the events answer Jesus prayer? Is this the same thing? Has God spoken before in this gospel?

How do you understand God to be communicating to you – through scripture? Through events? Both? Through other people's words?

How do you understand the statement, “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak”? If they disciples had tried harder could they have been faithful to Jesus?

If you try hard enough can you be faithful to Jesus?

Is God’s will clear for you or is it sometimes ambiguous?

Does anything happen to you that is not God’s will for you?

Into whose hands is Jesus betrayed? Is this what Jesus predicted?

Read Mark 14:43-52. What scripture is being fulfilled? Why Mark does not tell us?

What was the young man doing? Had he done what Jesus commanded the man with many possessions to do? Was that enough?

Read Mark 14:53-65. What motivates the Sanhedrin? Are they seeking the good of the nation in what they do?

What has Jesus done to make them anxious?

Do they convict Jesus on the basis of false testimony?

What claim is Jesus making?

Compare this passage to Isaiah 53:1-9.

Read Mark 14:66-72. Do you acknowledge Jesus before others or not?

Read Mark 15:1-15. What title is Jesus given here? Is this why he is crucified?

Barabbas means, “Son of father.” What similarities exist between Jesus and Barabbas? What differences?

What role has the crowd had in this gospel?

Look at Mark 13:35-36. What has happened at evening, midnight, cockcrow, and dawn?

Read Mark 15:16-20.

Read Mark 15:21-32. compare Mark 8:34. Look at Psalm 22. Look at Mark 8:35.

Who is still faithful to Jesus?

The word for bandit is a word used of revolutionaries. In Palestine only revolutionaries and slaves were crucified by the Romans. What point is Mark making? What different point does Luke 23:39-43 make?

Read Mark 15:33-39. When has Elijah been mentioned previously in this gospel?

Read Amos 8:9-10. What connections can be made?

The same word is used for the heavens being “torn” Mark 1:10 and the curtain in the temple being “torn”. What might this signify?

In the four accounts of the crucifixion there are differences in what Jesus speaks, what happens, timing, and faithfulness of Jesus’ followers. What is Mark saying about Jesus through what he chooses to report?

The centurion is the first person to speak of Jesus as God’s Son. (only the demons have done so up to this point. What might the meaning of this be?

What does the centurion see? what had the crowds seen? Which leads to understanding?

Compare Jesus baptism and Jesus death. The word he breathed his last in Greek is ex – spirit. Gave up his spirit might be a way to translate it. What are the common elements between the baptism and crucifixion? See Mark 10:38.

A commentator says that the two tears (in the heavens and in the temple curtain) were both to let God out. What do you think of this idea? Are churches places to meet God or to confine God?

Do you want God to be loose in your world?

Does Mark present any statements about what Jesus’ death accomplishes?

Read Mark 15:40-47. What do we learn about the women?

Who buried John the Baptist? Who buries Jesus?

Is Joseph a disciple as Mark presents him? Are the women?

Read Mark 16:1-8. The word used of the women seeing the stone is rolled away is the same word used in 8:24. What might be the connection?

Does the absence of the body create faith?

How is Jesus spoken of in the words of the young man to the women?

Is Jesus on the loose?

Are you following him to Galilee? What might that mean for you?