

## **FG Midweek**

### **The Gospel of Mark**

#### **Class 5: Mark 4:35-6:6**

Good evening! Welcome back to our Midweek gathering. This time on Wednesday nights focuses on equipping you to do the work of ministry. God calls you to do more than just sit on the sideline—He has a plan and He has a purpose for you in His mission. Wednesday nights serve as an opportunity for you to learn, be built up, and to be equipped to the ministry that God has called you to.

**Reminder: study in spring, share in fall**

#### **REVIEW**

In the first three chapters of Mark, Jesus is introduced as the long-awaited Messiah and divine Lord. Following Jesus requires repentance and faith, but also requires counting the cost. We will face opposition because Jesus faced opposition. And still, we are called to live with faithfulness, boldness, and perseverance in the face of opposition. Amidst examples of false disciples, we see that the mark of a true disciple is one who is both with Jesus and sent out by Jesus. Parables are introduced by Jesus as a means to distinguish between those who rightly respond to the kingdom of God and those who don't.

The fifth section in Mark shows the power of Jesus over the natural, supernatural, and physical. Readers would expect Jesus to be affirmed as the Messiah, but instead, He is rejected in His own hometown.

#### **The Gospel of Mark**

- Mark 4:1-34
  - The section introduces parables and why Jesus uses them to teach. At the heart of these parables is the reality that the kingdom of God is made up of those disciples

who respond faithfully and fruitfully to the message of the gospel. Jesus speaks in parables in order to conceal His message from outsiders and to reveal His message to insiders.

- 4:1-20
  - 4:1-9 gives us the parable of the sower.
  - 4:10-12 gives us the purpose of the parables- they are meant to reveal the truth to true believers and conceal the truth from outsiders. Thus, they reveal the heart of the hearer.
  - 4:13-20 gives us the explanation of the parable of the sower
- 4:21-34
  - 4:21-25 gives us the parable of the lamp under a basket
  - 4:26-29 gives us the parable of the growing seed
  - 4:30-32 gives us the parable of the mustard seed
  - 4:33-34 concludes the section
- Application & Takeaways
  - Without the intervention of the Holy Spirit, man will be unable to see and understand the gospel. We need to pray to God to reveal the truth to outsiders.
  - Those who are in Christ can learn so much from the parables and are called to respond with faithfulness by pursuing gospel growth.

## **HIGHLIGHT**

- What is the context within the book of Mark? What is the context within the entire Bible?
- What is the author's main intent? What is Mark trying to get us as readers to understand?

## **EXPLAIN**

- What is the author saying?
- What words or phrases are repeated or emphasized in the passage?
- What themes in Mark do you see recurring in this passage?
- What does the author reveal about God? Man? Redemption?
- Does this passage connect to other passages in the Bible?

## **APPLY**

- What does the text teach about mankind and how we differ from God?
- Is there a sin that I am convicted of and need to confess after reading this passage?
- What kind of gospel-fueled obedience does this text call me to?
- Is there a sin to avoid? Is there a promise to hold onto?

## **RESPOND**

- Journal your response to the text by writing down your key takeaway of the text.

## The Gospel of Mark

### Mark 4:35-6:6

The section includes four sections, each building to a conclusion. Broadly speaking, Jesus is shown to be the Lord over the natural, supernatural, and physical. This power points to Jesus' power over the spiritual realm as well, but rather than be accepted as powerful, He is rejected in His own city.

This passage has four sections:

Text	Description	Summary
4:35-41	Jesus Calms the Storm (Nature)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• While Jesus sleeps, the disciples grow increasingly fearful of the raging storm. The carpenter is less bothered by the storm than seasoned fishermen.</li><li>• Despite the mystery of the kingdom of God being revealed to them, the disciples still lack faith! They are unable to respond with trust in a moment of crisis.</li><li>• Their fear represents a bad response to God's revelation of Himself.</li><li>• Were the disciples wrong to fear the storm? It seems that Jesus desires them to have their focus, not on the storm, but on Him. It's not that the storm isn't frightening, it's that Jesus is greater than the storm.</li></ul>
5:1-20	Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon (Supernatural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This exorcism account is the longest in all of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke).</li><li>• Mark goes to great lengths to describe the power and number of the demons possessing the man. And yet, the power that Jesus has over these demons is unparalleled.</li><li>• The calming of the demon possessed man reminds us of the calming of the sea. Likewise, the pigs perishing in water reminds us of Pharaoh's army perishing in the Red Sea.</li><li>• The disciples have marveled at Jesus thus far, but they have yet to worship Him. The demoniac worships Jesus and shares of all that Jesus had done for him. This is a stark contrast to the disciples.</li><li>• The crowd "fears" or "marvels" in the same way that the</li></ul>

		<p>disciples “fear” and “marvel” in the previous scene. Mark uses the characters of this story to highlight the disciples’ continued lack of faith and understanding, while also pointing to genuine belief in the healed demoniac.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The healed man is with Jesus, and is sent out by Jesus—he is a true disciple. The right response of a disciple is one who wants to be with Jesus. Do you want to be with Jesus?</li> </ul>
5:21-43	Jesus Heals a Two Women (Physical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This is the second of six “Markan sandwiches.”</li> <li>● Jesus’ healing of these two women shows His power over the physical body.</li> <li>● Both of these characters (Jairus and the woman) come to Jesus in the midst of a crisis and show their faith. This is to be contrasted with the disciples who experienced a crisis in the boat, but did not show faith.</li> <li>● The woman with a discharge of blood would be considered unclean. By touching Jesus, Jesus would be considered unclean as well. But as we see throughout Mark, Jesus is not made unclean by those who are unclean. On the contrary, rather than becoming unclean, He makes them clean.</li> <li>● The woman with a discharge is referred to as “daughter.” This is the only time Jesus refers to a woman as daughter in the whole gospel. She exhibits true and genuine faith.</li> <li>● Jairus also demonstrates faith in Jesus as well, believing Him to be able to heal his daughter.</li> <li>● Those who truly believe will have faith even in the worst moments of life. We ought to pursue an unwavering faith in Jesus.</li> </ul>
6:1-6	Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The power of Jesus over the natural, supernatural, and physical would certainly lead to His acceptance as Messiah, right? Sadly, no. He is rejected in His own hometown.</li> <li>● Jesus is not “unable” to do miracles. Rather, He simply chooses not to do tremendous miracles where people clearly reject Him. He chooses to not override the wishes of the people there. If they do not have faith, then He will not perform miracles.</li> </ul>

These passages reveal one common theme—Jesus is powerful over all of His creation. The natural, the supernatural, the physical, and the spiritual. And yet, rather than affirming His divinity, His own town rejects Him and His disciples continue to lack faith themselves. True disciples believe in Him, and they are with him and sent by Him.

## **Conclusion**

This passage is a great opportunity to share the identity of Jesus with whomever you are reading. Christ has the power over all—do you believe this? Do you identify with Him as the Messiah? Or do you reject Him? These are good rhetorical questions to ask at this point. This theme will continue to build throughout Mark. It implores the reader to decide in their own heart who this Jesus is. The revelation of Jesus requires a response. Will you reject Him or accept Him?