

## **Book of Mark**

### **1. Mark 1**

1) Observation: Where did Jesus begin to proclaim the gospel of God?

2) Interpretation: When Jesus declared, "The time has come," what exactly did it mean?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Jesus found the disciples by the Sea of Galilee while they were working with nets. What were you doing when Jesus first found you?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Jesus said to the fishermen living in the neglected region of Galilee, "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people." What kind of stirrings do you think occurred in the disciples' hearts upon hearing these words? If you respond to Jesus, what changes will happen in your life (internally/externally)? What changes have occurred in your life (internally/externally) since encountering Jesus?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Among the things that the disciples, who decided to walk the path with Jesus following His calling, have cherished until now, what should they let go of? And what is the mountain they should cross in the future?

3.4(God Inspiring US): In the words, "I will make you fishers of men," what is Jesus urging the disciples to do? For what purpose should the disciples now live their lives?

4) Real Life Today: In your community, what will you do to become a "fisher of men"?

### **2. Mark 2**

1) Observation: How did the friends of the paralyzed man bring him to Jesus?

2) Interpretation: Why did Jesus say to the paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven"?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): The paralyzed man was able to come to Jesus with the help of his dear friends. Who was the person who first brought you to Jesus? Identify the person whom the Holy Spirit used to lead you.

3.2(God Meeting Us): To the paralyzed man who desired to be healed, Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven" (at that time, "forgiveness of sins" meant holistic restoration—healing of body, mind, and soul). What inner changes took place when you encountered Jesus?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Despite the criticism of the Pharisees and legal experts, Jesus still healed the paralyzed man. Through what situations and processes have you experienced growth since meeting Jesus? How did Jesus lead you during that time?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The friends of the paralyzed man were praised for bringing the man to Jesus. What joy and happiness do you experience when you are used as an instrument by Jesus?

4) Real Life Today: Who in your community is in desperate need of God's grace? What can you do today for that person?

### **3. Mark 3**

shriveled

1) Observation: On what day did Jesus encounter the man with the shriveled hand?

2) Interpretation: Why were the Pharisees watching Jesus closely to see if He would heal the man with the shriveled hand on the Sabbath?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Jewish law prohibited work on the Sabbath, including the healing of illnesses, with strict sanctions. Despite the prohibition, why did Jesus choose to heal the man with the shriveled hand on the Sabbath?

3.2(God Meeting Us): When Jesus risked His own safety to heal the man on the Sabbath, how did the man's heart respond? Did his perception of God undergo any changes? If so, what were they?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The Pharisees, who constantly criticized Jesus and His followers regarding the Sabbath law, continued to harass them. What should the person who received healing prepare for and endure going forward?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The healed man would have remembered what Jesus did for him on the Sabbath. What are you grateful for every Sunday? As someone indebted to the Lord, what can you do on the Lord's Day?

4) Real Life Today: Please share one thing that can go beyond formalities in your community and allow you to practice God's love more genuinely.

### **4. Mark 4**

1) Observation: In this parable, what did Jesus compare the kingdom of God to?

2) Interpretation: What does the image of a seed growing into a tree with large branches teach us about the kingdom of God?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Jesus explains that the kingdom of God begins like a small seed planted in the ground. When was the first time God planted the seed of the gospel in your life? What was the condition of your "heart's field" when you received that seed?

3.2(God Meeting Us): How did you feel when you embraced the seed of the gospel? Have you ever harbored other seeds before? If so, how were those seeds different from the seed of the gospel? Reflect and share your thoughts.

3.3(God Refinding Us): Who cultivates and nurtures the seed of the gospel in your heart's field? In order for this seed to grow well, how should your heart's field change and grow?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Jesus says that a tiny mustard seed grows into a tree with large branches where birds can nest. When your life is transformed into such a kingdom of God, what rewards and joys will come?

4) Real Life Today: What can you do today to make your community a good tree (kingdom of God) where birds can nest and flourish?

## **5. Mark 5**

1) Observation: What was the name of the village that Jesus went to across the sea? Whom did he meet there?

2) Interpretation: When he pleaded with Jesus, "Please do not torment me," what kind of power of the Lord do you think his voice was fearing?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): When Jesus met the demon-possessed man in Gadara, what condition was he in? Who was able to help him there? Have there been times in your life when no one but Jesus could provide strength and assistance? When was that?

3.2(God Meeting Us): After Jesus met the demon-possessed man and cast out the evil spirits, what changes did the man show? When Jesus met you, what changes began to occur in your inner world?

