



MARK 6-8

Chapter 6

Jesus is Rejected in Nazareth (v 1-6)

Why were the people astonished at his teaching?

Why were they so offended?

Why could Jesus do no 'mighty work' there?

A Markan Sandwich (v 7-30)

(Review) Definition of Markan Sandwich: A technique used by Mark, which places one story in the middle of other stories which are theologically related. This technique is used to intertwine deeper theological and thematic meanings.

The 12 Apostles are Sent out by Jesus (v 7-12)

Jesus gave them authority

Jesus prepared his disciples for potential rejection

What did it mean to shake the dust off your feet?

The Death of John the Baptist (v 14-29)

The story is told in past tense

The Apostles Return After Preaching, Delivering, Healing (v 30)

What is the message of this Markan Sandwich?

Compare and contrast responses to Jesus' ministry

Emphasis on the cost of discipleship

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (v 31-44)

Jesus had compassion on the great crowd

What does the disciples' reaction to the hungry crowd tell us about them?

Jesus Walks on Water (v 45-52)

This story immediately follows the account of the feeding of the 5,000.

Underscores Jesus' divine authority and power over the natural world

Hints of Jesus' identity as the long-awaited Messiah

A Nature Miracle - reserved for Jesus' closest followers, provided to increase faith in Jesus.

Mark's account omits Peter walking on the water to Jesus, which we know about from Matthew.

Verse 48: Jesus intended to pass them by.

Chapter 7

Unwashed Hands & Inner Purity (v 1-23)

The hand washing described here was purely ceremonial. They were commanded by tradition, not by Scripture.

Many Jewish leaders of Jesus' time honored the oral law even more than the written law.

'He who expounds the Scriptures in opposition to the tradition has no share in the world to come' (Rabbi Eleazer)

'It is a greater offense to teach anything contrary to the voice of the Rabbis than to contradict Scripture itself.'" (The Mishna)

"For Jesus, Scripture trumped tradition." (Emerson Powery)

Jesus' argued that nothing can physically enter a person and make him or her impure in God's sight. Rather, the things that are displeasing to God are the things that come from within.

Deliverance - The Syrophenician Woman's Faith (v 24-37)

The woman was full of faith, humility and persistence.

Jesus tears down cultural and ethical boundaries by ministering to this Gentile family, signaling what is ahead and what he came to establish - that he came for both Jews and Gentiles.

Jesus Heals a Deaf-Mute Man (v 31-37)

The ancient Greek word for impediment in his speech is *mogilalon*, an extremely rare word.

Isaiah 35:5: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb [mogilalon] sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

In the use of this word, Mark wants us to know that the Messiah is here.

CHAPTER 8

THE TURNING POINT

This is a "turning point" chapter – the focus begins to shift onto Jesus' impending death. The distinct shift happens in the story of Jesus and Peter in v 27-30.

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (v 1-10)

Similarities/Differences from the feeding of the 5,000

Just as Jesus involved his disciples in the feeding, Jesus calls us to share in his work of compassion, healing and feeding.

Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida (v 22-26)

This story stands out as the only 2 stage healing in the Gospels.

Just as the blind man regained his sight in stages, this healing story highlights the ongoing theme of the disciples' spiritual blindness and their need for further enlightenment and understanding.

The unique manner of this healing may prefigure the "seeing" of Peter in the next episode. Peter sees that Jesus is the Christ; however, he does not yet understand the suffering nature of Jesus' messiahship. Peter, like the other disciples, must go through a second stage of "healing" before he can become a true disciple.

Turning Point:

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ (v 27-30)

Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew Messiah, the anointed one.

The Messianic Secret: Jesus strictly charged them to tell no one about him. This is because the disciples misunderstood the role of Jesus as the Messiah.

Jesus Predicts His Death (v 31-38)

When Jesus finally speaks of his messianic status, it is not to affirm their understanding or expectation of what Messiah would be like, but to "rede fine it practically beyond recognition...his life and mission is not about victory and success, but about rejection, suffering, and death." (Jim Edwards)

In trying to avert Jesus from suffering, Peter, in a way he cannot know, opposes a deep mystery of God. For suffering is the only way to de-stroy the stronghold of Satan, and that is Jesus' purpose from early in the gospel. (Jim Edwards)

Jesus sees Peter's rebuke as an opposition to the essential design of God's plan and rebukes him for it.

The cross was an unrelenting instrument of death.

Jesus' teaching does not mean "suffer for the sake of suffering". There is no redemptive value in suffering in itself.

<p>“Denying self is not the same as self-denial. We practice self-denial when, for a good purpose, we occasionally give up things or activities. But we deny self when we surrender ourselves to Christ and determine to obey His will.” (Wiersbe)</p>
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Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)

The claim of Jesus is a total and exclusive one.