

THE STORY OF JESUS



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THE STORY OF JESUS

THE STORY OF JESUS, Part I:
A STUDY OF GOSPEL OF MARK

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WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Jesus was falsely accused and tried. The religious leaders made up things against him. They wanted an excuse to kill him.
2. Everyone rejected Jesus at the trial and when he was killed. Before he died, he was rejected and mocked.
3. Jesus died for our sins. He died so we can be saved and have our sins forgiven.

FOR YOU

Look at the lesson titles again. Mark yes or no by these questions.

- Do you believe Jesus Christ is God's Son?
- Have you accepted him as your Saviour?
- Are you a true follower of Jesus Christ?
- Does Jesus' authority control your life?
- Is your religion vital?

Write how these lessons have helped you be a better person. This will make it easier for you to remember what you have learned. Then you can keep living the things Jesus taught us.

TO READ EACH DAY

- Monday: Luke 9:57-62
- Tuesday: Luke 10:25-37
- Wednesday: Luke 10:38-42
- Thursday: Luke 11:1-13
- Friday: Luke 12:22-31
- Saturday: John 3:14-21
- Sunday: Luke 14:25-33

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that time, you prophet?" (verse 65).

How did people mock Jesus while he was dying. Read to see.

MARK 15:24-27

And they crucified him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour, when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.

Pilate asked Jesus if he was king of the Jews (verse 2). The soldiers made fun of Jesus and called him king of the Jews (verse 18). Pilate put a sign on the cross: THE KING OF THE JEWS. The sign showed the people the charge against Jesus. The sign mocked Jesus, too.

Killing people by crucifixion was a cruel Roman death. It was for bad lawbreakers. Jesus was not a lawbreaker. But they treated him like one.

Soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross about nine in the morning. They gambled for his clothed while he was dying. He died about three o'clock.

They tried to make Jesus look like a criminal. They killed two thieves on crosses, too. People passing by thought Jesus was bad like them.

But Jesus was a good man. He died for our sins, as the memory verse says, "Christ himself carried our sins on his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness."

high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am; and you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with clouds of heaven." And the high priest tore his mantle, and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? you have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows.

Jesus was on trial before all the religious leaders (verse 53). No one defended Jesus. Even Peter rejected him (verse 54).

The council tried to get witnesses to lie and accuse Jesus of a crime. They wanted an excuse to kill him. Before a man could be condemned to die, the witness of at least two people had to agree. Many accused Jesus. But none of the witness agreed.

One witness accused Jesus of saying he would destroy the Temple and build it back in three days. (See John 2:19). Jesus was talking about raising his own body from death.

The high priest leading the trial lost his patience. Jesus did not answer the charges. No proof was given to condemn Jesus. Then the high priest tried to make Jesus say something to accuse himself. He asked Jesus if he was the Son of God. Jesus answered, "Yes."

Now the high priest had an excuse to kill Jesus. He accused Jesus of blasphemy, or claiming to be equal with God. When a person was accused of blasphemy, the high priest tore at his clothing. All those on the council agreed that Jesus should die.

Then some of the people made fun of Jesus. They spat on him. Some hit him while he was blindfolded. They said, "Who hit you

CHAPTER 13

JESUS REJECTED AND CRUCIFIED

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 14:43 to 15:41

MEMORY VERSE: *"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness."
1 Peter 2:24*

INTRODUCTION

Rejected means left alone. It means no one stands with us. In our lesson Jesus' disciples rejected him as he prepared for his death. (Mark 14:50).

This lesson tells about Jesus being rejected, mocked, and killed. Many people thought Jesus failed because he was killed. But his death fulfilled his purpose for coming to the world. He died so we could be saved.

Read these verses. Draw a line under names of those who accused Jesus.

MARK 14:55-65

Now the chief priests and the whole council sought testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, and their witness did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet not even so did their testimony agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But he was silent and made no answer. Again the

Verses 37-39. When Jesus came back, the disciples were asleep. He rebuked them. He asked them to pray, too. They needed to pray for power over temptation.

We are like the disciples. We want to be strong, but when testing comes, we fail. We need to pray.

Verses 39-41. Jesus prayed again. The disciples were asleep again when he came back. He said they could keep on sleeping. It was too late to watch now. Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, was coming. (Read verses 42-50). Was Judas the only one who betrayed Jesus? (See verse 50).

Jesus suffered much. he was also alone. This hurt him deeply. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11). Our next lesson will tell about Jesus' crucifixion.

Jesus suffered and died for you. Are you willing to suffer for him? Are you ready to stand firm for the Lord?

Are you strong enough to stand up against temptation and testing when they come? Are you watching and praying every day?

TO READ EACH DAY

Monday: Luke 2:46-52
Tuesday: Luke 4:1-13
Wednesday: Luke 5:1-11
Thursday: Luke 6:1-12
Friday: Luke 7:11-23
Saturday: John 1:6-14
Sunday: Luke 7:37-50

CHAPTER 1

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 1:1-20

MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.'" Mark 1:14-15

INTRODUCTION

Our lessons this quarter are in the book of Mark. They are about Jesus. We will study about his ministry. He was a preacher. He taught people truths from God. He also healed sick people.

This lesson tells about the way people first heard the gospel or good news. John began preaching a little while before Jesus. John asked people to repent. He helped people get ready for Jesus. Then Jesus preached the same message when he came.

JOHN'S PREACHING

Let us read these verses. They tell about a man who started preaching before Jesus.

MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the Prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance,

for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and unite. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

John is called the forerunner. His job was to go ahead of Jesus and tell the people that the Lord was coming.

Prophets in the Old Testament said John would come (Malachi 3:1). John would be God's messenger. He would prepare people for Jesus' arrival. John wanted people to be ready to receive Jesus and believe in him.

John did not want the Jews to think he was as great as Jesus. Read verse 7 again. Usually a servant untied a person's shoes. John said he was not even worthy enough to untie Jesus' shoes!

John asked people to repent. Then they should be baptised, "as a public announcement of their decision to turn their backs on sin" (verse 4, Living Gospel).

Many people believed John. They repented and let John baptise them to show their lives were changed. John's baptism was by water. It could not save people or change their lives. Baptism does not save us today. Baptism by water is a picture or symbol of the change in our hearts. Baptism shows that Jesus has come into our lives. It shows we are obeying Jesus. It is a public announcement that we are following Jesus.

And they went to a place which was called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I pray." And he took with him Peter, and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt." And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come; the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Verse 32. Jesus and the disciples went to Gethsemane. It was a garden. Jesus asked them to wait for him while he prayed.

Verses 33-34. Jesus took Peter, James, and John a little farther. He asked them to watch with him. Jesus was God and man. He was human as well as divine. His human side was weak.

Verses 35-36. Then Jesus walked farther and prayed. He asked God to take the "cup" from him, if it were possible. The cup was the suffering and death Jesus faced. But he wanted God's Will to be done, not his own will.

God could not save us any other way. Jesus had to die for our sins. He was willing to die.

And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Passover was a feast the Jews had every year. They had eaten this feast ever since the Hebrews escaped from Egypt (Exodus 12:43-50). This feast helped them remember the Lord's deliverance from Egypt.

Jesus and his disciples were eating the Passover meal together. Now we Christians have the Lord's Supper instead of the Passover. The Lord's Supper helps us remember Jesus' death. When we have the Lord's Supper in church, we can thank him again for salvation.

Verse 22, "Take, eat, this is my body." This does not mean that the bread was human flesh, Jesus' body. This means the bread stood for Jesus' body.

Verses 23-24. As they drank from the cup, the wine stood for Jesus' blood, "poured out for many, sealing the new agreement between God and man."

Verse 25. This was the last time Jesus ate a meal with his disciples before his death.

Verse 26. After they ate, Jesus and the disciples left the room. Let us read what happened.

Now read these verses about Jesus' baptism and temptations.

MARK 1:9-13

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased." The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.

John baptised people who repented. Jesus did not need to repent. He did not sin. But he asked John to baptise him, too.

Jesus set an example for us when he was baptised. He wants us to be baptised when we are saved. We who are Christians have been baptised, just as Jesus was baptised.

Jesus' baptism was like a picture. As he went under the water, he pictured his death and burial. When he came out of the water, he pictured resurrection.

The voice from heaven (verse 11) showed that God was pleased with Jesus' baptism. The voice was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was with Jesus in his work, too.

After Jesus' baptism the devil tempted him. This was a test for Jesus (read Luke 4:1-13 to see how Jesus won over Satan).

The Devil tempts us, too. When we try to live for the Lord, the devil tries to hurt us. But the Lord gives us strength. We can win over the devil, just as Jesus did.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news. Prophets in Old Testament times prophesied that Jesus would come. They also prophesied John would come.
2. John preached and asked people to repent. He asked people to get ready for Jesus' arrival. John was a forerunner.
3. John baptised people who repented. Jesus did not need to repent. But he asked John to baptise him, too. God was pleased with Jesus' baptism.
4. After Jesus was baptised, the devil tried to make him do wrong. The devil tempts us now, when we try to please God.

FOR YOU

Do you believe the good news about Jesus? Have you received Jesus as your Saviour?

The devil will make it hard for you to follow Jesus in your life. But the Lord will help you. He will give you victory over the devil. The Lord will give you power over temptations. He will help you live right.

CHAPTER 12

JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS DEATH

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 13:1 to 14:42

MEMORY VERSE: *"And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt."*

Mark 14:36

INTRODUCTION

The things in this lesson happened a little while before Jesus' death. He knew he would die soon.

Our last lesson was about Jesus' enemies. In this lesson Jesus is with his disciples. They are his friends. They will carry on Jesus' work after his death. Jesus will keep on ministering through his disciples. As we study, let us see how well the disciples were prepared for Jesus death.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. The Lord's Supper helps us remember Jesus' death. When we have the Lord's Supper, we can thank him again for dying for us.
 2. Jesus' human side felt weak. He prayed as he faced death.
 3. Jesus faced death alone. The disciples did not stand with him when his enemies were against him.
- Now read these verses that tell about the Lord's Supper.

ment has authority over us. We must obey the government. We should not fight the authority of the government.

2. The Lord has the right to have authority over everything and all persons.

3. We must not let customs or habits, like drink, control us. We should let the Lord control our lives every day.

FOR YOU

Does the Lord control your life? If you let drink or other bad habits control your life, you are not under the Lord's authority and control.

If you have not been letting the Lord control your life, start now. The Lord can use your life in his service.

TO READ EACH DAY

Monday:	Romans 11:29-36
Tuesday:	Romans 12:1-8
Wednesday:	Romans 13:1-6
Thursday:	Romans 15:1-7
Friday:	Romans 14:1-9
Saturday:	Luke 21:1-4
Sunday:	Luke 1:67-80

CHAPTER 2

WHAT IS THIS NEW TEACHING?