3.3(God Refinding Us): By Jesus' command, the evil spirits entered a herd of pigs (an illegal trade according to Jewish law) and fell off a cliff, resulting in a great loss for the people of the town. What is something in your life that you need to give up as a wrong thing in order for the power of the Lord to come upon you?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The demon-possessed man from Gadara became someone who now had a new life and had a positive influence on the people of the village. What positive impact

have you had on your family, relatives, and neighbors through the grace you received while walking with Jesus in your faith journey?

4) Real Life Today: What aspects of the community you are a part of need to change in order to practice the justice of God's kingdom? What can you do to put those changes into action?

## **6. Mark 6**

1) Observation: Where is the current location of Jesus and the multitude, and at what time?

2) Interpretation: The disciples said that 200 denarii worth of bread would not be enough to feed the crowd. How much would that be in today's money?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Jesus recognized that the people were getting hungry as the day was coming to an end and they needed something to eat. Have there been times in your life when you earnestly sought what you desperately needed from the Lord? When was that?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish (5,000 and 2 small fish) and fed the multitude until they were satisfied. Share an experience when you encountered Jesus and your hunger was filled, and you received abundant grace. What was that experience like?

3.3(God Refinding Us): When life is dark and difficult, what is the reason why we as believers should not despair? The Lord is with us, responding to our supplications, and guiding our faith to grow through those experiences. How is your faith currently going through a process of growth?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Before performing the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus commanded the disciples to give food to the people. The Lord intends to meet the needs of the community through you. What mission have you received for the work the Lord is doing?

4) Real Life Today: In what area of our community does the Lord desire to perform a miracle of feeding the multitude?

## **7. Mark 7**

1) Observation: The woman who came to Jesus was not a Jew. Which region was she from?

2) Interpretation: When Jesus told the woman who asked Him to heal her daughter that He wouldn't give the bread to the dogs, what does "bread" refer to, and who does "dogs" represent in His statement?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Jesus went to Tyre, a Gentile region where Jewish people were reluctant to associate, and He met a Gentile woman there. When was the time when Jesus came to you and bestowed His grace, even though you felt unworthy of His love?

3.2(God Meeting Us): The loving Lord seems to say unexpected words to the pitiful woman when He says, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." Have you faced trials and tests that you couldn't understand or found surprising since you encountered the Lord and started your faith journey? Have you ever questioned why such things are allowed by the Lord?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Jesus heals the daughter of the Syrophenician woman, who humbles herself even to the point of acknowledging that "even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." What is the desire of your prayers and supplications that the Lord wants to fulfill? How does the Lord desire to see you?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Through this story, people came to know that God loves even the Gentiles. What kind of fresh impact and realization can the grace bestowed upon your life by the Lord bring to others?

4) Real Life Today: Who in your community is earnestly seeking the grace of the Lord? How can you approach and help them?

## **8. Mark 8**

1) Observation: Who were the ones who came to the Lord and engaged in a dispute, and what did they demand?

2) Interpretation: What does the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod signify?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Jesus says that people in the world demand "signs," meaning supernatural abilities. If God had revealed something supernatural to you before you encountered the Lord, what would you have desired Him to show you?

3.2(God Meeting Us): The Pharisees practiced a hypocritical faith filled with exaggeration and false appearances, while Herod built magnificent temples to captivate people with outward appearances and power. Jesus warns against their pretense and emphasizes the true inner values of faith. Have you faced challenges to your faith due to the world's values since encountering the Lord?

3.3(God Refinding Us): There was only one loaf of bread in the disciples' boat. What temptations are easy for us to fall into when life is difficult and challenging? How do you overcome those temptations when they arise?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The conversation took place in Bethsaida, a city constructed by Herod to glorify the power of Rome. It was a place where worldly power was emphasized. Why does the Lord send us, His saints, into the world? What tasks do you have to undertake when facing the power of the world?

4) Real Life Today: Your community can also be influenced by the power and values of the world. Which specific areas should you pay special attention to?

## **9. Mark 9**

1) Observation: What sight unfolded when the disciples went up the high mountain with the Lord?

2) Interpretation: In the Old Testament, where are Elijah and Moses positioned as figures who displayed the scene of conversing with the Lord?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): The Lord led the disciples, who were living repetitive daily lives, up to the high mountain and revealed His identity to them there. Have there been instances where the Lord suddenly changed your life circumstances or conditions to awaken your faith that was dwelling in the routine of everyday life?

3.2(God Meeting Us): On the high mountain, the Lord displayed a dazzling white appearance and conversed with the great figures of the Old Testament, Elijah and Moses. What was the "very different" experience that you first tasted when you encountered the Lord? How did you feel at that time?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The disciples expressed their desire to stay on the mountain because they were so proud of the mysterious sight that Jesus revealed to them. Have you ever had a desire to withdraw from the world and live apart after encountering the Lord? Is a life detached from the world truly beneficial for one's faith?

