

QT Questions — for Mark

Mark 1 (7/26)

Praise the Lord for giving us the Gospel of Mark for all us to read, to meditate, and to delight to obey His word into our lives.

1. Why would John say that he is not worthy to stoop down and untie Jesus' sandals, and how could that be applicable for us?
2. In Jesus' baptism, what truth strikes you most and why?
3. What the impure spirit cries out about Jesus is uncannily true, so why would Jesus drive it out, and what does it mean that He does it with authority?
4. The leper pleaded with Jesus to cleanse him, "If You are willing,"—how willing was Jesus, and how willing is Jesus to your pleading, and what does that say about our Savior?

Mark 2 (7/27)

1. The faith, the love, and the service of the four friends for their friend are amazing—do you have a friend who is like the paralyzed man who needs your help and you are willing to serve like these four, and will you pray that you can be more like these four friends to others?
2. When Jesus asked which is easier—which is easier by a mere appearance, and which is impossible for a person to do in our own strength, and what does this teach us about our Lord?
3. The Pharisees were echoing the sentiment of the people of the day, when they complained why does Jesus eat with the tax collectors and sinners—why did the people feel this way, and why did Jesus eat with them?
4. As we know, fasting is not about dieting—what is Jesus teaching about fasting; have you fasted, why?

Mark 3 (7/28)

1. In 3:1-6, we are told that Jesus was angry—what was the reason for His anger, and will you humbly reflect to see if such heart is not present in us?
2. In 3:7-12, the impure spirits say what Jesus would have loved to hear from the people He came to—so why was Jesus against what these spirits were saying, and what are we to learn about what we say?
3. We know the gospel, Jesus' death and resurrection, is the only way to be saved—so how is the gospel connected to the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit, which cannot be forgiven?
4. We know God wants His people to be loving and responsible over our families—so what is Jesus desiring for us to learn as He points to the people seated around Him, as His family?

Mark 4 (7/29)

A reminder. When we are interpreting the parables, the normal principle is to focus on the one emphasis of Jesus' teaching. We rarely try to interpret every imagery. The parable of the sower is an exception, where Jesus took the time to explain each soil.

Where Jesus does, we are grateful. But, when Jesus doesn't, then we try to focus on the one emphasis, and not in explaining all the others. So, before we immerse ourselves in understanding everything, and before we bring it to our situation, the starting point must always be, understand what God's word is teaching us there and then. After that, we can bring it to us and our application.

1. In the parable of the sower, what makes each soil what they are, and if you can see your life reflected in one of those, will you find what things in your life mirrors that?
2. It is really difficult to examine our lives honestly, but prayerfully, will you ask God to reveal what you try to hide before others, so that you can repent, and what actions you do that if they were done to you, will be frightening?
3. In the parable of the growing seed, why would the seed continue to grow even when the sower is not doing much, and what does that teach you about our God and your faith?
4. In the parable of the mustard seed, what is the point of the smallest seed becoming the largest plant, and how does that relate to your faith?
5. Please enjoy picturing in your mind the events of Jesus calming the storm—please feel free to share your thoughts.

Mark 5 (7/30)

1. How many people consist in a legion, and in what ways did all these impure spirits troubled the person—how incredible is it that a whole legion can exist in one person?
2. In 5:1-20, Jesus consents twice and once He denies the requests—will you identify which and see why He did what He did?
3. The disciples judge by appearance, as they clearly see that everyone is crowding against Jesus, but He wants everyone to know, just touching Him will not heal them, only faith will, but not just faith—so what kind of faith is a faith that can heal?
4. In the midst of a little girl's death, we see two views of death, the people's and Jesus'—how were they different, and why did it make sense to act the way they did, both for the people and for Jesus?

Mark 6 (7/31)

1. The people were offended at Jesus in verse 3, when in verse 2, they were amazed—why the change of heart, what were they getting wrong?
2. In 6:26, we are given two reasons for Herod's action, his oaths and his dinner guests,—why would these reasons be enough for Herod to kill a person, and would you examine yourselves, if we do not justify some of our ugly decisions based on something far less essential (If I am not mistaken, many of us do this, so let's humbly come to the Lord for His grace and humility)?
3. As Jesus was seeking a quiet place to rest with His disciples, what changed His mind, and what do we learn about Him (6:34)?
4. In 6:51-52, we receive a weird sentence, "They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened"—what is happening here, what are we to learn from this?