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 1:21-45

MEMORY VERSE: *"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity."*
Matthew 9:35

INTRODUCTION

Last week we learned that Jesus ministry was preaching, teaching, and healing. Sometimes he did all three at the same time. When Jesus healed sick people, he was preaching and teaching about God's love. Jesus healed people because he loved them.

In this lesson we find that Jesus taught with authority. The people were surprised. But they were glad to listen to Jesus.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Jesus did not teach a new doctrine. He taught old truths from God. Prophets taught these truths in Old Testament times. But Jesus taught with authority.

2. Jesus healed people because he loved them. He wanted to help people. He came into the world to minister.

3. Jesus did not pay attention to tradition or custom. He helped people who were in need, wherever they were.

AUTHORITY IN TEACHING

Let us read these verses. Why did the people listen to Jesus?

MARK 1:21-22

And they went into Capernaum; and immediately on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

Did you find why the people listened to Jesus? Did they like to hear a teacher who spoke with authority?

Jesus was the first messenger from God (except John) since Old Testament times, about 400 years.

On the sabbath Jesus went to the synagogue (Jewish place of worship.) This was his custom. His disciples went with him. Jesus preached in the synagogue and taught the people. Sometimes he healed people there.

Jewish teachers of that day tried to prove everything they said was true. Jesus did not need proof for what he said.

Jesus had authority from God. The people were glad to hear Jesus because he spoke with authority.

AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS

Read these verses. Why were the people amazed at what Jesus did?

MARK 1:23-28

And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so

to admit that Jesus' authority came from God, too. Find in verse 32 what might happen if they said John's authority was not from God.

Were the teachers afraid of the people who believed in John? How did they answer Jesus? Did they want to let Jesus' authority control their lives?

MEN WHO TRIED TO TRICK JESUS

Pharisees were religious teachers. The Herodians were people who thought someone in Herod's family should rule instead of a Roman governor. Most of the time the Pharisees and Herodians were enemies. This time they went together to try to trick Jesus. They began by flattering Jesus. They said he was honest and did not show favour (verse 14).

Then they asked if it was right for them to pay tribute to a Roman ruler. The tribute was a poll tax. (They had land tax and income tax, too, just as we have today).

Jesus knew they were trying to trick him. He asked them to show him a coin. When he asked whose picture was on it, they said, it was the Caesar's.

"Pay to the Emperor what belongs to him, and pay to God what belongs to God" (verse 17) Jesus told them. His answer surprised them. They did not know what to say.

Jesus meant that government has authority over us. We must pay taxes and obey the laws. Others have authority over us, too. We must honour and obey them.

But the Lord God has authority over all of these and us. We must let his authority control us.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. We must understand that the govern-

priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, and they said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?" Jesus said to them, "I will ask you a question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men? Answer me." And they argued with one another, "I do we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But shall we say, 'From men?'" they were afraid of the people, for all held that John was a real prophet. So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

MARK 12:13-17

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to entrap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a coin, and let me look at it." And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were amazed at him.

How did Jesus answer the teachers of the law? Look again at verse 29. Jesus answered a question by asking a question!

Jesus asked if John's authority to baptize came from God or man. Read verses 13-32 again to see how the teachers answered Jesus.

If these teachers said John's authority came from God, they would condemn themselves for not believing John. Then they would have

that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching! With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Did you find the word authority in these verses? Jesus had authority over demons, just as he preached and taught with authority. Even the man possessed by a demon knew Jesus was not an ordinary teacher. He knew Jesus was from God. He saw that Jesus had come to judge him.

Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to leave the man. Then the man's mind was free. The man was well. The people knew the man was made well. They were all amazed. They saw that Jesus has authority over demons. News about Jesus' authority spread quickly.

AUTHORITY IN HEALING

Let us read these verses. Why did many people hear about Jesus' healing the sick?

MARK 1:29-34

And immediately he left the synagogue, and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him of her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her; and she served them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered together about the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Jesus showed his authority in the synagogue by what he taught. He showed his

authority when he cast out the demon. Then Jesus went to Peter's house. Peter's mother-in-law was sick of a fever. Jesus healed her. The kind of fever she had made people weak for a long time. But she got up and cooked their meal. Jesus healed her completely.

People from the town heard about Jesus' ministry of healing. They brought many sick relatives and friends, and others who had demons. Jesus healed them.

FOR YOU

Jesus cares for you. He is interested in your physical life, as well as your spiritual life. Jesus is interested in everything in your life. He wants to help you every day.

You can count on Jesus. He will not let you down. He wants you to trust him. He wants to be your Saviour. Then he wants to be Lord of all your life. He wants to have authority in your life. Will you let Jesus have authority over your life?

CHAPTER 11

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 11-12

MEMORY VERSE: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
Matthew 28:18

INTRODUCTION

Authority means power or control. Some people have authority over others. They can tell others what to do. Some people have more authority than others have. Parents have authority over their children when the children are young.

Our lesson tells about Jesus' authority. Before studying this lesson, look at the memory verse. How much authority does this verse say Jesus has?

MEN WHO QUESTIONED JESUS' AUTHORITY

In Mark 11:11-14 Jesus saw a fig tree that did not bear fruit. He said in words of today, "May no man ever eat figs from this tree." He did not give any reason for his words.

Verses 15-17 tell how Jesus drove the money changers from the Temple. Then Jesus taught about faith and forgiveness in verses 22-26.