3.4(God Inspiring US): After showing the disciples the mysterious realm, the Lord immediately came down to the world and instructed them to proclaim the Gospel. With the grace and insight that the Lord revealed to you, where is the place you need to seek out?

4) Real Life Today: What message do you want to convey to those among fellow believers who overly emphasize mystical occurrences and seek to live apart from the world? How can you guide them towards a spirituality that doesn't disregard reality?

## **10. Mark 10**

1) Observation: During the time of Jesus, how did people go about getting a divorce?

2) Interpretation: What does the statement "receive the kingdom of God like a little child" mean?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Husbands were divorcing their wives using the loophole in the law. Even the law of Moses had its flaws. Have you ever been disappointed with the laws and rules of the world? How did the grace of the Lord come to you differently from the laws of the world during those times?

3.2(God Meeting Us): The laws of the world are not perfect and can confuse and harm us. When you encountered the Lord and began to live by God's law instead of the laws of the world, what good blessings were bestowed upon you?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The "law of grace" of the Lord commands us to love and care for one another and to protect each other. In order to become "one body" instead of separate individuals, what areas do you need to put in more effort as a couple?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The law of love from the Lord allows us to experience the kingdom of God through the disciple's duty of caring for and receiving the weak and lowly. Are there any neighbors around you who are weak and struggling, like the "children" of Jesus' time? What joy do you experience when you care for them?

4) Real Life Today: What are you doing to help those in need of care within your family, church, and community? Let's discuss good strategies together.

## **11. Mark 11**

1) Observation: When Jesus and His disciples went to the temple, what were the people doing in the temple courtyard?

2) Interpretation: Jesus becomes furious with the merchants in the temple courtyard, accusing them of turning the temple into a "den of robbers." Why did Jesus use the expression "den of robbers"?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): The merchants in the temple courtyard were involved in supplying the necessary sacrifices for temple worship while making tremendous profits. Similarly, even as believers in Jesus, we can easily fall into pursuing our own interests rather than focusing on acts of faith that are centered on God. In what situations do you think you could be tempted by such desires?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Jesus wielded a whip. At times, He awakens us in a very severe manner. It may be difficult for us to initially accept His rebuke, but when we obey, new insights and joy come forth. Share an experience of receiving Jesus' rebuke that you have encountered.

3.3(God Refinding Us): In response to Jesus' reprimand, the chief priests and scribes in the temple discuss getting rid of Jesus, as they want to maintain the temple as a place of "commerce" rather than "prayer." If there are worldly values that hinder "prayer" in our lives, what might they be? What worldly values do you need to transcend in your spiritual life?

3.4(God Inspiring US): What joy do you experience when the proclamation of Jesus' words is manifested in you and you practice His will in the midst of enlightenment? Share an experience where your faith and character grew, even if there was no immediate gain in front of you.

4) Real Life Today: The right attitude and actions of individual saints contribute to the establishment of a community of faith. What can you do now to contribute to this cause?

## **12. Mark 12**

1) Observation: While teaching in the temple, what did Jesus observe from the opposite side of the offering box?

2) Interpretation: How did the faith of the scribes compare to that of the poor widow in terms of actions?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Unlike animals, humans have a tendency towards "hypocrisy," where their inner world does not align with their outward behavior. Sometimes societal roles and conditions can tempt us in this way. Have you ever struggled with such situations? How did the Lord guide you through them?

3.2(God Meeting Us): When we believe in and receive Jesus, we are acknowledged as "righteous" children of God. We are forgiven not only for the wrongs we have committed but also for the darkness within us, becoming new beings. What joy did you experience during such times?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The poor widow, though giving a small amount, had faith to offer everything she had to the Lord. In your life, in what area do you need the same level of wholehearted dedication and courage as that widow? What grace from the Lord do you need to fulfill this?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The hypocrisy of the scribes faded in comparison to the dedication of the widow, causing their outward appearance to lose its shine. Genuine and true dedication of the saints outshines worldly hypocrisy, illuminating the kingdom of God. Where in your life can you fulfill the role of light and salt that the Lord desires?

4) Real Life Today: Pray that you can fulfill the role given to you in the community of faith with a sincere heart, rather than merely following a formality.



### **13. Mark 13**

1) Observation: When the gospel is proclaimed, does the Lord say that believers can face hardships?

