

Study 1. The Servant of the sick

READ: Mark 1: 14 & 15 and 21-45



KEY VERSE: Mark 1: 34
Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases."

This set of Studies is based upon the Gospel according to Mark. Here are THREE POINTS to remember about this Gospel:-

1. It is the shortest of the four Gospels.
2. It is likely the first to have been written.
3. It is generally accepted that the writer, John Mark (**Acts 12: 12**), obtained much of his information for his Gospel from Peter.

Mark's Gospel differs from the other three in a number of ways. Note the following:-

1. What Jesus DID is emphasized more than what He SAID. In it, there are about 18 references to miracles, but only four main parables.
2. Movements and events take place rapidly. Note the repeated use of the word "**immediately**". Also "**straightway**" in one version.

Mark's Gospel is, of course, about the Lord Jesus. What has he to say about Him? Here are a few things worth noting:-

1. Mark does not give his readers any genealogy (or family tree) for Joseph and Mary, as Matthew and Luke do.
2. Mark writes nothing about Jesus' birth. He starts his story at the point where John the Baptist begins to preach; at that time, Jesus was about 30 years old.
3. About one-third of his whole Gospel is given over to details about Jesus' last week. (**chs. 11-16**)

In what way does Mark present Jesus? The best answer is to say that Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant - serving God and serving men. The Lord Jesus is seen as God's perfect Servant, always ready to do His Father's will. As such, He brings honour to His

Father, and brings blessing to men and women. About Himself He said, "**The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**". (**Mark 10: 45**)

This Study gives us a clear picture of the perfect Servant at work.

1. Serving in the Synagogue. In **verse 21** He is busy teaching. We know that His words were powerful, for the people quickly sensed that He had an authority which their usual teachers lacked. Equally effective was His rebuke of the evil spirit which controlled the man who was shouting.

2. Serving in the Home. Leaving the synagogue, He went to the house where Peter's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever. Jesus took her hand, lifted her up, and instantly she was cured and able to serve the meal!

3. Serving in the Evening. The perfect Servant worked long hours! As the day ended, sick people and those demon possessed, were still being brought to Him. What wonderful changes occurred in many lives!

4. Strength for Serving. **Verse 35** gives an insight into the prayer life of Christ. For Him, as God's Servant, it was both important and necessary to have time for fellowship with His Father. In this matter, He is the perfect Example for us in our service for God.

5. Ever widening Service. "**Let us go into the next towns, . . .**" said the Lord Jesus, when His disciples told Him the crowds were waiting for Him. (**vs. 37 & 38**) He would not be swayed by a sudden burst of popularity. His heart's desire was to tell others! He knew what His task was. "**For this purpose I have come forth.**" (**v. 38**)

6. Serving with Compassion. The case of the leper (**vs. 40-42**) shows the Servant's love. Moved with compassion, Jesus touched him! At once he was clean from his disease. The Lord Jesus had responded to his faith and sincere desire for healing! God's perfect Servant, is the only One who can cleanse us from our sins and set us right with God. Have you experienced His power in your life? When we trust Him as our Lord and Saviour, He then becomes our example in our service for God.

1

ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE TO THE FOLLOWING:-

- a) Mark's Gospel was the last to be written. _____
- b) Mark records nothing about Jesus' birth. _____
- c) Mark's Gospel is the shortest of the four. _____
- d) Mark presents Jesus as God's King. _____
- e) Peter was probably the person from whom Mark got the facts for his Gospel. _____

5

2

USING YOUR BIBLE, WRITE OUT MARK 10: 45. (REMEMBER 'MINISTER' MEANS 'SERVE'.)

2

3

SUGGEST AT LEAST TWO THINGS WHICH THIS STUDY TEACHES CHRISTIANS ABOUT HOW THEY SHOULD SERVE GOD.

3

4

IN MARK 1: 35, JESUS DID SOMETHING IN A SOLITARY (OR LONELY) PLACE:-

- a) What was it? _____
- b) When was it? _____
- c) Why was this important to Him? _____
- d) Why is this important to us? **(Read Luke 18: 1)** _____

6

5

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS, USING THE CLUES TO HELP YOU:-

- a. EGGYSONAU (a Jewish meeting house) _____
- b. CPNMAAEUR (a town Jesus visited) _____
- c. BTASBHA (the Jews' rest day) _____
- d. RYPSOLE (a disease) _____

4

6

a. WHAT DID PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW DO, AS SOON AS SHE WAS MADE WELL?

b. SUGGEST SOME WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY SERVE GOD TODAY, AFTER WE HAVE PUT OUR TRUST IN THE LORD JESUS.

5

25

Total marks
for this study

Study 2. The Servant's sermon by Galilee

READ: Mark 4: 1-9 and 13-20



KEY VERSE: Mark 4: 9

"And He said to them, 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear!'"