The teachers of the law asked Jesus what authority he had for doing these things. Read to find how Jesus answered the men.

MARK 11:27-33

And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief

FOR YOU

Look at the memory verse again. Does it tell the price of discipleship? Does the Lord really mean that we must die for his sake if we are to be saved? Will we really have to suffer?

Are you willing to pay the price to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. The price of discipleship is obeying the Lord in everything. We must put the Lord first. We cannot let money and worldly things stand in the way of true discipleship.
2. We must have the right motives for following the Lord. We should not think of the way we will be blessed. We should think of how we can serve.
3. The Lord will bless us because we follow him. When we suffer because we are Christians, we will also share in his glory and blessings.

TO READ EACH DAY

- Monday: Romans 3:19-31
- Tuesday: Romans 5:1-10
- Wednesday: Romans 6:1-10
- Thursday: Romans 8:5-14
- Friday: Romans 8:28-39
- Saturday: Romans 15:11-24
- Sunday: Romans 10:1-9

CHAPTER 3

HOW PERSONS REACT TO JESUS

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 2:1 to 3:6

MEMORY VERSE: "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18

INTRODUCTION

How persons react to Jesus means what they do when they meet him. In our last lesson people liked what Jesus said and did. Many believed him and followed him.

This lesson tells about some who reacted against Jesus. They were Jewish religious leaders. They did not want Jesus to have authority over them. They wanted to follow Jewish traditions instead of following Jesus.

Now find out why the religious leaders reacted against Jesus.

MARK 2:1-12

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching to the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in

their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'You sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he said to the paralytic, "I say to you rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Jesus had been preaching all over the province of Galilee (Mark 1:39). Now he was in Capernaum, preaching and healing people.

News spread that Jesus was there. Many came to the house where he was. Soon the house was full.

Four friends brought a paralysed man to Jesus to be healed. They could not get through the crowd. Read verse 4 to find what the four men did. They carried the sick man to the roof. They made a hole in the roof and lowered the man into the room.

When Jesus saw their faith, what did he do? He told the sick man his sins were forgiven. The Jewish religious leaders became angry. They did not believe Jesus had authority to forgive sin. They did not think Jesus was God's Son.

The religious leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy. They said he was trying to take God's place. They did not believe Jesus could forgive the sick man's sins. They said Jesus was only making a claim.

Jesus asked the man to get up and walk. The man walked and was well. Everyone could

The man was sad. He had much money. He did not want to have to give up his money to follow Jesus. This was too big a price to pay for discipleship.

Riches stood in the way of discipleship (verses 23-27). The Jews thought having riches was a sign of God's blessings. In that day, every time God blessed a person, he did not give the man riches. God does not always give us riches as blessings today.

Jesus said riches kept people from entering heaven. He did not say rich people could not enter heaven. He said those who "trust in riches" (verse 24) could not enter heaven. Some rich people do not think they need the Lord because they trust in their riches.

Many rich people are Christians. They use their money in the right way. They use their riches as they serve the Lord.

We who are not rich let other things keep us from entering heaven and being disciples. Can you name some of these things?

The price of discipleship (verse 28-31). Peter thought he had made great sacrifices to be a disciple. "Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee" (verse 28).

In verses 29-31 Jesus told Peter that anyone who left everything for his sake and for the gospel's would be blessed. He also said such persons would suffer because they were Christians. This is the cost of true discipleship. The reward in the world to come will be eternal life (verse 30).

Jesus said many persons who think they are important now will be least in the end. "And many who are considered least here shall be great there" (verse 31).

what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." At that saying his countenance fell, and he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God." And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished and said to him, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brother or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.

A man refused discipleship (verses 17-22). The man who came running to Jesus wanted to be saved. He kneeled. He called Jesus, Master. The man knew Jesus was a good man. He thought he could get to heaven by being good and doing good things (See Matthew 19:16).

He was not a bad man. He kept the laws. He was good to people. Then Jesus asked him to do more than be good. Jesus asked him to give up all his money. Read verse 21 again. What did Jesus ask the man to do?

see that he was healed. Read verse 12 to find out what the people did. They gave God the glory.

Let us read these verses to see how the religious leaders kept on reacting against Jesus.

MARK 2:15-17

And as he sat at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were sitting with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I come not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Verses 13-14 tell about Jesus calling Levi to be a disciple. Levi was a publican. He was a tax collector.

After Matthew became a follower of Jesus, he gave a feast at his house. He invited Jesus and his disciples. Matthew invited many publican and sinners so they could know the Lord.

What did the religious leaders say when they saw Jesus eating with such people? Read verse 16. They thought Jesus should not eat with people who did not follow their rules.

When Jesus heard them complain, he said, "people who are well do not need a doctor, but only those who are sick. I have not come to call the respectable people, but the outcasts" (verse 17).

Jesus meant that the Jewish leaders who thought they were so good were really not good at all. They needed to accept Jesus and obey

him. When those people admitted that they were sinners, God would forgive them.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Many people followed Jesus. They believed what he preached. They were glad when he healed sick people.
2. Jewish religious leaders did not follow Jesus. They worked against him. They did not want to change their lives. They kept following their own customs.
3. We must let Jesus have his way in our lives. We need to let his authority control our lives.

FOR YOU

How do you react to Jesus? Are you following and obeying him? When you obey Jesus, some people will work against you. When you obey the Lord, he will reward you.

