



## HOMEWORK FOR February 27, 2024

### The Gospel According to Mark

**Read Chapters 6-8**

1) Read Mark 6:7-13. To multiply his ministry, Jesus sends out his twelve disciples in pairs. What is significant about the instructions he gives them? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the common theme in the disciples' message, John's message (Mark 1:4), and Jesus' message (Mark 1:15)?

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2) Read Mark 6:45-52. Is there something the disciples should have understood about the miracle of the loaves (v30-44) which this story reveals? \_\_\_\_\_

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3) Read Mark 4:21-34. What are the promise and the warning found in Mark 4:21-25? How do these carry on themes found in 4:1-20? \_\_\_\_\_

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4) Read Mark 4:35-5:20. The sea represented for the Jews the dark power of evil, threatening to destroy God's creation, God's people, God's purposes. What Old Testament story involves someone who slept in a boat in a storm? How does this story in Mark 4:35-41 contrast with that one? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why are the disciples still fearful after Jesus calms the storm? \_\_\_\_\_

5) Looking at Mark 7, and having some knowledge about Mark's organization of his material, why do you suppose there were healings recorded in the second half of the chapter after Jesus' instruction to the Pharisees in the first half of the chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

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6) Read Mark 8:1-13. In this story of a feeding of a crowd, what are the similarities and differences to the story in 6:30-44? \_\_\_\_\_

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7) Looking at all of Mark 8, where do you notice a distinct shift in topic and tone? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **FOR FURTHER REFLECTION**

Set aside about 15-30 minutes to engage in a practice of imaginative reading. This is not a time of studying scenes in the gospel, but rather to spend time in “holy daydreaming.” Picture yourself in the situation about which you are reading. Use your imagination to note all the sensory elements of the scene. What does the setting look like? How does it feel? Is there a scent or taste involved? Notice other characters present. Mostly, pay close attention to Jesus and to your feelings. Allow the gospel story, combined with your imagination, be an experience of being deeply loved by Jesus.

- A. Mark 5:25-34 – Put yourself in this scene as the woman. What does the crowd “pressing in” on Jesus look like, sound like, feel like? What does Jesus look like? What is something in your life that you are feeling really needs Jesus’ attention? What would YOU like to bring to Jesus for healing, comfort, wisdom, presence? After you have thought about what you really want to bring to Jesus, imagine yourself reaching out for his cloak. He notices that you are touching him and he turns to address you. Have a dialogue with Jesus.
- B. Mark 6:45-52 – Join the disciples in the boat as they face a mounting storm. Notice Jesus walking on the water toward you. Hear his words of comfort: “Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.” Then observe as he gets in the boat with you and the others. Notice the wind starting to subside and this is your chance to offer to Jesus any of your worries, fears, concerns, stresses. Name them. Tell him about them as you would be telling a friend. Do this until you feel the weight of these things decrease, just as the rough, choppy sea subsides.
- C. Mark 8:27-30 – Imagine yourself walking with Jesus and his disciples. Instead of Peter, Jesus turns to you and asks you “Who do you say I am?” Spend time talking with Jesus about your answer to this question.