2) Interpretation: What is the meaning behind the statement, "The gospel must be preached to all nations first"?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): What difficulties did you face when you started something valuable for the sake of gospel proclamation? How did the Holy Spirit guide you in such situations?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Even though we, as believers, may experience various hardships and tribulations while bearing witness to the gospel, there are blessings that we come to realize. What are they? (Refer to verses 11 and 13 and share your thoughts)

3.3(God Refinding Us): What is the most crucial thing you need as you move forward in proclaiming the gospel? Do you desire the Holy Spirit to empower and increase your faith through His strength and wisdom?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Early believers endured many hardships while bearing witness to the gospel. As a result, the truth of Christ was proclaimed throughout the world, reaching us today. In this present age, where does the Lord desire to use you for the proclamation of the gospel?

4) Real Life Today: Who are the neighbors in your community who face difficulties while striving to proclaim the gospel? What can you do for them in support?

### **14. Mark 14**

1) Observation: The passage depicts the scene of the night when Jesus was arrested. Among those who witnessed this scene, apart from the disciples, there was another person whose name is unknown. How did this person act when Jesus was being arrested?

2) Interpretation: Jesus says, "I have been with you daily in the temple teaching, yet you did not seize me. This was done to fulfill the words of the Scriptures." What specific words of the Scriptures did Jesus aim to fulfill?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): As disciples following Jesus, we can also engage in actions that hurt His heart, just like Judas (or other disciples). Have you ever done something that grieved the heart of Jesus? Can you recall a specific situation?

3.2(God Meeting Us): When Jesus was taken by the people brought by Judas, He willingly surrendered Himself, carrying His own cross, to save all of us. It is an act of His love and

sacrifice on the cross, bearing the weight of our sins. What is the transformation in our identity when we believe in this grace?

3.3(God Refinding Us): When Jesus was being arrested, there was a disciple who drew a sword and resorted to violence, while another person fled, leaving behind his outer garment. In the time when God's will is being fulfilled, what actions are you taking? And when you reflect on these actions, what areas do you think you need to grow spiritually?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The disciples did not expect Jesus to be arrested so abruptly. Even though they were with Jesus, they did not understand the path He was walking. Are you familiar with the path that Jesus desires and are you following it? What goals do you have as you follow Jesus?

4) Real Life Today: Even in the community of faith, there may be individuals who claim to follow Jesus but engage in extreme actions. What small words or actions can you offer for such individuals?

## **15. Mark 15**

1) Observation: How many people are mentioned in the passage as being at the Roman cross of crucifixion? Who are they?

2) Interpretation: Why did the Roman soldiers write "The King of the Jews" on the signboard attached to Jesus' cross?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry Jesus' cross along the way, and through this event, he later became an excellent disciple who preached the Gospel. Have you ever found yourself unexpectedly involved in the work of the Lord? What grace did you experience in those moments?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Jesus was not crucified alone at Golgotha but alongside criminals. The innocent one took the punishment in the place of wicked sinners. What grace do we receive through our Lord, who takes our sins upon Himself? How does it bring about a transformation in our identity?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The crucifixion is considered the ultimate sacrifice through which Jesus sought to save us. What sacrificial love can you demonstrate in your life as a disciple who is grateful for and proclaims the love of the Lord?

3.4(God Inspiring US): On the cross, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of forgiving humanity's sins. Through the cross, He became our Christ. What glory and fruitful outcomes do you experience when fulfilling the mission God has given you?

4) Real Life Today: What small actions can your community of faith initiate to proclaim the love and sacrificial path of the cross of Jesus to the world?

## **16. Mark 16**

1) Observation: Who were the first people to encounter Jesus after His resurrection on the first day after the Sabbath?

2) Interpretation: Why couldn't the disciples believe the news of Jesus' resurrection when He appeared to them?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): The Lord performs an unexpected event, "overcoming death." Have there been moments in your life when you felt trapped in a death-like abyss, with no hope, and the Lord came to give you new life? Let's share our experiences with each other.

3.2(God Meeting Us): Mary Magdalene, who was filled with sorrow at the death of the Lord, and the two disciples who were disappointed and walking on the road to Emmaus, immediately rushed to tell the other disciples after encountering the risen Lord. What kind of transformation took place in their hearts that led to such action?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Even when the disciples struggled to believe the news of the Lord's resurrection, the Lord still sought them out. What grace from the Lord would you like to receive to fill your troubled heart with faith? Please share individually.

3.4(God Inspiring US): The Lord promised salvation to those who believe in the gospel of resurrection and mentioned the spiritual authority and mysterious grace of healing that would come upon them. What aspect of this promised grace, as you testify to the risen Lord, would you like to receive to experience the joy of growing faith?

4) Real Life Today: In order for your faith community to experience a resurrection and revival, what instruments does the Lord desire to use you as?