CHAPTER 10

WHAT PRICE DISCIPLESHIP?

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 10

MEMORY VERSE: *"For whoever would save his life will lose it; and who-ever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."* Mark 8:35

INTRODUCTION

Discipleship means being a disciple or follower of Jesus Christ. Many of us want to be a disciple. But do we want to pay the price? The price of discipleship is obeying the Lord in everything.

It is an honour to be a disciple of Jesus. But it costs much to be a disciple. We must give up anything that stands in the way. It may be money, power, ambition, pride, jealousy, hate, or habits we do not want to give up.

Read these verses. What kept the man from discipleship?

MARK 10:17-31

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honour your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth." And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing; go, sell

Verse 35. When we let Jesus have control of our lives, he lives in us. By losing our lives in this way, we find the meaning of living. Even when we suffer with Jesus or die for him, we share in his kind of life. Following Jesus may cost us our lives.

Verses 36-37. We will spend all the money we have, then borrow some, to save our health. We could refuse to spend our money to get well. What good would the money do us if we did not get well?

Jesus asked what value is the whole world if we lose our soul in gaining it? Our soul is worth more than the world.

FOR YOU

What do you think of Jesus Christ? Do you believe he is God's Son? Have you accepted him as your Saviour?

How much does Jesus Christ mean to you? Are you willing to keep living for him, even when you have to suffer or die?

TO READ EACH DAY

Monday: 1 Kings 3:5-15
Tuesday: 1 Kings 8:22-30
Wednesday: 1 Kings 17:8-22
Thursday: 1 Kings 18:17-21
Friday: 1 Kings 19:1-12
Saturday: Luke 15:1-10
Sunday: Romans 1:13-20

CHAPTER 4

PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND JESUS

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 3:7-35

MEMORY VERSE: "And when his friends heard it, they went out to seize him, for they said, "He is beside himself." Mark 3:21

INTRODUCTION

Our lesson last week was about how people acted when they met Jesus. Many people followed him. The religious leaders reacted against Jesus. They did not understand him.

This lesson is about others who did not understand Jesus. Friends and neighbours did not understand Jesus. The disciples did not understand Jesus (as we will learn in later lessons). Even Jesus' family did not understand him.

JESUS' FRIENDS DID NOT UNDERSTAND HIM

Let us read these verses. Find out what Jesus' friends thought about him.

Ma. 3:20-21

And the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. And when his friends heard it, they went out to seize him, for they said, "He is beside himself."

Jesus had just called his twelve disciples' (verses 14-19). He called them to help him in his work of healing, preaching, and casting out demons. Jesus and his disciples were so busy they did not have time to eat or rest.

Jesus' friends and family were worried about him. They thought he was working too

hard. Some of them thought he was crazy (verse 21, "He is beside himself"). They did not think Jesus should have so much attention. They knew the religious teachers would make trouble for him.

RELIGIOUS TEACHERS DID NOT UNDERSTAND JESUS

What did the religious teachers do when Jesus cast out demons?

MARK 3:22-27

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." And he called them to him, and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may plunder his house."

The religious teachers said Beelzebul gave Jesus power to cast out demons and heal sick people. They thought Jesus was using Satan's power to do these things.

Then Jesus said the religious teachers were not thinking right. Satan could not cast out himself. This means that Satan would be divided. It means that Satan would destroy himself. The teachers knew Satan could not do this.

Verse 27 tells us that Jesus had power over Satan. This is why Jesus had power over demons. When Jesus healed people who were filled with demons, he had victory over Satan. Jesus is stronger than Satan. Jesus can help us have victory over Satan in our lives.

And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Jesus told the disciples that he would suffer. He would be rejected. Then he would be killed. But he would rise from the grave.

Peter got upset. He did not want to think about Jesus dying. Peter and the other disciples had many plans for Jesus. They wanted Jesus to set up a political kingdom. But this was not Jesus' way of setting up his kingdom. Suffering and death were the ways he would set up the kingdom of God.

Jesus said Peter was looking at this "only from a human point of view and not from God's" (verse 33, Living Gospel). Jesus called Peter Satan because of how he was thinking.

THE PRICE OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Read what Jesus said we must be ready to do if we are disciples.

MARK 8:34-37

And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life?"

Verse 34. When we profess Jesus, we let him control our lives. We must follow Jesus' way. If necessary, we must suffer. Denying self means not to live our own way. It means living for Jesus and following him and his way.

WHO IS JESUS?

In these verses read what people thought about Jesus.

MARK 8:27-30

And Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he charged them to tell no one about him.

One day Jesus asked his disciples what people thought of him. The disciples answered. They said people thought Jesus was John the Baptist or an Old Testament prophet come back to life. Many people did not know who Jesus was.

Then Jesus asked the disciples who they thought he was. Peter answered. He said Jesus is the Christ.

Peter gave the right answer. But he did not understand Jesus. This is why Jesus asked the disciples not to tell anyone who he is. They were not yet trained and ready to carry on Jesus' work.

THE PRICE OF OUR REDEMPTION

Now read these verse. Did the disciples like to hear Jesus talk about his suffering?

MARK 8:31-33

And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly.

JESUS' FAMILY DID NOT UNDERSTAND HIM

These verses tell about Jesus' family who did not understand him.

MARK 3:31-35

And his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside they sent to him and called him. And a crowd was sitting about him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around on those who sat about him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Jesus' mother and family were worried about Jesus. They may have thought Jesus was crazy or "beside himself." They wanted to take him home. They wanted to keep him away from the people. And so they asked him to come home.