In the last Study, we saw how the Lord Jesus served people by performing miracles. The **Bible Reading** shows that He also served them by teaching them about God and His kingdom.

A feature of His teaching was His use of parables. One of these is 'The Parable of the Sower'. Jesus spoke these famous words beside the Lake of Galilee. The crowd was so big that He used a boat as a pulpit!

Before we examine the parable in detail, we should remind ourselves that a parable is **'an earthly story, with a heavenly meaning'**. In one sense, the **'earthly story'** makes learning easier, because it appeals to our minds more readily than abstract truth. In another sense, the **'heavenly meaning'** is hidden, and we must search for the underlying truth. For those who carefully seek for the spiritual meaning, the prize is great - they find truth of eternal value!

This parable is about a man sowing seed in his field where there were four types of ground. The results were determined by the type of ground! When it came to harvest time, only one proved to be **"good ground"**, while the other three were unproductive.

Such, then, was the **'earthly story'**. Later, Jesus explained its meaning. In His explanation, He made it clear that the parable was about different ways in which people respond to God's message. How we react to God's Word, is vitally important!

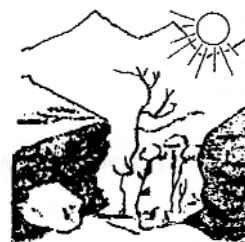
FIRST TYPE OF GROUND - UNPRODUCTIVE



Some people are represented by what happened to the seed which fell on the hard path. It was quickly devoured by the birds! There are people who never really benefit from God's Word entering their minds and hearts, because they allow Satan to take it from them.

SECOND TYPE OF GROUND - UNPRODUCTIVE

The seed among the stones pictures people who hear God's Word, receive it with apparent enthusiasm, but soon give up following the Lord, perhaps because of persecution. Their lives produce no 'harvest' for God.



THIRD TYPE OF GROUND - UNPRODUCTIVE



Another kind of hearer starts well, but before long he is distracted by the pressures of this life, so that God's Word is **"choked"**. They are pictured by the seed which fell among thorns. It failed to achieve any worthwhile results.

FOURTH TYPE OF GROUND - PRODUCTIVE

Yet another group is seen in what happened to the seed which fell on the **"good ground"**. This seed germinated and produced a harvest of varying proportions. Here are the people who **"having heard the Word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit"**. (Luke 8: 15)



By means of this wonderful parable, our Lord was prompting His hearers to check their response to His words. We, too, should examine how we react to the message of God's Word, the Bible.

"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." (Hebrews 3: 7 & 8)

"He who hears My word, and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." (John 5: 24)

Study 2. The Servant's sermon by Galilee

1

WRITE A SENTENCE TO EXPLAIN WHAT A PARABLE IS.

2

2

SUPPLY SUITABLE WORDS IN THE BLANK SPACES:-

- a) Because the crowd was so big, our Lord used a _____ as His _____ .
- b) The parable in the Bible Reading is usually known as
'T_____ _____ _____ _____'.
- c) The seed fell on _____ kinds of _____ .
- d) Only _____ produced a good harvest.

5

3

READ MARK 4: 15, AND WRITE A SENTENCE TO SAY WHAT MAY BECOME OF THE WORD WHICH IS SOWN IN PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

3

4

READ MARK 4: 18 & 19 AND WRITE DOWN THREE THINGS WHICH MAY CAUSE GOD'S WORD TO BE INEFFECTIVE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO HEAR IT.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

3

5

READ LUKE 6: 46. WRITE IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT THIS VERSE MEANS.

3

6

HAVING COMPLETED THIS STUDY, GIVE SOME REASONS WHY MANY PEOPLE TODAY DO NOT BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM.

5

7

IN WHAT WAYS IS THE WORD OF GOD 'SOWN' INTO PEOPLE'S MINDS AND HEARTS TODAY?

4

25

Total marks
for this study

Study 3. The Servant must suffer

READ: Mark 8: 27-33; 9: 30-32; 10: 32-34



KEY VERSE: Mark 9: 31

“The Son of Man is being delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

We know very little about what lies before us! With our Lord, it was very different. He understood clearly that ahead of Him was suffering and death. Not only did He know these things, but He often spoke about them. This study focuses on three such occasions.

I. AT CAESAREA PHILIPPI - Mark 8: 27-33

This was the most northern point ever visited by Jesus. As He and His disciples walked along, He asked TWO QUESTIONS.