- Remember, on Sunday (tomorrow), we will do our daily QT with the chapter from the sermon (Jn 10:1-18), which will be from John 10.
 - Though you will not receive any questions on the sermon, I would love to hear some of the things our God teaches you from the chapter and the sermon.
 - So, please feel free to share.

Mark 7 (8/2)

1. In what ways have the Pharisees let go of God's command and instead are holding on to human traditions; and can you humbly see if there are certain God's commands you don't hold on to, because you are holding on to a human tradition?
2. What Jesus is teaching here is shocking, because all their lives, the Jews have been taught what enters through their mouths matters in their cleanness or uncleanness, so what is Jesus teaching them to learn here about food and heart, and what can we do to clean our hearts?
3. Why did the Syrophenician woman's reply or faith delight Jesus, and how could that be ours as well?
4. Jesus, again, did weird things, putting His fingers into the man's ears, and spitting and touching the man's tongue—how would you like it if He did them to you; how are we to see some weird-uncomfortable-confusing-unusual-dangerous things that God's word teaches us (for reference, see Jn 9:6-7)?

Mark 8 (8/3)

1. Why did Jesus feed the four thousand people, and why would He feed you, clothe you, provide for you, and guide you all the days of your life (8:2)?
2. What did Jesus mean "watch out for the yeast", and why does Jesus use metaphors, when He could speak more plainly, and how are we to apply that to our lives?
3. Jesus spit often, doesn't He?—why did He do it here, and what are we to learn about Jesus and His ways?
4. Peter's action in 8:29 and 8:32 are so inconsistent—how does he mirror us, and how can we learn to do better?
5. The way of the disciples look very difficult (8:34-38)—which strikes the most fear in you, and how can you learn to be the kind of disciple Jesus wants you to be?

Mark 9 (8/4)

1. In Jesus' transfiguration, what are the things you notice, why do you think they are important?
2. The boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief"—what is he saying with such contradictory statements, and also, can you relate to the contradiction?
3. While Jesus spoke about His coming crucifixion—what were the disciples arguing about on the road; what does that say about people; what does that say about our God?
4. In verses 42-50, how many times is the word "stumble" mentioned, and how does our God see stumbling?

Mark 10 (8/5)

1. What was Jesus' custom when He met people; what custom can I (or our family) cultivate in our lives to bless the people we meet (10:1)?
2. How does God see the two people who are married (10:8); and what does He want from the people He had joined together (10:9)—we know how difficult that can be, and when we fail, does He forgive us and still love us as much as ever?
3. Why does Jesus tell this rich man about what he lacks and teaches him to sell everything (10:21); when Jesus tells us to do something we think it's really hard, will you remember Jesus' reason for you is also the same as this man, what is it?
4. Though Jesus should rightly be served and yet He would rather serve—how far did His service go; how willing are we to serve like He; will you pray earnestly, humbly, and in faith that your heart will become more like our Lord?
5. Why did Jesus wait to answer Bartimaeus until after the people rebuked him to be quiet (10:47, 48, 49); why doesn't our God answer our prayers immediately, but allow people or things that could prevent our pursuit?

Mark 11 (8/6)

1. Why do you think Jesus chose a colt, which no one has ever ridden, that is, a virgin colt; what are some of the other firsts Jesus did that you can remember?
2. Why would the fig tree having no fruit be connected to the temple cleansing by Jesus?
3. Jesus found the temple not being what the Father intended to be—what was the Father's intention for the temple, and what is the intention of God's church, and what is the intention of our bodies, as the temple of God—how serious are you willing to live according to God's intention for your lives and in God's church?
4. Why was Jesus unwilling to tell the Jewish leaders by what authority He was doing these things—what would have made Jesus tell why He was doing?