Jesus did not answer when his family called. He loved his family, but had work to do. They did not understand that he was God's Son. He wanted to do God's work for him.

Some people told Jesus that his family wanted him to come home. Jesus asked, "Who is my family?" Then he answered his own question. What did Jesus say? Read verse 35 again. Are you one of his family? Jesus said that doing God's will was his mission. This is our job, too.

FOR YOU

Jesus wants you to believe in him and obey him. Sometimes your friends and your family may not understand you when you do right. They may even work against you.

Jesus will help you do God's will. Just

as Jesus had a job to do, God has something for you to do. Ask God to help you do your job.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Many people did not understand Jesus. His friends and family did not understand him. The teachers of the law did not understand Jesus. They reacted against him.
2. Jesus kept on healing people. He kept on teaching and preaching. This was God's will for him. Jesus kept on working at the things God gave him to do.
3. We do not understand everything about Jesus and God. But we know Jesus is God's Son. We can trust him as our Saviour. He will give us power and victory over Satan.

TO READ EACH DAY

Monday: Hebrews 12:1-7
Tuesday: Hebrews 13:7-17
Wednesday: Joshua 1:1-9
Thursday: Joshua 23:1-11
Friday: Joshua 24:14-24
Saturday: Matthew 10:34-39
Sunday: Deuteronomy 4:1-13

CHAPTER 9

WHAT PRICE REDEMPTION?

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 8:27 to 9:50

MEMORY VERSE: *"And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."* Mark 8:31

INTRODUCTION

Redemption means Jesus gave his life for us. Do we think about the price of our redemption? Do we think about how much our redemption cost Jesus?

We have freedom in our country. This is because people who lived before us suffered. Some died for our freedom. Our freedom was paid for by their lives.

This lesson and several others are about Jesus' suffering and death. This is the price of our redemption or salvation.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. What we think about Jesus Christ is important. He is not just a good man who taught God's truth. He is God's Son.
2. Jesus suffered and died to redeem us. Jesus paid a high price for our redemption.
3. One soul is worth more than all the things in the world. It is foolish to gain worldly things and let our soul be lost.

show that we love the Lord.

2. We obey by our actions, not by our words. We must not let customs or habits keep us too busy to do the Lord's work.

3. Our souls are made unclean by what we think and say. We can be clean by thinking right thoughts.

FOR YOU

How vital is your religion? Look at your motives for doing the things you do. Do you do these things because of habit? If so, you are following custom.

Do you want to change and do better? Give yourself this test. Answer yes or no.

1. Do I read the Bible and pray regularly?
2. Do I worship at the church regularly?
3. Do I witness and help other people?
4. Do I serve the Lord because I love him and not to show off?

TO READ EACH DAY

Monday: 1 Samuel 12:6-15
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 15:10-23
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Thursday: 1 Samuel 17:38-49
Friday: 1 Samuel 26:12-23
Saturday: Matthew 28:16-20
Sunday: 2 Samuel 7:8-18

CHAPTER 5

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 4:1-34

MEMORY VERSE: *"And he said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed.'"*
Mark 4:30-31

INTRODUCTION

Our first lesson was about John and Jesus preaching. They asked people to turn from sin and get ready for the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is God living in our lives. When we are saved and do God's will, God lives in our hearts. We are in God's kingdom.

Jesus used parables to teach truths about the kingdom of God. Parables are stories that help us understand a truth. Jesus helped us understand what the kingdom of God is like.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. We should tell God's truth to others. Our lives should show that God lives in our hearts.
2. We should listen to God and use the faith he gives us. Then we will learn more. We will understand more about God's truth.
3. When truth is planted in our lives, it will grow. God promises that truth will grow and bear fruit in our lives.

MARK 4:21-25

And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a bushel, or under a bed, and not on a stand? For there is nothing hid, except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. If any man has ears to hear, let him hear." And he said to them, "Take heed what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

In Jesus' time houses had one room. People put a light on a stone shelf on the wall. The light shone in all the room. When we want to read our books, we light our lamps and put them on the table.

We Christians must let others see God's light shining in our lives. We must tell the truth of God's kingdom. Then others will know God. His kingdom will come into their lives (verse 22).

The Lord invites all people to listen to his truth about the kingdom (verse 23). Some believe. But some reject God's truth. They do not obey and follow the Lord.

When we listen and obey, we learn more. We must use our faith. Then our understanding will grow. "Be sure to put into practice what you hear. The more you do this, the more you will understand what I tell you" (verse 24, Living Gospels).

When we share the kingdom of God with others, our understanding grows. The more we share our faith with others, the more our faith grows. We should keep witnessing for the Lord.

THE KINGDOM IS LIKE SEED

Now read these verses. Find how the kingdom of God is like seed.

the Jews followed. These were not taught in the Bible. They were passed on for many generations (verse 4).

The disciples were Jews. Why did they not follow the custom of washing before eating the Jews asked (verse 5).

ANOTHER CUSTOM

In verses 9-13 Jesus gave another example of how the Jews followed their own traditions and not the Bible. The Bible (law) says, "Honour thy father and thy mother" (Exodus 20:12). This means we should take care of our parents when they are old.

Jesus said, "You have a clever way of rejecting God's law in order to uphold your own teaching!" (verse 9). The Jews had a saying; it was called Corban. It means a person could say he was giving his money to God or to the Temple. Then he would not have to use it to take care of his parents. This custom did not come from the Bible.