First, **“Who do men say that I am?”** To this, the disciples gave several answers:-

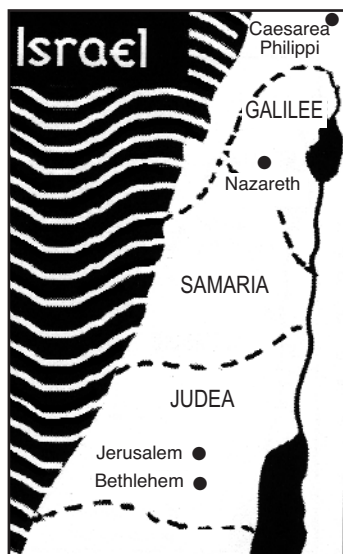
a) Some think You are **John the Baptist**, now risen from the dead after being beheaded by Herod.

b) Some think You are **Elijah**. He had gone to Heaven in a chariot of fire, and it was believed that he would come again. **(2 Kings 2: 11 and Malachi 4: 5)**

c) Others remain vague about who You are, and think You are **one of the prophets**.

Jesus then asked a second, more pointed question: **“But who do YOU say that I am?”** Peter answered, **“You are the Christ”**. (v. 29) ‘The Christ’ means ‘The Messiah’ or ‘The Anointed One’, a name that the Jews used for the long-awaited Deliverer whom God had promised.

Immediately, the Lord Jesus began to teach them not to think of Him yet as a glorious, reigning Messiah. He



must first suffer and die. Only by His death could He save us from our sins.

Peter disliked what Jesus said, and he rebuked his Master for speaking such things. Our Lord's reply to him may seem harsh (v. 33), but we must remember that He knew who was behind Peter's objection. It was Satan himself! Our Lord was totally committed to doing His Father's will, by dying for our sins. Therefore, without any wavering, He ordered Satan away!

2. IN GALILEE - Mark 9: 30-32

Our Lord's southward journey had continued. (See map.) His talk was not of royal splendour and kingly power, but of being rejected and killed. The most astonishing thing was that He declared that He would rise again the third day! The perfect Servant must indeed suffer, but He would triumph! Death conquers all others but not Him!

3. NEAR JERUSALEM - Mark 10: 32-34

The capital city, where so many kings had reigned, was now not far away! Again, Christ repeated, in even greater detail, what He had been saying ever since they left Caesarea Philippi.

Note the following remarkable details:-

1. He named the PLACE where He would suffer. **“Behold we are going up to Jerusalem . . .”**
2. The Jewish rulers would condemn Him and hand Him over to the Gentiles.
3. After mistreating Him, the Romans would put Him to death.
4. The third day, He would rise again, as He had stated in **chapters 8 & 9**.

Thus the Gospel of Mark portrays God's perfect Servant as the One who would not turn from God's path. He knew that only by His suffering and dying could we be delivered from our sins. His reigning, in power and glory, will follow. **(Luke 24: 26 and 1 Peter 5: 1)**

The same order applies to Christians; every believer, however young is 'a servant of God'. Unlike the 'perfect Servant' we often fail, yet God's promise stands true:-

“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.”
(2 Timothy 2: 12)

Study 3. The Servant must suffer

- 1 THIS STUDY HAS SHOWN THAT THE LORD JESUS, AS GOD'S PERFECT SERVANT, DIFFERS FROM THE REST OF US. WRITE A SENTENCE SHOWING ONE WAY IN WHICH HE IS DIFFERENT.

2

- 2 WRITE OUT THE TWO QUESTIONS WHICH JESUS ASKED HIS DISCIPLES AT CAESAREA PHILIPPI.

a)

b)

2

- 3 a. WHICH DISCIPLE ANSWERED JESUS' SECOND QUESTION?

b. WRITE HIS ANSWER HERE.

2

- 4 READ MARK 6: 14-16, AND WRITE THE NAME OF ONE PERSON WHO THOUGHT THAT JESUS WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST!

2

- 5 EXPLAIN WHY THE LORD JESUS COULD SPEAK SO ACCURATELY ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HIM.

4

- 6 a. WHICH DISCIPLE TRIED TO OPPOSE WHAT OUR LORD WAS SAYING ABOUT HIS COMING SUFFERINGS ?

b. WRITE OUT WHAT JESUS SAID TO HIM.

3

- 7 THERE ARE MANY REFERENCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CONCERNING CHRIST'S SUFFERING AND HIS SUBSEQUENT GLORY.

Look up these references and then write either 'GLORY' or 'SUFFERING' in each box:-

1 Peter 2: 21 Luke 9: 32 John 17: 24 2 Peter 1: 17 Hebrews 13: 12 1 Peter 3: 18

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6

- 8 WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO SUFFER AND DIE, THEN RISE AGAIN? (1 PETER 3: 18 MAY HELP YOU.)

4

25

Total marks
for this study

Study 4. The Servant's predictions fulfilled

This study sheet belongs to:

READ: Mark 14: 53-65; 15: 1-3, 15-25 & 37; 16: 9-16



KEY VERSE: John 7: 46
"No man ever spoke like this Man!"

