

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF MARK
Chapter 3

vs. 1- 6:

On the Sabbath (a day that the Jewish religious leaders had surrounded with a lot of restrictions to assure that people would not work--and thus break the Sabbath) Jesus entered a synagogue (Jewish place of worship). A man with a shriveled hand was there. Certain people, wanting to cause trouble for Jesus, wanted to see Him "break" the Sabbath (in their opinion) by healing the man. Jesus simply inferred that when one is doing good that it is permissible. Upon the healing, the Pharisees (Jewish religious leaders that believed in the resurrection and angels) began to plot with the Herodians (a political group which supported the reign of King Herod) on how to put Jesus to death.

vs. 7-12:

Jesus popularity, due to His healing of the diseased, caused people to come to Him for healing from all over Palestine. He withdrew to the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias, it is also called) and the people followed Him there. The evil spirits confessed Him to be the Son of God but He commanded them not to tell anyone who He was.

vs. 13-19:

Jesus went up into the hills and called His followers to Him. From this group He appointed 12 to be apostles (ones sent out). They were to preach and drive out demons. The 12 were: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), James and John (sons of Zebedee, called by Jesus the sons of Thunder; inferring rashness and volatile temperaments), Andrew (Peter's brother), Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon the Zealot (a Jewish group fighting for the Law of Moses, resorting to violence and assassination of foreigners at times), and Judas Iscariot (turned Jesus over to be crucified).

vs. 20-30:

Jesus' continued to grow in popularity. His family and the teachers of the law from Jerusalem failed to believe Him to be the Son of God. The teachers of the law stated that it was Satan working through Jesus, that gave Him the power to cast out demons.

Jesus refuted their claim, showing how absurd it would be for Satan to fight against his workers. Jesus explained that He was able to cast out demons for He had overcome Satan. He warned people not to underestimate and speak poorly of the Holy Spirit's work for they will be committing an unpardonable sin!

vs. 31-34:

When Jesus' family arrived to draw him away, He stated that those who were His family were all who does God's will!

GOSPEL OF MARK

Chapter 4:

vs. 1-20:

By Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee) Jesus taught the crowd that had gathered along the shore. From a boat He told a parable (earthly story with a heavenly meaning) about a farmer who went out and scattered seed. Some fell on the road (eaten by birds), some fell on rocky places (died because it had no root), some among thorns (choked by the thorns) and some on good ground (multiplying 30, 60 to even 100 times).

Later, Jesus told the disciples that they had been given the secret of the Kingdom of God, but to others, they heard the stories but failed to comprehend the meaning.

Jesus then explained the parable of the Sower. The seed is the Word of God. The pathway is like people who hear the word but forget it. The rocky places are those people who accept the message but give up when they face trials. The thorny ground is like people who accept the word but get sidetracked with the things of this world. The good soil is like people who accept the word and produce for God!

vs. 21-25:

Jesus taught them that these things would be revealed in due time. They were to use what they were learning and to try and understand even more. If they did, they would increase in understanding; if they failed to add to their knowledge, what understanding they did have, would be lost!

vs. 26-29:

Jesus taught His disciples that if people will go out and spread the Word of God, that it will produce results, even though they might not understand how it does it.

vs. 30-34:

Jesus also described the Kingdom of God to be like a mustard seed. A small seed but one which would grow into a large plant able to harbor and protect even birds. The Kingdom also, began as small and insignificant in appearance, but grew to be of sizable proportions.

Jesus continued to teach the people using parables, and would then teach the disciples their meaning, when they were alone.

vs. 35-41:

In the evening, Jesus departed with His disciples by boat across the lake. A storm rose up and water began to fill the boat. The disciples woke Jesus and asked if He was concerned about their safety. Jesus arose, spoke to the storm, and it ceased. Jesus then asked them why they were afraid and lacked faith.

The disciples then were terrified at the awesome power that was at Jesus' disposal.

Study Guide

Mark 3

1. On what day did Jesus enter the synagogue?
2. What did the Pharisees do when Jesus healed the man?
3. Where did people come from, to see Jesus/
4. What did the evil spirits cry out?
5. What were the apostles to do?
6. List the 12 apostles.
7. What did Jesus' family say about Him?
8. What did the teachers of the law say about Jesus?
9. What did Jesus say the first thing to do was, when robbing a strong man's house?
10. Who will never be forgiven?
11. Who came looking for Jesus?
12. Who did Jesus say His brother, sister and mother were?

BONUS:

1. Was Jesus breaking God's law concerning the Sabbath? Explain.
2. What is Jesus saying about His power over Satan in verse 27?
3. What is "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit"?

Study Guide

Mark 4

1. What happened to the seed that fell on the path?
2. What happened to the seed that fell on the rocky places?
3. What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns?
4. What happened to the seed that fell on the good soil?
5. Who did Jesus say the secret of the Kingdom, had been given to?
6. What does the farmer sow?
7. What types of people, are the various soils like?
8. What does Jesus say about that which is: hidden or concealed?
9. Who will receive more and who will lose what they have?
10. According to verse 26, what is the Kingdom of God like?
11. What does Jesus say about the mustard seed?
12. What did Jesus do when awakened during a storm?

BONUS:

1. What type of soil does God want? What type do you think you are?
2. What is the meaning of verse 25?
3. What is the significance of Jesus calming the storm?