Mark 12 (8/7)

1. Why does Jesus end the parable of the tenants with the OT Scripture on the stone the builders rejected, and why were the Jewish leaders trying to arrest Jesus because they knew He spoke out against them, what different response would have blessed them instead?
2. Why would there be no marriage after the dead rises, and what does it mean that Jesus is the God of the living and not the dead?
3. How are the two greatest commandments connected to each other, and how can we learn to love as our God desires for us?
4. In the widow's offering, Jesus is not teaching that we give everything and leave nothing for ourselves; in fact, God teaches us offer 10%, so we can live with the 90%—so what do you think Jesus wants us to learn from the widow's sacrificial offering?

Mark 13 (8/9)

1. Many destructive signs will be present as we near the end times—but what does our God desire for His people to do for all nations (13:11); how can you be obedient to God's desire?

2. Of the many awful things happening during these last days—what breaks your heart most, and how will our God keep you during this time?
3. As we can see, God sometimes uses the same imagery, the fig tree, to teach us different lessons, so—what was the lesson of the fig tree in chapter 11, and what is the lesson here in chapter 13?
4. What does our Lord want us to “Watch” for (13:37); how can you be more watchful today?

Mark 14 (8/10)

1. Jesus loves when His people help the poor, so what do you think He means when He complements the woman for “wasting” a year’s wages of perfume on Him instead?
2. During the Last Supper, in the middle of their supper, Jesus does the most unusual thing—breaking a bread and calling it His body, and sharing a cup, telling His disciples this is His blood, for them to drink—if you were there, do you think you can eat such bread and drink the cup that sounds completely insane, cannibalistic; will you take time to think about this bread and wine, as we will partake them every first Sunday of the month?
3. What do we learn about Jesus in Gethsemane, and what do we learn about the disciples also in Gethsemane?
4. How did the failure of Gethsemane impact the disciples’ subsequent decisions the rest of this chapter?
5. Why would Jesus remain silent when false testimonies were vehemently spoken against Him; how we can reflect Jesus’ silence in our lives, remember, not just silence, but the way He was silent?

Mark 15 (8/11)

1. This chapter gives us 5 time lines—very early in the morning, at nine, at noon, at three, and as the evening approached—what happened during each of those times?
2. The charges of the Jews and the charge from the Romans to have Jesus crucified were different, what were they, and why do you think they were different (14:64; 15:26)?
3. What was the reason for the chief priests to want Jesus crucified, and what reasons did the people have to want Jesus crucified?
4. What is the meaning of Golgotha and by what other name do we know it as?
5. What made a Gentile, Roman Centurion so sure that Jesus was the Son of God (15:39)?

Mark 16 (8/12)

Most Bibles write that verses 9-20 were not part of the early manuscript. Therefore, it begs the question, should we accept it as part of God’s word. And of course, many people have doubts especially about verse 18.

- My perspective is, though some question its place, all the Bibles include these verses, with a short qualifier. And if they are included, then I have no problem accepting as part of God’s word. I choose to accept the wisdom of my predecessors than mine.

- One thing I do not want to do, is to stand above God's word and judge which belongs where. To me, this is a very dangerous place to be. God's word should judge me, but if I start judging God's word, even here, then I am afraid that I might also stand above God's word in other places and judge. It is frightening to think, that many people will decide what to accept or not in God's word, and to me, that is sheer arrogance, that means they are standing above God's word. Lord, may that never be true of us.
 - So, let me encourage you to accept God's word, including this portion, and humbly submit before God's truth.
 - As for picking up snakes and drinking poison, they should not be done in a normal situation, but if that were the only alternative to remain faithful before our God, then I pray that we will be obedient to our God and not cower in fear because of the danger. But again, this should not be the norm. But in Jesus, He must be first, and wherever He leads, may we humbly, joyfully, and lovingly follow Him, whether to pick up or drink what we would normally not do.
1. Why did the women wait until the Sabbath was over for them to go and anoint Jesus' body?
 2. When the women went to look for Jesus, who was crucified, what did they find, why not, what does that mean for you?
 3. Why did the disciples not believe Mary's testimony or the two; when an unbelievable testimony is shared what must you do to be sure this is right to accept (Ac 17:11)?
 4. Why did Jesus rebuke His disciples; what will Jesus say if you were also judged by the same standard of these disciples?
 5. After the Lord was taken up into heaven, where is He, what is He doing according to God's word (Heb 7:25; Jn 14:2)?