The previous Study showed how our Lord, on His last journey to Jerusalem, consistently foretold His death and resurrection. The final chapters of Mark's Gospel, show that all He had foretold came true.

1. HE HAD FORETOLD THAT HE WOULD BE REJECTED BY THE ELDERS, THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE SCRIBES. (Mark 8: 31)

These three groups were the Jewish leaders, who comprised the Sanhedrin, before which the first stage of His trial took place. It was a council of about 70 men, under the control of the High Priest. Having been arrested in Gethsemane, Jesus was taken to the High Priest's palace where the Sanhedrin members were already gathering. (Mark 14: 53)

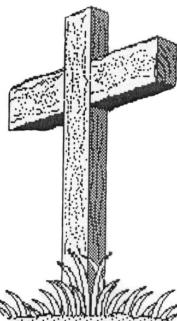
To secure a verdict against Him, it was necessary for them to find witnesses. Some men were prepared to testify falsely against Him, but difficulties arose when their evidence contradicted each other!

As the night wore on, and the problem about finding witnesses remained unsolved, the High Priest decided to proceed with the case. He questioned Jesus about His claims to be the Messiah.

"Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" he asked.

"I am," Jesus replied. (Mark 14: 61 & 62)

That was enough! The Council members had heard this amazing claim, and they judged Him to be guilty of blasphemy. In their view, He was an ordinary man; to claim to be the Son of God was blasphemy, punishable by death. They condemned Him and began to mistreat Him. Thus what He foretold came absolutely true.



2. HE HAD FORETOLD THAT HE WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE GENTILES, WHO WOULD TREAT HIM BADLY, AND EVENTUALLY KILL HIM. (Mark 10: 33 & 34)

Following His sentencing to death by the Sanhedrin, Jesus was bound and taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. After considerable hesitation, Pilate gave in to the Jews and authorized the crucifixion of Jesus. (Mark 15: 15)

In His foretelling of what would happen, Jesus spoke of **"mocking", "scourging", and "spitting"**. All came true! They mocked His claim to be King by dressing Him in a purple robe and placing a crown of thorns on His head. They struck Him with a cane, and spat on Him. They also scourged Him with a many-tailed whip. (v. 15) The crucifixion took place at nine o'clock in the morning. **"With wicked hands, they crucified and slew Him,"** said Peter, as he looked back upon that day. (Acts 2: 23)

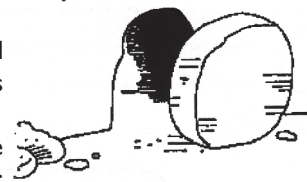
3. HE HAD FORETOLD HIS RESURRECTION. (Mark 10: 34)

Of all His prophecies, none is more remarkable than this! Was it fulfilled? Did He really rise again?

There is abundant evidence that He did! We need not hesitate to believe that Jesus rose on **"the third day"** never to die again! There are many reliable witnesses to this great event. (See 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8)

It is impossible to read about these things without being challenged! The core question we face is this:

'Who is this Person called Jesus?'. We cannot dismiss Him as of no importance! If He is who He claimed to be, then we ought to trust Him for our eternal salvation. He has done for us what no one else could have done, in dying for our sins. When we receive Him as Saviour, we should then give Him the supreme place in our lives, as our Lord.



WorkSheet

Study 4. The Servant's predictions fulfilled

1

a. READ **MARK 14: 43** AND WRITE OUT **THREE TYPES** OF MEN WHO BELONGED TO THE JEWISH COUNCIL.

b. GIVE ANOTHER NAME FOR THE COUNCIL.

4

2

STUDY **MARK 14: 55-59**, AND WRITE A SENTENCE ABOUT THE MAIN PROBLEM WHICH THE JEWISH LEADERS HAD IN BRINGING A CHARGE AGAINST JESUS.

2

3

a. EXPLAIN WHAT THE **HIGH PRIEST** MEANT BY 'BLASPHEMY'.

b. UNDER JEWISH LAW, WHAT WAS THE PENALTY FOR BLASPHEMY?

2

4

USING THE BIBLE REFERENCES, FIND THESE NAMES:-

a. The Roman Governor.

Mark 15: 1

b. The prisoner who was released.

Mark 15: 15

c. The man who carried the cross.

Mark 15: 21

d. The place of crucifixion.

Mark 15: 22

e. The man who buried Jesus.

Mark 15: 43-46

5

5

a. WHAT DOES 'RESURRECTION' MEAN?

b. NAME THREE PEOPLE OR GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO SAW JESUS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

5

6

WHAT DO THE WORDS HE FORETOLD, AND THEIR FULFILMENT, WHICH WE HAVE EXAMINED IN THESE STUDIES, TEACH US ABOUT THE LORD JESUS?

4

7

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT JESUS' DEATH?

3

Return your study sheets to:

or the PBS Centre below

25

Total marks
for this study