WHAT MAKES A PERSON UNCLEAN?

Review verses 14-15. Jesus knew the people were listening to what the Jews said. They must not believe that traditions should be followed and God's Word neglected.

Jesus talked to all the people listening. What he said also gave an answer to the Jews; "Your souls are not harmed by what you eat, but by what you think and say!" (verse 15).

Jesus said that a person's soul cannot be harmed by the things he eats. The things that hurt the soul come from the heart or from the mind. Evil thoughts hurt us.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Religion is vital when our actions are sincere. Our actions, not just our words,

asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with hands defiled?" And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God, in order to keep you tradition! For Moses said, Honor your father and your mother"; and, "He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him surely die"; but you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, 'What you would have gained from me is Corban' (that is, given to God) then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition which you hand on. And many such things you do." And he called the people to him again, and said to them, "Hear me, all of you and understand: there is nothing outside of a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him."

Look at verses 1-5 again. The Pharisees and scribes were Jewish religious teachers. They did not come to listen to Jesus and follow him. They came to find fault with Jesus (verse 1).

The religious leaders found fault with Jesus' disciples, too. They saw that the disciples did not wash before eating (verse 2).

It was a custom for the Jews to wash their hands after touching things that Gentiles touched. When the Jews washed their hands, it was not to get their hands and arms clean. It was done as a ceremony.

The Jews would not eat until they had "sprinkled their arms to the elbows" (verse 3, Living Gospels). They had done this for many years. They were careful not to stop.

When the Jews came from the market, they washed themselves before eating what they bought. This was because a Gentile might have touched the food. There were other traditions

And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

When we plant some pumpkin seeds, we soon see them come up. Every day we see the plants growing larger. Then little pumpkins grow on the plants or vines. We cannot see or hear them growing. But we know they are growing.

Jesus used the parable about seeds. Farmers knew seeds had to be planted. The plants needed water on the soil. Soon mealies grew on the plants. Farmers could not see or hear them growing. God was working silently in the seeds and plants and fruit. We cannot understand these things. We know they happen. The fruit is the proof.

When the kingdom of God is working in our lives men see the fruit or results. Our lives show it when we let God's truth rule in us. People can tell that good things are at work in our lives.

THE KINGDOM IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

Read this parable to see how God's kingdom grows.

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest

of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

A mustard seed like those in Jesus' time was very small. But it made a large plant. Birds could make nests in its branches.

Jesus said the kingdom of God was like a mustard seed. He meant that kingdom truths begin small. But they will grow in our lives. Many things begin small. Our faith may begin small. It grows when we let God work in our lives. His truth must rule in our hearts. God promises that his kingdom will increase in our lives.

FOR YOU

1. Let God's truth fill your life. Let his truth work in your life.
2. Show someone what God has done for you. Tell him how you were saved. This is the best way to share God's kingdom with other people.

TO READ EACH DAY

Monday: Deuteronomy 6:3-15
Tuesday: Deuteronomy 7:1-13
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 11:13-25
Thursday: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Friday: Deuteronomy 30:12-20
Saturday: Matthew 13:18-23
Sunday: Deuteronomy 32:1-10

CHAPTER 8

WHEN RELIGION IS VITAL

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 7:1 to 8:26

MEMORY VERSE: *"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men."* Mark 7:6-7

INTRODUCTION

Vital means necessary or needed or full of life. When religion is vital, we live the things we believe. We follow the Lord and obey him. We do not follow our own will.

When religion is vital, we serve God because we love him. We do not try to "show off" before others.

This lesson is about Jesus' teaching on religion that is vital.

In these verse find (1) what Jesus said about following tradition; and (2) what Jesus said makes a person unclean.

MARK 7:1-15

Now when the Pharisees gathered together to him, with some of the scribes, who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, observing the tradition of the elders; and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they purify themselves; and there are many other traditions which they observe, the washing of cups and pots and vessels of bronze). And the Pharisees and the scribes

CHAPTER 6

THE MIGHTY POWER OF JESUS

things the Lord called us to do.

3. When the Lord gives us a job to do, he gives us power to do it.

If you are a Christian, you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Remember these things:

You can witness and serve others.

You can discipline your life to do your job right.

You must keep on working for the Lord in the job you have.

The Lord will help you do the job he wants you to do. The Lord will give you power.

TO READ EACH DAY

Monday: 1 Corinthians 9:13-23
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 10:23-33
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 11:23-34
Thursday: 1 Corinthians 12:14-27
Friday: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Saturday: Matthew 25:31-40
Sunday: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 4:35 to 6:6

MEMORY VERSE: *"And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?'"*
Mark 4:41

INTRODUCTION

Our last lesson was about Jesus teaching with parables. He used parables to teach truths about the kingdom of God.

This lesson tells about Jesus' power over a storm. The storm was at sea. He also used his power to heal a sick person. Do you remember the lessons three and four about Jesus healing sick people?

Jesus had great power. He did not "show off" with his power. God gave it to him. He used his power to minister to people.

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Jesus is interested in our lives. He wants to help us to be calm. Then we can have peace in our hearts.
2. We should have faith in Jesus' power to help us. He will forgive our sins. Jesus will help us live the way he wants us to.
3. Jesus wants to help us when we are sick or in trouble. He will give us power and victory when sickness and trouble come.

JESUS USED HIS POWER IN A STORM

Read how Jesus used his mighty power to help some people in trouble.

