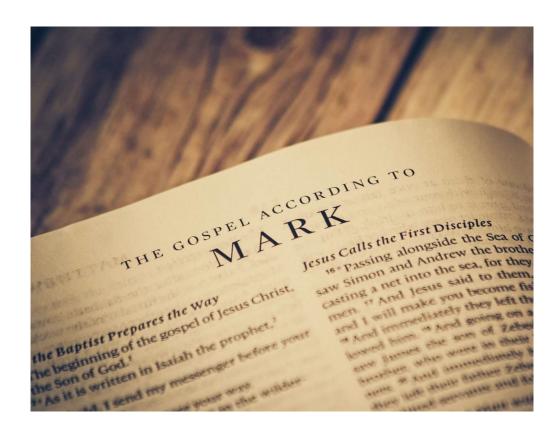
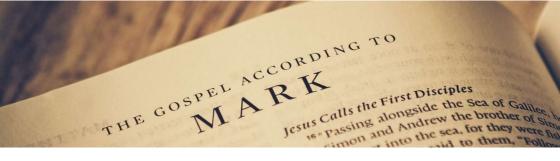
Let's Worship God

28th Oct. - 2nd Nov. 2019 Mark





Monday - Mark 6:14-29 - A Guilty Conscience

News about Jesus is spreading all through the area of Galilee, and people are willing to believe almost anything but the truth about who He is. For some reason the people find it easier to think that Jesus is John the Baptist or Elijah come back from the dead than to believe that He is the promised Messiah or Saviour.

Finally, the news reaches the palace of King Herod. Herod has a terribly guilty conscience; he is afraid that Jesus is the ghost of John the Baptist come back to haunt him. Why is Herod so afraid of this? Mark goes on to tell us.

Apparently Herod had a lot of respect for John the Baptist as a spiritual and good man. He even liked to listen to the things John had to say, despite the fact that he didn't usually understand them. But one day John went too far in Herod's opinion. He openly told Herod that he was wrong to commit adultery with his brother's wife. Most people wouldn't consider this a great way to win friends in the palace, but John was more concerned about Herod's soul than about popularity. However, his pointing out of Herod and Herodius' sin caused him to get thrown into prison. In fact, so great was Herodius' hatred of John that she engineered a great plot to get him beheaded. Herod chose to continue in his sin and for the sake of his pride granted the sinful request of his daughter to have John killed.

Questions

- 1. Who did people say Jesus was?
- 2. Who was Herod afraid Jesus was and why?
- 3. How did John die?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that we would speak the truth to men and women.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation," Mark 8:38a

Praise: Psalm 66 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - Mark 6:30-34 - Time to Rest

Returning to Jesus, the apostles can't wait to tell Him all the things that have happened to them. They want to pour out their stories to Jesus - tell Him all they've done and said. Patiently Jesus listens to them just as He listens to us when we come to Him in prayer telling Him of all we've done.

Then, seeing the weariness of His disciples and the pressing crowd, Jesus tells them to come away with Him to get some rest. Jesus is not going to ask from His disciples more than they have the strength to do, and He is not going to ask them to work constantly at the expense of their health. He knows they need to spend time with Him and rest before going back to the work of teaching others. They need to get away from the distractions around them and spend some time with their Lord. It is just as easy for us as we spend our days working to honour God at whatever jobs we have to become weary and overwhelmed. That is why God gives us one day in seven, the Lord's Day, to rest and specifically spend time with Him, so we can go back to our work refreshed.

When Jesus and the disciples reach the other side of the lake, they see that the crowd has followed them there. You can almost hear the groan of frustration from the disciples as they see the crowds gather waiting for them. But Jesus has compassion on these people who are so eager to be taught with none to teach them.

Questions

- 1. Why did the disciples need rest?
- 2. What was Jesus' reaction to the crowds?

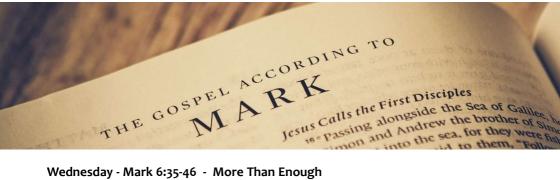
Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that God gives us time to rest on the Lord's Day.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation," Mark 8:38a

Praise: Psalm 67 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - Mark 6:35-46 - More Than Enough

While Jesus is teaching the crowds, none of them ever make the move to leave, so by the end of the day the disciples tell Jesus to send the crowds away. The people are going to get hungry, the disciples are already tired and hungry, and it's time for Jesus to call it guits for the day.

Jesus gives the disciples the job of solving the problem of the hungry crowds. Instead of asking Him for help, they tell Him that He wants them to do the impossible! They can't solve this problem, and they've forgotten the One who can. So, Jesus is going to remind them that God can use whatever we have, no matter how small, to solve our problems if we give it to Him wholeheartedly.

Blessing the food, Jesus breaks it and has the disciples give it out to the crowd. This is a picture of how Jesus, who is called the Bread of Life, is Himself blessed and broken, by dying on the cross, for us. God has provided even more for the crowds than they need, and the disciples collect the leftovers so nothing will go to waste.

After sending His disciples and the crowd away, Jesus, even though tired and busy, goes away by Himself to spend time in prayer.

Questions

- 1. Why did the disciples want Jesus to send the crowds away?
- 2. Where did Jesus get food for the people?
- 3. What did Jesus do after sending everyone away?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks for the way God takes care of us.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation," Mark 8:38a

Praise: Psalm 68 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - Mark 6:47-56 - Peace From The Storm

The disciples sailing across the lake in obedience to Jesus now find themselves in a violent storm. Often obeying Jesus can bring us into a storm, but God's plan for the disciples and us is to go through that storm. The disciples probably feel very desperate, being already extremely tired, they are now rowing to save their lives. Unlike the last time when they could wake Jesus up to help, they have no idea where He is now. But the Lord sees the troubles of His people and comes to help them.

Jesus comes walking on the water, and when the men see Him, they are terribly scared, thinking He is a ghost. Jesus speaks and calms them down as He climbs into the boat. Instantly the storm stops, and the disciples are amazed. But they shouldn't be. They haven't learned from the miracle of feeding the 5.000. Again, they have forgotten Christ's power and have forgotten to ask Him for help, but Jesus has still come to them patiently and lovingly.

Reaching the other side of the Sea of Galilee, news of Jesus' coming spreads through the villages, and the people hurry and bring their friends, family, and neighbours who are sick to Jesus to be healed. There are many around us who need to be healed in their hearts by Jesus, and we should work hard, as these people did, to bring them to Him.

Ouestions

- 1. Why were the disciples afraid of Jesus?
- 2. Why shouldn't the disciples have been so amazed?
- 3. What did the people do to those who were sick?

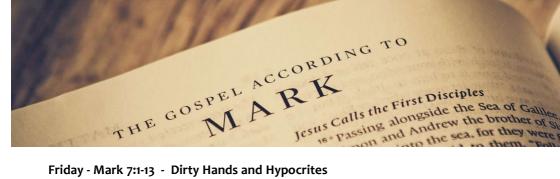
Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that God has power over all our storms.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation," Mark 8:38a

Praise: Psalm 69 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - Mark 7:1-13 - Dirty Hands and Hypocrites

A group of Pharisees and teachers have travelled all the way from Jerusalem to find out more about Jesus and attack the things He is doing. They quickly begin to criticise the disciples for eating without washing their hands. This is a tradition of the Pharisees. God has told Moses that the Jews are not to touch certain things that are unclean. The Pharisees decide to take this a few steps further and command that hands are to be washed at all sorts of different times, along with pots, pans, and cutlery, so the cleanest person is usually the holiest for the Pharisees.

Jesus quickly points out three problems with what the Pharisees are doing. First, they are hypocrites. They pretend that they want to love and obey God, but in their hearts they don't care about God and just want the praise of men. Secondly, they are adding rules and laws to what God has said and forcing people to follow them. Finally, they are ignoring what God has really said and substituting their own rules.

Jesus now gives an example of what He has been saying. God commands us to honour our parents. The Pharisees said that a man could dedicate to God any part of his property that he would have otherwise used to take care of his parents. All he has to say is that his money is used for holy purposes, and his parents can't come to him for help. The Pharisees tradition was breaking God's Law.

Questions

- 1. What did the Pharisees accuse the disciples of doing?
- 2. How did Jesus answer them?

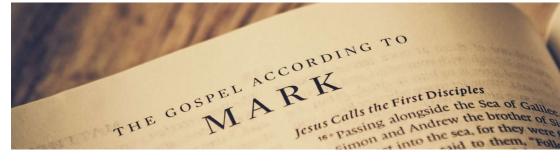
Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that we would obey God with all our hearts and not just pretend to love and obey Him.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation," Mark 8:38a

Praise: Psalm 70 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - Mark 7:14-23 - An Evil Heart

Jesus has just been answering the Pharisees who have accused His disciples of eating with unwashed hands. He has pointed out their hypocrisy in making up their own rules and ignoring God's rules. Now He calls all the people to come and listen to the point He is about to make.

Jesus tells them that it is not what goes inside a man that makes him unclean but what comes from the heart of man. As the crowd goes away, the disciples ask Jesus to explain this. It's easy for us to be amazed that the disciples don't understand what seems so simple, but unless the Holy Spirit gives understanding, we won't be able to understand the things Jesus says either.

Jesus explains that it is our hearts that are sinful and need to be cleaned, not our hands. It's easy to blame people and situations for our sin, but Jesus says that the root of our sin comes from our hearts. These are not just the hearts of murderers and thieves, but Jesus is saying that all of us have this heart that is full of sin. We can't blame anyone or anything for the things we do wrong; we can only blame ourselves.

Questions

- 1. Who didn't understand what Jesus said?
- 2. What do we need to understand the things Jesus says?
- 3. Where does our desire to sin come from?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation," Mark 8:38a

Praise: Psalm 71 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law day after day and that the people of God were filled with joy!

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.