

JOURNEY

together



Current Series:

“The Gospel According to Mark”

**Disciples
growing together
in small groups**

The Gospel According to Mark

1 Mark 1-2

2 Mark 3-4

3 Mark 5-6

4 Mark 7-8

5 Mark 9-10

6 Mark 11-12

7 Mark 13-14

8 Mark 15-16

Step 1: GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face this past week?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading?

What are your thoughts from Mark 11-12?

Step 2: GET FED, page 1

Text: Mark 11-12

11:1-11

- What significance, if any, do you see in Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a colt? See Matt. 21:2-4; John 12:14-16; Zech. 9:9.
- Again and again throughout Mark's gospel account, Jesus has purposefully tried to keep his identity as the Messiah a secret (e.g., Mark 1:34, 44; 3:12; 5:43; 7:36; 8:30; 9:9); but NOW he is ready for it to be very publically announced. Why the change? See John 2:4; 7:6, 8, 30; 8:20; **12:23**.
- What does the word, "Hosanna" mean?
- The people were clearly thrilled at the thought of Jesus being their king, but within just 5 days, their attitude changed *completely*, Mark 15:12-14. ● What explanations can you suggest for their violent change in attitude about Jesus? ● Is it conceivable that our attitude toward him (or his teachings) might ever change like theirs did?

11:12-26

- What were your initial feelings about Jesus' cursing the fig tree?
- The cursing of the fig tree seems to be another example of a dramatic parable (cf. Mark 8:22-25). The fig tree was analogous to what group of people, most of whom were presenting themselves as fruitful for God, while in actuality, they were only putting on a "leafy" show? ● What are the implications for us today, in how we present ourselves before God?

Step 2: GET FED, page 2

Text: Mark 11-12

11:12-26 (continued)

- John 2:13ff records that Jesus cleared the Temple at the beginning of his public ministry. Along with Mark here, Matt. 21:12-13 and Luke 19:45-48 record that he cleansed it during the last week of his ministry. How can this be the case?
- Why was it so important to Jesus that the Temple not be used as a marketplace? ● What does Jesus say God's house was intended to be? ● What application can you suggest for his Temple today? See 1 Cor. 3:16-17.
- The people were amazed at Jesus' teaching, v. 18. Why did this bother the Jewish leaders to the point that they sought to kill him (also see Mark 3:6)? ● Why didn't they simply submit to his Lordship? ● Do you think that we are sometimes similarly obstinate? If yes, how?
- Verse 24 is an incredibly powerful statement. ● Does it really mean what it says? ● How much power is REALLY available in prayer? ● Have you ever seen a mountain jump into the sea? What can / should we do to access the power which God promises through prayer? ● Does 1 John 5:14-15 give you confidence in prayer, or does it give timidity and apprehension? Why / why not?
- Read v. 25 again. Is there someone you need to forgive? Will you? See also Matt. 6:14.

Step 2: GET FED, page 3

Text: Mark 11-12

11:27-33

- Contextually, what “things” had Jesus been doing (v. 28) about which the Jewish leaders questioned his authority?
- Explain the Jewish leaders’ hesitation to answer Jesus’ question concerning the origin of John’s baptism.
- Do you think that they answered his question truthfully (v. 33)?

12:1-12

- Who does the owner of the vineyard represent? Who are the tenants (Is. 5:2, 7)? Who are the various servants who were sent to collect from the tenants (Heb. 11:32-38)? Who is the beloved son (Mark 9:7)? Who are the “others,” (v. 9) who later received the vineyard (Acts 13:46; 18:6)?
- What application(s) do you see in this parable for us?

12:13-17

- In your own words, describe the Jews’ hypocritical attempt to flatter Jesus.
- Clearly Jesus and his apostles (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-17) taught that we are to obey the “laws of the land,” just so long as these laws do not violate God’s own laws (Acts 4:18-20). We are called to obey civil laws, not because we necessarily like them (e.g., taxes); rather, it’s because God has called us to holiness. Why then do so many Christians contend that obeying speed limit laws is ludicrous? Do the relatively small things in life even matter? See Luke 19:17; Matt. 23:23.

Step 2: GET FED, page 4

Text: Mark 11-12

12:18-27

- In your opinion, what was the purpose behind the Sadducee's story of the woman and her 7 husbands?
- What 2 reasons does Jesus give here as to why the Sadducees were in error (v. 24)? See Mark 12:10; 2:25.
- What are the implications for us?
- Given Jesus' explanation of Ex. 3:6 here, would you say that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are dead or alive?

12:28-34

- What is the greatest commandment? ● In your own words, describe what it means to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- What is the 2nd greatest command? ● In your own words, describe what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.
- Was the scribe correct in his application of what Jesus had said about the greatest commands (v. 32-33)?
- Paraphrase v. 33 into a modern setting.
- What does being it mean to be "not far from the kingdom of God"? ● Was the man "saved"?

12:35-37

- "The Lord (*who?*) said to my (*whose?*) Lord (*who?*)" ● Explain how Jesus was both David's son and his Lord.

Step 2: GET FED, page 5

Text: Mark 11-12

12:38-40

- What about the teachers of the law (scribes) was so utterly hypocritical?
- What does v. 40 say about “degrees of punishment”? See also Luke 12:47-48.

12:41-44

- In what sense did the widow contribute more than all the other contributors (combined)?
- Does Jesus notice when we sacrifice (or when we obey) even in the relatively small things of life?

Step 3: **GET ACTIVE**

- ***Make a list of 3 relatively SMALL ways you can obey / serve God more completely; then DO them.***
- ***Read Mark 13-14, discuss it with your family, and be ready to share your thoughts next time:***