MARK 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them just as he was, in the boat. And other boats were with him. And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?"

Jesus had been teaching and helping people all day. He and his disciples got in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was very tired. He needed to leave the crowd and rest. Soon he was asleep.

A storm began to blow the boat. Big waves spilled water into the boat. The disciples knew how bad storms could be on the Sea of Galilee. They thought the boat would sink. They were afraid.

The disciples thought Jesus did not care what happened to them because he was asleep. They woke Jesus and asked, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?" (verse 38).

Jesus spoke to the storm. The wind stopped blowing. The water got quiet. The waves quit rolling. The sea was calm again.

Then Jesus talked to the disciples. He was disappointed in them. He asked why they

Read these verses to find what Jesus asked the disciples to do.

MARK 6:30-34

The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while," for many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves. Now many saw them going, and knew them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns, and got there ahead of them. As he landed he saw a great throng, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach many things.

Verse 31. Jesus knew they were tired. All of them had been too busy even to eat. He asked them to rest. They needed time to be with Jesus. We also need to rest from our work and worship the Lord.

Verses 32-33. Jesus and his disciples tried to get away from the people to rest. They got on a boat. The people kept running toward them. The people ran around the lake and met Jesus and the disciples on the other side.

Verse 34. When Jesus saw the people, he had pity on them. They needed him. There was no time for him to rest. Then Jesus started talking to the people again. He taught them on the shore. Would you like to read the rest of the chapter to see what happened?

WHAT THIS LESSON TELLS US

1. Jesus' first disciples carried on the same work Jesus did. He gave them power. We are disciples and should be doing his work.

2. We must discipline our lives to do the Lord's work. We must keep working at the

out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.

Verse 7. Jesus called twelve men to help him. They were his first disciples. (Can you name them? If not, read Luke 6:13-16). Jesus sent out the twelve men "by two and two." He gave them power over "unclean spirits."

Verses 8-9. Jesus asked the disciples not to carry extra things on the trip. They should take only what they needed: a staff, sandals, and only one suit of clothing. They should not take a wallet, money or food.

Verse 10. People gave travelers a place to stay and food to eat. Jesus asked the disciples to stay where they were invited. They should not go from house to house. They should stay in the same house every night until they left the town.

Verse 11. If Jewish towns did not receive the disciples or hear their message, the disciples should not stay. When they left, the disciples should shake the dust from their feet. This was a custom. This meant the disciples would not preach there again. They went to preach to people who would listen.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire because they were very sinful (Genesis 19:24-25).

Jesus said it would be worse for those towns that would not listen to the disciples' message.

Verse 12-13. Did you draw lines under some of these words? The disciples preached the same message that Jesus preached. They asked people to repent (turn from sin).

The disciples cast out demons. They healed sick people. These are ways that Jesus used his power to help people. Jesus gave the disciples power to do these things and to help people.

did not have faith in him. If they had faith in him, they would not have been afraid.

The disciples saw Jesus heal sick people. They saw him cast out demons. Now they saw him calm the storm. They were surprised that he had this kind of power. Read verse 41 (our memory verse). Do you think the disciples now believed Jesus cared for them? Did they start having more faith in him?

Jesus used his power to help the disciples. He took away their fear. Other kinds of storms come to our lives. Trouble can be like a storm. We are afraid because of things that happen. Jesus can calm this kind of storm. He may not take away the trouble. But he will give us power. Then we can have victory over trouble and storms in our lives.

JESUS USED HIS POWER TO HEAL

Read how Jesus used his power to heal a person who had faith in him.

MARK 5:25-29 and 24

And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well." And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Jesus was on his way to Jairus' house. Jairus' daughter was sick. He asked Jesus to come and heal her. (Read verses 21-24, 35-43)

A crowd was following Jesus to Jairus' house. A woman in the crowd had been sick

twelve years. Her body would not stop bleeding.

The woman believed Jesus could heal her. There was a crowd, and she could not see Jesus. If she could just touch his clothing, she believed she could get well. Soon she got close to Jesus. She touched his clothing. Her bleeding stopped at once. She was well.

Jesus knew someone touched him. He asked who twice. The woman told him what happened (verses 30-33). Jesus said she had great faith. He was pleased because she used her faith. Do you remember what Jesus said to the disciples after he calmed the storm on the sea? Read Mark 4:40 again.

FOR YOU

Have you ever asked the Lord to help you do something? He wants you to call on him. Do not be afraid or ashamed to call on him.

If you are not a Christian, the Lord wants you to be saved. He is also interested in your job, your health, and your family. Pray to him about all these things.

TO READ EACH DAY

Monday: Judges 7:1-9
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-10
Thursday: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Friday: 1 Corinthians 4:1-14
Saturday: Matthew 18:21-35

CHAPTER 7

DISCIPLINES FOR DISCIPLES

BIBLE MATERIAL: Mark 6:7-56

MEMORY VERSE: *"We must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work."*
John 9:4

INTRODUCTION

Discipline means self-control. A disciple is a learner or follower. We need to discipline our lives by learning new things and following Jesus' example. We also need to serve and witness to others.

This lesson tells about the time Jesus called the twelve disciples, later called apostles. He asked them to preach, teach, heal, and cast out demons. He gave them power to do these things.

In these verses draw a line under the things that Jesus asked his disciples to do.

MARK 6:7-13

And he called to him the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, "Where you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. And if any place will not receive you and they refuse to hear you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet for a testimony against them." So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast