

Survey of Mark

by
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Survey of Mark

**A study of the book of Mark for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

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Survey of Mark

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the Gospel of Mark. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the Gospel of Mark. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Mark
Lesson 1
Mark 1:1-45

Today we are beginning a study of the book of Mark. Mark presents Christ as the Servant. We will see that Christ serves many people in many different ways. During the next sixteen lessons we will be learning many wonderful lessons in this book. Mark is a book of action. In this book we will move quickly from one event to the next. One of the words we will see many times in Mark is immediately. Whenever we see the word immediately, we will see that it then quickly tells us something else that Christ did or something that He said to the people.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson you should be able to:

- Summarize the work of John the Baptist.
- Tell what happened when Christ called His first disciples.
- Tell about the power of Christ over demons.
- Tell about the power of Christ over disease.

In Mark 1:1-13 we read about the work of John the Baptist and the baptism and temptation of Christ. The Old Testament had said that there would be one coming before Christ to prepare the way for Him. This was the work of John the Baptist. He prepared the way for Christ. He preached that men should repent. The word “repent” means to turn from sin and turn to God. John the Baptist baptized all those who repented and confessed their sins. Although John baptized many people, he always preached about Christ. Whatever we do as Christians, we should always be telling others about Christ. John also said he baptized with water.

1. Read Mark 1:1-13 and write with what Christ would baptize them.
2. Explain why John said that he was before Christ to prepare the way for the coming of Christ.
3. Explain what you learn from these verses about the importance of repentance in the life of every person that wants to come to Christ.

In addition to preaching and baptizing the crowds, we also read that John the Baptist baptized Christ. When Christ was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove and God spoke from heaven and said, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God was well pleased with His Son because Christ was an obedient Son. He came to do the will of the Father and the Father showed that He was pleased with Christ. God wants us to become obedient children also. As Christians, our desire should also be to do the will of the Father. Then we will experience the joy of doing what God wants us to do.

4. Read Mark 1:1-13 and write what happened to Christ immediately after He was baptized.
5. Explain what these verses teach you about the choice of Christ to do the will of the Father as He came to this earth.
6. Explain why you want to make it a goal in your own life to please the Father by the things that you say and do.

Christ was tested in the wilderness for forty days. During that time He had only the wild

animals for company. Even though there was no one else around to see Him, we see that Christ did not sin. This is an important lesson for our lives. Many people do not sin as long as other people are watching them. In their hearts they think that they are deceiving others. However, when they think no one is watching, people will often do things that they know are wrong. Even some Christians think that they can deceive others by doing one thing when people are watching and something else when they think no one is watching. We should always remember that God sees us even if other people do not.

7. Read Mark 1:1-13 and write who tested Christ during the time that He was in the wilderness.
8. Explain why many people do one thing when people are watching and a different thing when they think no one is watching.
9. Explain why you think it is important in your own life to do what you know is right even if no one is watching you.

In Mark 1:14-20 we read about Christ calling His first disciples. He was preaching in the area around the Sea of Galilee. By comparing the other Gospels, we see that this was almost a year after Christ first met the men that He would talk to that day. Christ walked down by the sea. Christ knew that there were four men there who were fishing. That was the way they earned their living. When John tells us that Christ had met these men about a year earlier, John also us that they had already traveled various places with Him. Christ came to the first two fishermen and spoke to them.

10. Read Mark 1:14-20 and write what Christ said to these fishermen.
11. Explain what Christ promised to begin to teach these men to do when He invited them to follow Him.
12. Explain why you think that Christ was inviting them to go with Him and learn from His example instead of just listening to His words.

Peter and Andrew knew how to catch fish. That was the way they had earned their living for several years. Now suddenly they were asked to leave the fishing business and begin training for a new job. However, Christ gave them a wonderful promise. He promised He would help them to become fishers of men. This is something wonderful about Christ. When He asks us to do something that looks impossible, He also promises to give us the help that we need to learn to do what He is asking us to do. We are able to do the impossible when we depend on His strength instead of our own.

13. Read Mark 1:14-20 and write what Peter and Andrew did when Christ asked them to follow Him.
14. Explain why Christ knew that the disciples would learn how to become fishers of men as they heard Christ explain the Gospel in many different places.
15. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to learn to explain the Gospel clearly to those that have never placed their trust in Christ.

In these verses we see an important lesson for our own lives. These men left their fishing immediately and followed Christ. They did not sit down and say, "If we stop fishing and follow Christ, what will we eat or how will we take care of our families." When Christ asks us to do something, He will provide for us and care for our families. We do not need to worry because God will provide our every need. This is part of the exciting adventure of following Christ. We

see Him supply our needs in ways we would never expect as we follow Him.

16. Read Mark 1:14-20 and write the names of the two other men that followed Christ.

17. Explain why we know that Christ will supply our needs as we are obedient and follow Him.

18. Explain how you know that the Lord will supply your daily needs as you make the choice to follow Christ.

In Mark 1:21-28 we read about the control of Christ over demons. Christ went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. There He began teaching. Usually one of the scribes would be their teacher. The scribes would spend their time telling what other teachers had said about the Old Testament and about God. They were not teachers that said, "Thus says the Lord." Christ taught them as one who spoke with a message directly from God. This was different than they had ever heard. There is an important lesson here for us today. When we teach and preach, we should stick to the Word of God instead of spending most of our time talking about the ideas of men. Many preachers talk all about the Bible but they never let the Bible speak for itself. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word of God is living and powerful. The more we use the Word of God and the less we use our own words, the more effective the sermon will be.

19. Read Mark 1:21-28 and write what happened to the people when they heard Christ speak with authority from the Word of God.

20. Explain why it is important to read and explain the Word of God and not just share our own words when we speak to others about Christ.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that the Word of God will have a powerful impact as you share the Word with others.

The Word of God speaks with authority and will change the lives of men. Men can argue with the ideas of other men. However, the Word of God is different. In these verses we see that the Word of God was too powerful for a demon. A man who had a demon in him suddenly started to cry and shout. The demons recognize Christ and know that He can send them out of a person. The demon also knew that Christ came from God. Even though the demon was in total rebellion against Christ, he was forced to recognize that Christ came from God.

22. Read Mark 1:21-28 and write what the demon called Christ which shows that he knew Christ came from God.

23. Explain what this shows about the fact that Christ has all power and authority over demons.

24. Explain why you do not need to fear the power of demons since you have the power of Christ working in your life.

Christ commanded the demon to come out of the man. The demon came out immediately and the people were very surprised again. They had never seen anyone before that had power over demons. What these people did not realize is that Christ has power over all things including the demons. They began to question one another and ask what kind of teaching Christ was giving since He had authority over the demons and the demons obeyed Him. Today we can also depend on the Lord to have power over all things because Christ has all power.

25. Read Mark 1:21-28 and write what immediately spread throughout the region of Galilee.

26. Explain why the power of Christ over the demon was so amazing to the people that day.

27. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that Christ sent the Holy Spirit to give you His power as you yield to Christ.

In Mark 1:29-39 we read about Christ healing many people later that day. Right after Christ cast the demon out of the man in the synagogue, Christ went with Peter and Andrew to their family home. The first one Christ healed was the mother of Peter's wife. That night many people came to the house where Christ had gone. In fact we read that the whole city gathered around the door of that house. Some were sick and some were possessed by demons. Christ healed every one. He also commanded the demons not to speak because they knew that Christ was God.

28. Read Mark 1:29-39 and write what Christ did early the next morning.

29. Explain what made it possible for Christ to heal every person that came to Him with any sickness or demon that night.

30. Explain why it is important for you to know in your own life that Christ has power both over sickness and also over demons.

Christ knew the importance of spending time alone in prayer with God. He knew that the only time there would not be a crowd of people around Him would be early in the morning before anyone else was awake. Each Christian needs to have some time during the day when he or she can spend time alone with the Lord in prayer. Our time alone with the Lord in prayer is the time we receive our strength for the duties of the day. If you have not had a time each day when you can be alone in prayer, today is the day to find such a time.

31. Read Mark 1:29-39 and write what the disciples told Christ when they found Him praying in a solitary place.

32. Explain why every Christian needs a time each day when that person spends time alone talking to the Lord in prayer.

33. Explain how having a daily time of prayer where you spend time talking with Christ has changed and transformed your life.

The people were looking for Christ because of the miracles they had seen. However, Christ said He must go to other towns and preach the Gospel in other towns also. People in every area need the Gospel. It is our responsibility to see that the people in the towns around us also hear the Gospel. If you are the pastor of a church, this means that you should train some of the men in your church to hold Bible classes in some of the homes in the surrounding areas. If you are not a pastor, it may mean that you should go to an area where there is no church and work to establish a church in that area.

34. Read Mark 1:29-39 and write where Jesus preached as He went to the next towns.

35. Explain why the concern of Christ shows us that we also need to have a concern that the people of the next towns also hear about Christ.

36. Explain what these verses teach about your responsibility to take the Gospel to others that have not heard.

In Mark 1:40-45 we read about Christ healing a leper. After Christ healed the leper, Christ told him to go and show himself to the priest in Jerusalem. Leprosy was such a terrible disease that a man was not allowed to go near other people when he had leprosy. He could not go into any city or town. He had to live out in the hills by himself or with other lepers. When anyone came near, he had to shout, "Unclean, unclean," so that people would not get close to him. When a man was healed from leprosy, he was supposed to go to the priest. Only a priest could

pronounce him clean from leprosy. Then he was free to go where he wanted to go and live where he wanted to live. Christ told the man not to tell anyone.

37. Read Mark 1:40-45 and write whether the man obeyed Christ or not.

38. Explain the real reason why Christ told the man to show himself to the priests.

39. Explain why it is important for you to also give a testimony to others about the changes that Christ has made in your life.

The last time in the Bible where it tells about someone being healed from leprosy happened about 700 years before Christ. It was considered a disease that was impossible to heal. Once a man had leprosy, the person usually knew he would never get rid of it. Suddenly a man began to tell everyone that he had been healed from leprosy. He was so changed that many people wanted to meet the one that had healed him. Sin is just like leprosy. It is a disease that men cannot cure. It is impossible for one man to get rid of the sin of another man. When you became a Christian, Christ changed you just like He changed the man with leprosy. We should tell others of the change that happened in our lives. When people can see a great change in our lives, they will want to know the one who changed us. When the leper told how Christ had healed him, many people went to see Christ. It became so busy that Christ finally had to go to another place.

40. Read Mark 1:40-45 and write where Christ went.

41. Explain why leprosy gives us a picture of what sin is like.

42. Explain some of the ways that Christ changed your life when you placed your trust in Him.

Now reread Mark 1:1-45 and write down three important lessons that you learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 2
Mark 2:1-28

Today we will be studying the second chapter of Mark. Several of the things included in this chapter are also mentioned in Matthew or Luke. Each of these books teaches us important lessons from the events given in this chapter. As a result, we will be learning new lessons and applications from these familiar verses. We will be studying about the man who was paralyzed and could not move. We will also learn how Christ changed the life of Matthew by giving him a new purpose in life. Finally we will see that Christ is the Lord of all including the Sabbath.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson you should be able to:

Tell what lessons we learn from the four men who brought the paralyzed man to Christ.

Explain why Christ broke the traditions of the leaders and ate with the worst sinners.

Explain the meaning of the coat and the wineskins.

Tell why we know Christ is Lord of the Sabbath.

In Mark 2:1-12 we read about Christ healing the paralyzed man. We read that four men came carrying a man that was paralyzed to Christ. Here we have an important lesson for us as Christians. These men were working together as a team. Four men were able to do easily what would have been almost impossible for one man to do alone. This is one of the reasons why Christians should fellowship together in a local church. The local church provides an opportunity for many Christians to work together to do the work of the Lord. As each Christian does his part to serve the Lord, it is possible to accomplish for the Lord what may have looked impossible to an individual Christian.

1. Read Mark 2:1-12 and write what the four men did when they could not get to Christ with their friend because of the crowd of people.
2. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to work together in teams.
3. Explain how it has changed the effectiveness of your own service for the Lord when you work together as a part of a team of Christians.

Since the house where Christ was preaching had a flat roof, the men made a hole in the roof and let their friend down through the hole. The four men were so concerned about their friend that they were willing to do anything to get him to Christ. Many Christians hardly seem to care if their friends go to hell. Does it bother you to think that some of your friends and relatives would go to hell if they died tonight? Do you have a concern for the spiritual needs of others like these men had for the physical needs of their friend? These men had a concern that caused them to take action. They did not even let a roof stop them from getting their friend to Christ.

4. Read Mark 2:1-12 and write what Christ told the sick man when Christ saw the faith of the friends.

5. Explain what the four friends of the paralyzed man show us about faith by their example.

6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be concerned about the physical and spiritual needs of others.

The man that was brought to Christ had a great physical need. However, he also had a great spiritual need. Christ chose to meet both his physical need and his spiritual need at the same time. Christ told the man that his sins were forgiven. The paralyzed man was ready to begin a new life because Christ forgave his sins. When our sins are forgiven, we become new persons in the sight of God. He gives us new desires and new attitudes. We are changed in every way. Sin in our lives is worse than any disease we could ever have. Sin makes it impossible for us to enjoy our lives.

7. Read Mark 2:1-12 and write what the scribes thought when Christ told the sick man his sins were forgiven.

8. Explain why Christ chose to heal the man by forgiving his sins instead of just telling him to be healed.

9. Explain why you think that the most important thing that can happen in the life of any person is to have their sins forgiven.

The religious leaders thought Christ was speaking against God because God is the only one that can forgive sin. They did not yet realize that Christ is God. Today many religious leaders think that Christ was a good man but they do not realize that Christ is God. As a result, they have never asked Christ to forgive their sins. Instead they are trying to work their way to heaven. These men are religious but they are not Christians. We need to explain to such people the importance of coming to Christ and asking Him to forgive their sins.

10. Read Mark 2:1-12 and then write what Christ told the man to do.

11. Explain why many people try to depend on their own works to try to work their way to heaven instead of placing their trust in Christ.

12. Explain why you think that many people are like the scribes and reject Christ and speak against Christ.

In Mark 2:13-20 we read about Christ calling Levi (Matthew) to be a disciple. We see that Matthew was a tax collector. The Jews rejected the tax collectors because they worked for the Roman government. The Jews also felt that they were collecting more taxes than they were supposed to collect so they also felt that they were thieves. When Matthew followed Christ, he immediately invited Christ to come over to his house and have dinner with him and his friends. Here we learn an important lesson about reaching the lost for Christ. Many times a person will tell a new Christian to stay away from his old friends because they will lead him back into sin.

13. Read Mark 2:13-20 and write whether this dinner with his old friends caused Matthew to go back to his old sinful ways.

14. Explain why Christ chose Matthew to be a disciple even though he had been a tax collector.

15. Explain why you think that the first thing that Matthew did when he followed Christ was invite Christ to dinner at his house.

Instead of telling Matthew to stay away from his old sinful friends, Christ went with Matthew to talk to his friends. Matthew probably told his old friends that he had decided to follow Christ. Then Christ told the old friends what it meant to follow Him and how they could have their sins forgiven also. One of two things happened to the friends of Matthew that day. Either they decided to start following Christ also or they decided to stop visiting Matthew because they

were afraid they would hear more about their sins again. Christ never had to tell Matthew to stay away from his old friends because part of those friends followed Christ and the rest did not want to spend their time with Matthew any more.

16. Read Mark 2:13-20 again and write how large a group joined Christ and the disciples for dinner in the home of Matthew.

17. Explain why it is important to reach out to new followers of Christ and visit them in their homes.

18. Explain what ideas these verses give you about ways to help new Christians to help them get started in their spiritual growth.

Of course the Pharisees thought it was terrible when they saw Christ eating with all of those people that they considered sinful people. They would not even think of talking to such people. Sometimes we as Christians are just like the Pharisees. We say that a person is a medicine man, a heavy drinker or a criminal and would never listen to the Gospel. As a result we never talk to such individuals about Christ. Such people are sinners and need Christ as Savior and Lord. They will only have the opportunity to learn about how to have forgiveness of sins if we share the Gospel with them.

19. Read Mark 2:13-20 and write who Christ said He came to save.

20. Explain what Christ meant when He said that He came to call sinners to repentance.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know how to explain the meaning of repentance to a person that is not a Christian.

The Pharisees thought they were right with God and did not need to repent of their sins. They did not realize that they were also sinners. In order to show Christ that they were better than His disciples were, the Pharisees asked Christ why His disciples did not fast like they did. The Pharisees thought that they could earn their way to heaven by fasting and going without food for two days a week. In Matthew 6 we see that there are good reasons for fasting. However, fasting will not help a person work his or her way to heaven. Christ told the Pharisees that there was no need for His disciples to fast as long as He was with them.

22. Read Mark 2:13-20 and write what Christ said His disciples would do when He, the bridegroom, was taken back to heaven.

23. Explain why Christ said that there was no need for the disciples to fast while He was with them here on the earth.

24. Explain why you think that a Christian or a group of Christians might choose to fast for a period of time.

In the book of Acts we read several times about the disciples fasting. However, their purpose for fasting was very different from the Pharisees. The disciples fasted in order to spend time in prayer, seek the will of the Lord, or for some similar reason. The Pharisees fasted to try and work their way to heaven and to hear men talk about how religious they were. As a result, the reasons why the Pharisees were fasting had nothing to do with their relationship to God. They actually chose to fast so that others would see them and think that they were very religious.

25. Read Mark 2:13-20 and write when Christ said that His disciples would fast.

26. Explain some of the things that people do today to try and show others that they are religious.

27. Explain why you think that people that are religious but have not trusted Christ will do certain things to show others that they are religious.

In Mark 2:21-28 we have two illustrations to show us what the Lord came to do. People everywhere in the world have their own religions. These old religions are like an old coat or an old wineskin. People have developed these religions because they are trying to find something to satisfy the empty feeling in their lives. However, the things that they do can never produce forgiveness of sin. Christ did not come to make these old religions better. Instead He came to give new life.

28. Read Mark 2:21-28 and write what happens if you try to patch an old garment with a new piece of cloth.

29. Explain why old religions cannot be patched up by adding something new to the old religion.

30. Explain why you think that people had developed so many religions to try and satisfy the empty feeling in their lives.

Just as people must put new wine in new wineskins in order to keep the skins from breaking, people must put their trust in Christ instead of in a religion based on their own works if they want to have new life. Christ said in John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." There is nothing that a person can do through his or her own efforts to try and earn eternal life. Christ made it clear that any religion based on the efforts of a person will fail.

31. Read Mark 2:21-28 and write where you must put new wine.

32. Explain why people must come to God through Christ in order to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

33. Explain why it is important for you to be able to explain clearly the difference between patching up an old religion and coming to Christ in repentance.

In Mark 2:21-28 we read how the Pharisees begin to work harder to find something wrong with Christ. On the Sabbath the disciples were eating grain as they walked through the fields. We see in Matthew that the Pharisees used this as an excuse to say that the disciples were working on the Sabbath. Today there are many people who are watching Christians to try and catch the Christians doing something wrong. Then they say that they are as good as the Christians.

34. Read Mark 2:21-28 and write what the Pharisees said.

35. Explain why the Pharisees were so eager to find anything that they could use to try and accuse Christ of sin.

36. Explain what you learn for your own life about the fact that people that are not Christians are watching your life.

The disciples were not disobeying the law. However, the Pharisees thought it gave them a good excuse to accuse the disciples of doing wrong. This is the same thing that people who are not Christians do today. They will use any excuse to accuse us of doing wrong. This means that as Christians we need to be extra careful to make sure that we do not give the person that is not a Christian an opportunity to say that we are sinning. Our lives should be such an example to the people who are not Christians that they cannot find anything wrong with our lives.

37. Read Mark 2:21-28 and write why God made the Sabbath.
38. Explain why Christ used an Old Testament illustration about David to answer the question of the Pharisees.
39. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to learn the Word of God so that you can answer the questions of others from the Bible.

God created the universe in six days and rested on the seventh day. God made the day of rest for men because God knows that we need one day each week when we can rest and worship Him. A person who is too busy to spend one day with the Lord is too busy. If a Christian works in a hospital or some other job which makes it necessary to work on Sunday, then that person should make time at some other time during the week to spend some special time with the Lord and with other Christians.

40. Read Mark 2:21-28 and write who is the Lord of the Sabbath.
41. Explain why David and his men were given the bread from the temple when they were hungry.
42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to set aside time each week to spend time with the Lord and with other Christians.

Now reread Mark 2:1-28 and write down the three important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 3
Mark 3:1-35

Today we will be studying about many miracles of healing that Christ performed. The people had heard about the ability of Christ to heal and so they came from many cities to see Christ and be healed. During this time Christ chose the Twelve to be His disciples. These men were all very different from each other and yet Christ taught them to work together as a team as He spent time with them and helped them grow spiritually. Christ also taught about the sin that cannot be forgiven. Finally the chapter ends by teaching about our new relationship to Christ.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson you should be able to:

- Explain what lessons we can learn from the miracles of Christ.
- Tell why Christ chose the disciples that He chose.
- Explain the meaning of the unpardonable sin.
- Explain what Christ teaches about our new relationship to Him.

In Mark 3:1-5 we read about Christ healing the man with the paralyzed (withered) hand. As we finished our last lesson we saw that the Pharisees were trying to find something wrong with Christ or His disciples. Chapter three begins with the word, “And.” This shows us that chapter three happened right after chapter two. In chapter two we saw that the disciples ate grain in a field on the Sabbath. Christ and the disciples were on the way to the synagogue when they walked through the fields. In chapter three we see that the fault finding Pharisees had followed Christ into the synagogue and were now looking for another opportunity to find something that they can say Christ was doing wrong.

1. Read Mark 3:1-5 and write who Christ found when He went into the synagogue.
2. Explain why the Pharisees wanted to find some reason to accuse Christ when He was helping the people.
3. Explain why you think that those that reject Christ are often looking for excuses not to follow Christ.

During the time of Christ the government did not have any welfare or social security program to help people that could not work. Since almost every kind of work required the use of a man’s hands, a man with a paralyzed hand was in a terrible position. It would have been very difficult to do many kinds of work with a paralyzed hand. He had a great physical need. The Pharisees watched Christ to see if Christ would help the needy man. They were not concerned about the man and his physical need. Their only concern was to trap Christ. Christ was concerned for the needs of the man and so Christ asked the man to stand.

4. Now read Mark 3:1-5 and write what Christ said to the man.
5. Explain what these verses show us about the attitude of the Pharisees toward Christ.
6. Explain why you think that Christ asked the man to stand when He knew that the Pharisees were looking for an excuse to condemn Him.

Christ was always ready to help a man with a need. Christ turned to the Pharisees and asked them if it was right to do good or to do evil. He asked if it was better to save a life or would it be better to kill. The Pharisees knew that they were wrong and so they did not answer Christ. They just stood and waited for a reason to accuse Christ of doing wrong. Christ gives us a real lesson for our own lives. He did what He knew was right and healed the man even though He knew the Pharisees would begin to plan His death for doing what was right and good.

7. Read Mark 3:1-5 and write what Christ told the man to do.

8. Explain why it says that Christ looked at the Pharisees with anger.

9. Explain why we should be like Christ and do what is right even if it means rejection or suffering.

In Mark 3:6-12 we read about Christ healing many other people. As soon as Christ healed the man with the paralyzed hand, the Pharisees went out and began to talk with Herodians about how to put Christ to death. The Herodians were a group of Jews who thought they could get the greatest advantage by helping the Roman government. Usually the Pharisees and Herodians were against each other. Here we see that they were now planning and working together to destroy Christ. However, Christ did not worry. We do not need to worry either when people oppose us or fight against us. When we are on God's side, no one can have victory over us even if they kill us. If God is for us, no one can stand against us. Since Christ knew the attitude of the Pharisees and Herodians, Christ went with His disciples to the Sea of Galilee.

10. Read Mark 3:6-12 and write what Christ told the disciples to get in case the people crowded too close together.

11. Explain why the Pharisees and Herodians were willing to work together even though they normally opposed each other.

12. Explain why you think that people may oppose you if you faithfully speak to them about Christ.

When Christ withdrew to the sea, a great crowd of people followed Him. In the crowd were many people that were sick and many people that were possessed with demons. Christ healed all that came to Him. When Christ cast demons out of a person, Christ commanded the demons to be quiet. Here we see that the demons know Christ is the Son of God even though they refuse to believe in Him. Today there are also many people that know about Christ that also refuse to believe in Him.

13. Read Mark 3:6-12 and write what the people did as they gathered around Christ.

14. Explain why the fact that Christ was able to heal every person shows that He always acted in agreement with the Father.

15. Explain what lessons you learn from the fact that Christ was able to command the demons even though they did not follow Him.

There were so many people trying to hear Christ that it finally became necessary for Christ to get into a boat and have the disciples push the boat a few feet from the land. Then everyone could sit along the shore or on the side of the hill and hear Christ. This made it possible for everyone to hear instead of just those who were closest to Christ. Today we need to make sure that everyone hears about Christ also. This means that we need to go to people in their homes and in places where they gather and tell them about Christ so that they can learn how to have

forgiveness of sins. Otherwise there will be many that never hear that Christ died for their sins.
16. Read Mark 3:6-12 and write what those with unclean spirits (demons) did when they saw Christ.

17. Explain why everyone in your area needs to hear the message that Christ can save from sin.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ has the power to change and transform lives.

In Mark 3:13-21 we read about Christ choosing His twelve disciples. We read that Christ chose these twelve to do four things: so that they should be with Him; so He could send them forth to preach; to give them power and authority to heal sickness; to cast out demons. These men were ordinary men like us but Christ chose them to be with Him. We will look at a few of the men to see that Christ can change a man completely. Christ knew that if these men spent time with Him that their lives would be transformed. In the same way, if we are walking with Christ in our daily lives, those who spend time with us as we walk with Christ will also have their lives transformed.

19. Read Mark 3:13-21 and write four reasons why Christ chose the twelve disciples.

20. Explain why Christ knew that these men would have their lives transformed if they would spend time with Him.

21 Explain why you think that it is important to spend time with new Christians so that they can learn to follow your example.

We have already seen that Matthew was a tax collector and thief before he followed Christ. Now let us look at James and John. We read that they were called the sons of thunder or thunderers. In Mark 9:38 and Luke 9:54 we will see two displays of this temper. They were ready to call down fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritans in Luke. However, by the end of his life we read John was called the disciple of love. This is the change that Christ makes in a person. We also read that Christ had two disciples called Simon. One was called Simon Peter.

22. Read Mark 3:13-21 and write what the other Simon was called.

23. Explain why being with Christ was able to change John from a thunderer to the disciple of love.

24. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to spend time with Christ each day as you read His Word and fellowship with Him in prayer.

Simon the Canaanite is also called Simon the Zealot in one of the other Gospels. He was a Zealot. The Zealots were a group of people who were trying to get rid of the Romans by violence. Here we see that the disciples included people that were very different. Matthew had been a tax collector and worked for the Roman government. Simon was a Zealot and had tried to get rid of the Roman government by violence. Here we see a good example of the changes that happen in the lives of people when they yield their lives to Christ and allow Him to be in control. Both men were able to work together even though they had very different backgrounds.

25. Read Mark 3:13-21 and write what these verses say about Judas Iscariot.

26. Explain what made it possible for people like Matthew and Simon the Zealot to both serve Christ effectively.

27. Explain why you think Christ chose men like James, John, Matthew and Simon to be His disciples.

In Mark 3:22-30 we read about the unpardonable sin. We read that the sin that cannot be forgiven is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Christ warns here of the danger of continuing to reject the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. We see that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is a continued, total rejection of the work of Christ throughout life. Since the work of the Holy Spirit is to convict men of their sins and bring them to Christ, a rejection and refusal to trust Christ throughout life becomes the unpardonable sin at death. It may be possible for a few people to reject the convicting of the Holy Spirit so many times that there finally comes a point where they are no longer sensitive to the Holy Spirit convicting them of sin.

28. Now read Mark 3:22-30 and write what the Pharisees said Christ had in Him.

29. Explain why the Pharisees said that Christ was casting out demons by the power of Satan.

30. Explain why it is important to warn people about the danger of continuing to reject the convicting work of the Holy Spirit.

The only way people can commit the unpardonable sin today is to continue to reject Jesus Christ until they die. Once a person is dead, it is too late for that person to have his or her sins forgiven. As long as a person is alive, Christ is willing to forgive the sins of that person. It only becomes too late when a person dies. This is why we can always tell a person that Christ will forgive his sins. Christ promises in His word that He will not cast out any that come to Him.

31. Read Mark 3:22-30 and write what Satan would actually be doing if he cast out demons.

21. Explain what you would tell a person who wants to become a Christian but is afraid he has committed the unpardonable sin.

33. Explain why it is important for you to know that you can continue to invite a person to come to Christ as long as that person is alive.

In Mark 3:22-30 Christ gave another important lesson. He said a divided kingdom cannot stand, a divided house cannot stand and Satan could not stand if he were divided. Anything that is divided will eventually destroy itself. Since something that is divided cannot stand, it is important for a church to have one purpose and not be divided. When Christians are not living in fellowship with Christ, there will be division and fighting between Christians. When we are in disagreement with a Christian brother, we need to pray and ask Christ to forgive us. Then we need to go to our brother in Christ and ask him to forgive us.

34. Read Mark 3:22-30 and write what will happen to something that is divided.

35. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to work together in unity and not be divided.

36. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to help others realize the importance of working together as Christians.

In Mark 3:31-35 we read about the family of Christ coming to visit Him. The family had seen the great crowds following Christ. They had seen the crowds around Him from early in the morning until late at night. Possibly they thought Christ was tired and needed to come home for a rest. There was a large crowd around Christ so His family sent word that they were outside and wanted to see Him. Here we see that the family was showing its concern for Christ.

37. Read Mark 3:31-35 and write what Christ said when someone told Him that His mother and brothers were outside.

38. Explain how the family of Christ gives us an example of the importance of being concerned about other members of our families.
39. Explain why you think that the family developed a concern when they saw large crowds continually following Christ.

Christ then went on to say that all those who do the will of God are the same as His brother, sister and mother. Here we see that Christ has changed the relationship of every Christian in their relationship to Him. When we became Christians, we became members of the family of God. As a member of the family of God we share all of the promises that God promised to Christ. This is a wonderful privilege and promise. In John 15 Christ said that He no longer called His disciples servants. Instead He called them friends. Then in John 20 He told Mary to go tell His brethren about the resurrection. Christ here says that all that do the will of God have that same relationship.

40 Read Mark 3:31-35 and write what we must do to enjoy the privileges of being the same as the family of Christ.

41. Explain why every Christian can rejoice in the fact that we have been given a new relationship with Christ.
42. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you have the same privileges that the brothers and sisters of Christ have.

Now reread Mark 3:1-35 and write down three important lessons that you learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 4
Mark 4:1-41

Today we will be studying several of the parables that Christ used to teach His disciples. Christ used parables both to reveal truth and to hide truth. Many times Christ used parables to explain difficult things to the disciples. Christ also used parables when He wanted to keep the religious leaders from understanding. Christ would explain the parables to the disciples after the crowds and the religious leaders had left them. Most of the parables given in the book of Mark are in this chapter. As you study these parables today, ask yourself how you would explain these parables to a person that is a new Christian.

As you study these parables, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson you should be able to:

Explain the parable of the four kinds of ground.

Explain the parable of the lamp (candle).

Tell the meaning of the parable of the planted seed.

Explain the meaning of the parable of the mustard seed.

Tell the meaning of true peace.

In Mark 4:1-20 we have the parable of the sower who sowed seed in four kinds of ground. This parable is also recorded in both the book of Matthew and the book of Luke. We see that Christ is the one that sowed the seed. The seed is the Word of God. The four kinds of ground are the four kinds of people that hear the Word of God. The people that are like the wayside hear the Word of God and quickly forget it. The people like stony ground are those who hear the Word of God and act like Christians for a while. However, they are not Christians because they have no root in themselves. The thorny ground is like those that hear the Word of God but choose the riches and things of this world instead of Christ.

1. Read Mark 4:1-20 and write the three kinds of ground that picture those who do not become Christians.
2. Explain why Christ uses four kinds of ground to help us understand four different types of human hearts.
3. Explain why you think that Christ wanted the disciples to understand that there would be three groups of people that would not accept His message.

The good ground is those that hear the Word of God, receive it, and produce fruit. Notice the fact that those who hear the Word of God and receive it will always produce fruit. Today many people that claim to be Christians seem to think that they have done their part if they attend church. Such people are often deceiving themselves and have never really put their trust in Christ. A true Christian will realize that he has committed his entire life to Christ. He will have a desire for Christ to transform His life. Everything he thinks, everything he says, and everything he does should be for the purpose of bringing glory to God.

4. Read Mark 4:1-20 and write why Christ spoke in parables.

5. Explain why there are many people that claim to be Christians and yet there is no change in their lives.

6. Explain why you think that there are quite a number of people that think they are Christians because they go to church.

At first it sounds strange for Christ to keep the people from understanding. However, we see that Christ was concerned about teaching and training His disciples so that they would be equipped for the job of taking the Gospel to others. We also read that the natural man that is not a Christian cannot understand the Word of God anyway. Today one of the biggest problems in most churches is the fact that the churches are failing to teach and train the Christian so that the Christians are equipped to take the Gospel to the lost. Instead most of the services are used to preach to the few lost individuals that might be in the congregation. This means that the Christians do not grow and develop into mature Christians.

7. Read Mark 4:1-20 and then write the various levels of fruitbearing that are mentioned.

8. Explain why Christ spent most of His time teaching and training His disciples instead of preaching to the crowds.

9. Explain why you think it is important for the leaders of every church to focus on the development and training of new leaders.

In Mark 4:21-25 Christ gives the parable of the lamp. No man takes a lamp and hides it under the bed. Then it would give no light. Christ had just told the disciples that if they hear the Word of God and receive it, then they should bring forth fruit. In order for Christians to bring forth fruit, we must be sharing the Word of God with those that are not Christians and explaining to them how they can receive forgiveness of sins. Now He is warning them about hiding the truth that they have received. Christ emphasizes what He is saying by telling the disciples to hear it.

10. Read Mark 4:21-25 and write what Christ told His disciples about hearing what He said.

11 Explain why it is important for Christians to share the Word that has been given to them instead of hiding the light from others.

12. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that you are to be a light to the people that you meet in your daily life that do not know Christ.

Christ goes on to tell His disciples that if they hear and tell others what they hear, then they will receive more. If they do not give very much of the Word of God to others, then they will not be able to receive very much either. This is the reason that you sometimes meet Christians who are grumbling and complaining all of the time. Because they have not shared the Word of God with others, they are not able to receive any more the Word of God themselves. They become like a pond of water that does not have any fresh water flowing into it. Such a pond of water quickly begins to smell and stink. In the same way, a Christian who is not refreshed by having the Word of God flow through his life quickly begins to grumble and complain.

13. Read Mark 4:21-25 and write the warning Christ gives to those who are not giving the Word of God to others.

14. Explain why Christians will have difficulty understanding the Word of God if they are not sharing what they learn with others.

15. Explain how the Lord has helped you to understand the Word of God better when you have explained various passages to others.

Verse 25 gives a real warning to the Christians that are not sharing the Word of God that they have received with others. When we learn the Word of God and then teach what we have learned to others, then God gives us a greater understanding of the Word. However, if we fail to teach others, then we lose the understanding that we once had of the Word of God. Hebrews 5:12 summarizes it by saying that we have returned to the place where we need milk again when we should be teachers instead.

16. Now read Mark 4:21-25 and write how Christ says things will be measured out to us.

17. Explain why it is important for Christians to share the Word of God with others if they want to grow in their own Christian lives.

18. Explain why these verses show you that it is important in your own life to look for every opportunity to share the Word of God.

In Mark 4:26-29 we have the parable of the planted seed. In this parable we see the way that the seed that produces fruit grows. There are many lessons that we can learn from these verses. First we see that the seed grows in ways that we do not know. We cannot understand fully how the Word of God works in the lives of those that are not Christians. We may think that a person shows no interest in the Word of God. However, we continue to plant the seed by sharing the Word of God with that person. Then suddenly one day that person tells us that he has become a Christian. At first we are surprised because we thought that person was not interested. Then we realize that the Word of God works in ways that we do not know.

19. Read Mark 4:26-29 and write the order in which these verses teach that a plant grows.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that it takes time for people to understand the message of forgiveness of sins.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to continue to share the Word of God with a person even if that person does not seem interested.

Here we also see that the living seed in the life of a Christian will grow and produce fruit. Something is wrong with a plant that does not produce fruit. The same is true in the life of a Christian. Something is wrong if a person does not become a fruitful Christian. The most common reason that a Christian does not produce fruit is due to the fact that he has not grown normally. He is still immature and needs to grow in his Christian life so that he becomes equipped to share the Word of God with others.

22. Now read Mark 4:26-29 and write what the Lord does when the fruit is ripe.

23. Explain why it should be normal for the living seed of the Word of God to grow in the life of a Christian and produce fruit.

24. Explain how this passage helps you to understand how the Word of God has worked in your own life.

Christ is the One that is the Lord of the harvest. He is the one that actually produces fruit in the lives of the Christians. He is also the One that wins the lost. We are His tools for gathering the harvest. He gives us the opportunity to share the Word of God. He gives us the opportunity to explain to others how they can receive forgiveness of sin. The Holy Spirit works in the lives of those that are not Christians to convict them of the fact of sin, the fact that Jesus Christ is the Righteous One and of the fact that all those that continue to follow Satan will share in his judgment. Then the Father draws them to Christ because we have been faithful in planting the seed.

25. Read Mark 4:26-29 and write what the sower does when the harvest comes.
26. Explain why it is a great privilege for Christians to know that Christ gives us the opportunity to be tools in His harvest.
27. Explain the kind of tool you want to be for Christ in the work of the Lord.

In Mark 4:30-34 we have the parable of the mustard seed. The mustard seed was the smallest seed that the people planted in the area where Christ lived. Yet it grows to be larger than the other plants. It would grow as much as ten or twelve feet high. It would have a stem as big around as the hand of man. It would also send out large branches. This is a picture of the church. It was very small when it started. In fact there were only 120 people meeting in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost. Yet the church grew to be a large group of people reaching out to much of the world in only a few years. Local churches were established in many areas. This is still the plan for God for us today. It is His desire that we start other churches in areas that need the Gospel.

28. Read Mark 4:30-34 and write how Christ spoke to the people.
29. Explain why Christ chose to use the establishment of local churches as His way to spread the Gospel to the entire world.
30. Explain why you feel that it is important for you to be a part of a local church that is helping to spread the Gospel to the world.

Christ spoke to the people in parables because He wanted to teach His disciples and not anger the religious leaders any more at that time. Everywhere that Christ went the religious leaders would have some of their group listening and trying to find something wrong with Christ. The only way Christ could teach His disciples and not anger the religious leaders was to speak in parables. He would speak the parables to the crowds and then explain the parables privately to His disciples. Here we see an important lesson for each of us that are leaders in a church. We need to spend time with small groups teaching and training them. It is very difficult to teach some things to large groups. We must be willing to work with small groups of three to twelve if we are going to do what the Lord wants us to do.

31. Read Mark 4:30-34 and write what Christ did when He and the disciples were alone.
32. Explain why the training and development of additional leaders is most effectively done in small groups.
33. Explain what you have learned about training others to serve the Lord from these verses.

In Mark 4:35-41 we read about Christ stilling the waves of the storm. When Christ finished speaking to the crowd in parables, He sent the crowds away and then He and the disciples started across the Sea of Galilee in a small boat. Christ had been teaching the people all day and was tired. He lay down in the back of the boat and went to sleep. While Christ was sleeping, something else was happening on the Sea of Galilee.

34. Read Mark 4:35-41 and write what happened.
35. Explain why Christ chose to sleep while the disciples were experiencing the storm on the Sea of Galilee.
36. Explain why you think that Christ chose to allow a storm so that He could use it as an opportunity to teach the disciples.

The disciples were terrified. The storm was causing great waves and the waves were crashing over the side of the boat and filling it with water. The disciples were afraid the boat would sink. Sometimes it seems like everything goes wrong at the same time. The problems of life all seem to come crashing down around our head at once. Our problem is not the things that are happening. Our problem is the fact that we are looking at those things instead of looking to the Lord to teach us some wonderful lessons through those problems.

37. Now read Mark 4:35-41 and write what the disciples said to Christ when they woke Him up.

38. Explain why the storm that the disciples were facing is like a group of Christians that are all experiencing problems at the same time.

39. Explain why this illustration helps you to realize that Christ is there to help you in your life when you are dealing with problems.

When Christ awoke, He spoke to the wind and the waves and said, "Peace, be still." In His words to the wind, Christ also gave the disciples the answer to their problem. The answer to our problems is not to rush about madly. Worry is not the answer. We must be still and let the peace of God control our lives. We experience the peace of God as we let Him take control of every part of us including our thoughts and our attitudes.

40. Read Mark 4:35-41 and write what the disciples said to each other when Christ stilled the waves.

41. Explain why Christ can give Christians peace even in the middle of the problems of life.

42. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ is the One that has all power and can handle all situations.

Now reread Mark 4:1-41 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter today.

Week 6
Day 5
Mark 5:1-43

In our lesson today we will see the power of Christ over demons, disease and death. In this chapter we see the great power of demons conquered by the power of Christ. We will also see what demons can do to a man that is controlled by those demons. We will also see what happens in the life of a woman that had gone to different doctors for twelve years and none of them had been able to help her. Just as men cannot control demons or disease, men cannot control death either. In this chapter we will learn what Christ did when He came to someone that had died.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson you should be able to:

Tell about the power of Christ over demons.

Tell why the people of Gadera (Gerasa) did not want Christ to stay in their area.

Explain what happened to a woman because of her faith.

Tell what happened when Christ met a girl who was dead.

In Mark 5:1-20 we read about the man that was possessed with demons. We see that the demons caused great suffering and torment to this man. This shows us that the goal of demons is the same as the goal of Satan. John 10:10 says that the goal of Satan is to steal, to kill and to destroy. The demons caused all of the people in the area to be afraid of the man. The people had come to realize that they had no power over the man possessed by demons. They would tie him with chains and he would break the chains. He was a wild man and no one could tame him. He lived in the mountains and in the tombs. Night and day people could hear him crying and shouting.

1. Read Mark 5:1-20 and write what he did to himself.
2. Explain why the goal of demons is the same as the goal of Satan.
3. Explain how you think that the people of this area felt every time that they saw this man break the chains or heard him crying and shouting during the night.

As we finished our last lesson we saw that Christ had stopped the storm as He crossed the Sea of Galilee in a boat. As soon as they reached the other side, the wild man came out of the tombs to meet Christ. The disciples had been filled with fear as they had been on the Sea of Galilee in the storm. Now they are met immediately by a man that is possessed with demons. Here was a man with a great need. He had no control over himself. Instead he was completely controlled by demons. This is a real picture of sin. It takes complete control of our lives. There is only one person who can free us from the chains of sin.

4. Read Mark 5:1-20 and write what the demon possessed man did when he saw Christ.
5. Explain how this passage shows us that demons can take complete control of a person so that the person has no control over his or her own life.
6. Explain how you think the disciples felt when they met this man just after they had spent part of the night in danger from the storm.

When the man came to Christ, the demon spoke and showed that he knew Christ was the Son of God. Instead of talking to the man, Christ talked to the demon and asked him his name. He said his name was legion because there were many demons in the man. A Roman legion had 6000 or more soldiers in it so there were many demons in the man. The demons immediately begged not to be sent to hell before the time for their judgment. Then all of the demons started asking Christ to send them into a herd of pigs that was feeding nearby. Christ did not order the demons to go into the pigs but He did allow it. In the same way Christ never makes anyone sin and yet He allows people to sin. We read that the demons went out of the man and into the pigs.

7. Read Mark 5:1-20 and write what happened to the pigs when the demons entered into them.
8. Explain what these verses show us about the fact that demons can have a great affect on animals as well as on people.
9. Explain how you think this man felt when he met Christ because these demons had possessed his body for so long.

The men who took care of the pigs immediately ran into the town to tell what had happened to the pigs. As the people came out from the town, they saw the man that had been a wild man sitting and talking with Christ. They could see that the man had been completely changed. He was now wearing clothes. He was now talking normally instead of crying or shouting. He was in his right mind. Although the people could see all of the changes in the man, they were not glad to see Christ. All they could think about was the pigs. They had lost their pigs and they were more concerned about the pigs than they were about the needs of the man that had been possessed with demons. Today there are many people who spend all of their time thinking about the things that they own. They are not concerned about the needs of others.

10. Read Mark 5:1-20 and write what the people asked Christ to do.
11. Explain what these verses show us about the power of Christ over Satan and all of his demons.
12. Explain why you think that the people of the city were more concerned about their pigs than they were about the needs of the man.

As Christ went to the boat and got ready to leave, the man who had been controlled by the demons asked Christ if he could go along. Christ told him to go home to his family and friends and tell them what Christ had done for him. Here we see an important lesson when someone becomes a Christian. We need to encourage that person to tell his or her family and friends immediately about the change that has happened in the person's life. As the new Christian tells his family and friends about Christ, he is realizing the importance of being a witness for Christ.

13. Read Mark 5:1-20 and write what Christ told the man to do instead of having him go with Christ.
14. Explain why Christ knew that it was important for the man to go and tell his family and friends what Christ had done for him.
15. Explain why you think Christ immediately sent the man to tell his family and friends about his new life in Christ.

We read that the man began to tell people all over the area what Christ had done for him. He

was not ashamed. Instead he was eager for others to know what Christ had done for him. This man also told many others in addition to his family and friends about Christ. In fact we see that the people throughout the entire region heard about the changes that Christ had made in this man. This should be a lesson for us in our own lives. Christ has done great things for us also. He saved us from our sin. Our desire should be to let everyone in our area know about the changes in our life.

16. Read Mark 5:15-20 and write what the people did when this man told them about the change that Christ had made in his life.

17. Explain why Christ also makes great changes in the lives of those who place their trust in Christ today.

18. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example of what this man did when Christ changed his life.

In Mark 5:21-24 we read about the request of Jairus. Jairus was one of the leaders of the people in his hometown. This meant that he was respected by all of the people there. However, he had a daughter with a great need and he knew that he could not help her. He recognized that only Christ could help her. Jairus came to Christ and told Him that his daughter was so sick that she was ready to die. He asked Christ to come to his house right away and heal his daughter before she died. We read that Christ did go with Jairus and that a large crowd of people followed Him. We also read that Jairus was a certain kind of ruler.

19. Read Mark 5:21-34 and write where he was a ruler.

20. Explain what Jairus shows about the faith that he had in Christ by the request that he made of Christ.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the faith that Jairus showed by his request to Jesus.

The synagogue was the Jewish place of worship and was the building where many Jewish activities happened. It also served as the school where Jewish children were taught to read the Old Testament. Jairus was one of the leaders of a synagogue. This would make him a Jewish religious leader. Here we see that he was different than most of the religious leaders. Many of the leaders were already beginning to think about trying to stop Christ and His teaching. However, Jairus realized that Christ was God and could heal his daughter. Sometimes Christ uses sickness to cause people to realize that He is God. Sickness sometimes causes people to come to Christ and ask Him to forgive their sins.

22. Read Mark 5:21-34 and write who touched Christ as He was on the way to the house of Jairus.

23. Explain why each synagogue would have a group of leaders or rulers of the synagogue.

24. Explain why you think that the synagogue had become the center of Jewish community life for the Jews.

The woman that touched Christ had a great physical need. An issue of blood is a hemorrhage. It is internal bleeding which causes a person to become very weak and even die. This woman had been bleeding for twelve years. She had gone to many doctors and spent all of her money but none of the doctors had been able to help her. She heard that Christ healed many people and so she went to him for help. This woman had probably become very discouraged over the years

when no doctor was able to help her. Instead of asking Christ for help, she just touched His clothes.

25. Now read Mark 5:21-34 and write why she touched His clothes.

26. Explain why physical problems that last for many years can cause people to become very discouraged.

27. Explain why you think the woman chose to touch the clothes of Christ rather than to ask Him to help her.

As soon as the woman touched Christ, she was healed. Christ knew what had happened but he wanted to encourage the woman so he turned around and asked, "Who touched me?" Since the crowd was so close around Christ, the disciples said that lots of people were touching Him. The disciples did not realize that the Lord was working in the life of another person. Sometimes we are so busy that we fail to realize the need of another person that needs to be encouraged. Christ wants us to be concerned about the needs of all people and especially of other Christians and be ready to help and encourage them.

28. Now read Mark 5:24-34 and write what the woman felt when Christ asked who had touched Him.

29. Explain why the disciples failed to recognize the need of the woman.

30. Explain what you have learned from these verses about the importance of encouraging others.

When the woman saw that Christ realized that she had been healed when she touched Him she came and told Christ what had happened. Christ told her that her faith had healed her and that she could go in peace. Here we see a real example of faith. The woman believed that Christ could do what every doctor had been unable to do. She expected Christ to heal her. She showed her faith in Christ by touching his clothes. As we learn to depend on Christ for more and more things, we will be able to go through life with a growing peace in our lives.

31. Read Mark 5:24-34 and write what Christ said made the woman well.

32. Explain what this woman shows us about the importance of faith in Christ rather than dependence on self.

33. Explain some ways that you see your own faith growing as you learn to yield more frequently to Christ in your daily life.

While Christ was talking to the woman, someone came from the house of Jairus and told him that his daughter was dead. The messenger said that it was too late for Christ to heal the daughter so there was no need to bother Christ any more. The messenger told Jairus that there was no hope. Today the world offers no hope to those that do not know Christ. However, in Christ there is always hope.

34. Now read Mark 5:24-43 and write what Christ said to Jairus.

35. Explain how the messenger showed his lack of faith when he told Jairus not to bother Christ any longer.

36. Explain what this shows you about the importance of sharing your faith with those who have no faith or hope.

One minute the situation looked hopeless to Jairus. The next minute Christ was offering him

the encouragement that he needed. When Christ arrived at the house, there was much crying and wailing. Christ tried to tell the people in the house that the girl would live but they only laughed at Him. Today many people are laughing at Christ instead of listening to Him. They do not realize that He is the one who offers hope to them in their sinful condition. However, Christ does offer hope to the hopeless. This is why it is so important that we take them the message of salvation.

37. Now read Mark 5:35-43 and write what Christ did with all the people that were laughing instead of listening.

38. Explain what the people in the house show us about the attitude of people that have not placed their trust in Christ.

39. Explain why you think that the words that Christ spoke to Jairus brought hope to him even though he had just heard that his daughter had died.

Those who had laughed at the word of Christ missed the opportunity to see Christ raise the dead girl. Since they refused to believe, Christ sent everyone out of the house except the three disciples that were with Him and the parents of the girl. Then Christ took the dead girl by the hand and told her to arise. Immediately she got up and walked. Here again we see the power of Christ. There was nothing that He could not control. In this chapter we have seen His control demons, disease, and death. All of these miracles are proof that Christ is God.

40. Read Mark 5:35-43 and write the reaction of the people when they saw that the girl was alive and well.

41. Explain what this miracle shows about the fact that Christ has power over death.

42. Explain why you think that Christ did not allow the crowd to witness the miracle as He raised the girl from the dead.

The people had never seen miracles like Christ was doing. It was so amazing that they could hardly believe what they were seeing. Now reread Mark 5:1-43 and write down the three most important lessons that you have learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 6
Mark 6:1-56

Today we will learn about the attitude of the people toward Christ in the town where He grew up. These were people that had known Christ ever since He was a young boy. They knew His parents and the rest of the family. We will also learn the reason for the murder of John the Baptist. Then we will listen in while the disciples give a report about their first trip after Christ sent them out to preach the Gospel. We will learn some important lessons from what Christ did when they returned. Finally we will learn more about several miracles that Christ performed.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson you should be able to:

Tell what the people said about Christ in the town where He grew up.

Tell about the first missionary trip of the disciples.

Explain why John the Baptist was murdered.

Tell why Christ fed the five thousand.

Today we are going to learn a little about the family of Christ as we start our study. We see that Christ was a carpenter. He had learned this trade from Joseph as He was growing up. Every Jewish boy was required to learn how to do some type of work so that he would be able to support himself. No one was allowed to be lazy and not work during the time of Christ. As a result, Christ had worked as a carpenter for a number of years before He began His ministry. The people were very surprised when Christ began His teaching ministry because they viewed Him as a carpenter. We also read that Christ had four brothers and also some sisters.

1. Read Mark 6:1-6 and write down the names of His four brothers.
2. Explain why Christ worked as a carpenter for a number of years before He began His public ministry.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for Joseph to teach Christ to be a carpenter even though Christ was the Son of God.

The reason we are given this picture of the family of Christ is due to the fact that the people of Nazareth talked about His family when Christ taught in the synagogue. The people of Nazareth refused to believe Christ because He did not have the best education and because they could not understand where He received His power and wisdom. They said He is a local boy so why should we listen to Him. Today this is one of the real problems when a young man goes back to become a pastor of a church in the area where he grew up. The older people still all think of the young man, as he was when he was a boy. Because the people refused to believe Christ we read that there were things that Christ did not do in Nazareth.

4. Read Mark 6:1-6 and write what Christ did not do.
5. Explain why the people of Nazareth were surprised when they heard the wisdom of Christ and saw the miracles that He did.
6. Explain why you think that the people of Nazareth refused to accept the wisdom of Christ even though they recognized that He had great wisdom.

Many times we limit the work of Christ in our lives and the lives of others by our unbelief. We have doubts and really do not believe the Word of God when it says that we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. When we do this we miss the blessing of seeing Christ work in our lives and through our lives. Christ is able to do far more than we can imagine through our lives as we yield the control of our lives to Him. We can limit the work of Christ in our lives and the lives of others because of our unbelief.

7. Read Mark 6:1-6 and then write what Christ did because of their unbelief.

8. Explain why it is important for Christians both to believe the promises of God and also to yield their lives to Christ so He can work through them.

9. Explain how you have limited the work of God in the past in your life by not believing the promises of God but now are going to start praying that God will help you believe that He will keep His Word.

In Mark 6:7-13 we read about Christ sending the disciples out to preach and heal. In these verses we read that Christ sent them out to share the Gospel in teams of two. There are several reasons why Christ sent them together instead of sending them by themselves. This way they were able to encourage each other when one of them became discouraged. When one of them forgot some of the things that Christ had taught them, the other could teach him again. They were able to enjoy fellowship with at least one other follower of Christ. Today when people from our churches go out to witness, it is wise to encourage two or more to go together for the same reasons. One other advantage of having two go together is the fact that it prevents any gossip.

10. Read Mark 6:7-13 and write what Christ told the disciples to take with them.

11. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to work together as teams as they share the Gospel.

12. Explain in what ways you have found it helpful in your own life to minister to others as a team.

The disciples were facing their first big test. Christ was sending them out with nothing. They were going to find that the Lord could supply their needs. Today those who live in a land of plenty often miss the blessing of seeing the Lord supply their needs. To see the Lord supply our needs whether they are small or great is one of the most exciting adventures in the Christian life. God may supply from many different places that we would never expect. He might supply our needs in other ways. Whatever way God supplies is a real encouragement to our faith.

13. Read Mark 6:7-13 and write three things the disciples did as they went.

14. Explain why it is important for all Christians to learn to depend on the Lord to supply their needs.

15. Explain why you think that many Christians have never learned to trust the Lord to supply their needs.

In Mark 6:14-29 we read about the murder of John the Baptist. In Matthew we read that Herod had put John the Baptist in jail because John had told Herod that it was against the law of God for Herod to live in adultery with the wife of his brother. Now Herod began hearing about the miracles that Christ was doing. Immediately Herod began to think that John the Baptist whom

he had murdered had come back to life again. This shows that God will not allow us to forget our sin when we openly defy Him. Unless we confess our sin, God will keep bringing our sins back to our memory. We see in Luke 16 that the sinner keeps remembering the things that he has done when he goes to hell. Throughout eternity Herod will keep remembering the fact that he murdered an innocent man because he did not want to turn from his sin.

16. Read Mark 6:14-29 and write what Herod promised to give the daughter of Herodias just before she asked for the head of John the Baptist.

17. Explain how this passage shows that people often continue to think about past sins.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to confess your sins immediately.

Here we see the degree to which the lust of man will lead him. Herod invited many important men to his birthday supper. Then he asked the daughter of Herodias to dance before the group. In the immoral dance of the girl, she aroused the lustful desire of Herod. In his drunken condition he offered to give her anything including half of his kingdom. Here we see that Herod would give almost anything for a moment of sinful pleasure to satisfy his lusts. We also see the high cost of a few moments of sinful pleasure. The conscience of Herod bothered him the rest of his life because of the promise that he made to the daughter of Herodias. He will remember for all eternity that he killed an innocent man. One of the worst forms of suffering is a mind and conscience that causes a person to remember his sin.

19. Read Mark 6:14-29 and write what Herod ordered the executioner to do.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the consequences of yielding our lives to sinful lusts.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to yield you life to Christ instead of yielding to sinful desires.

In Mark 6:30-31 we read that the disciples returned from their first trip of telling about Christ. As the disciples returned, they had many things to tell Christ. In these verses we learn several lessons about teaching Christians how to serve Christ. Christ had been teaching the disciples many things. Then He sent them out to tell others the things that they had learned. This is a very important part of teaching. A person must use the things that he has learned before he can learn greater truths. When the disciples came back they knew that the things that they had learned from Christ were true. They had seen results as they preached. They had healed the sick and cast out demons.

22. Read Mark 6:31-32 and write what Christ told His disciples after they gave their report.

23. Explain why it is important to help Christians learn to share with others the things that they have learned.

24. Explain how sharing what you have learned with others has helped your own understanding to increase.

The disciples had given their report. They had told both what they had done and what they had taught. Now Christ wanted to teach them many new lessons. The disciples saw many results as they traveled. They also realized that they had many more things to learn. Now they were anxious to learn many more lessons from Christ. This will always happen when a Christian is given an opportunity to serve the Lord. He will realize that there are many things that he needs to learn and he will have a real desire to study the Word of God.

25. Read Mark 6:30-44 and write how many people followed Christ as He tried to go to a private place with the disciples.

26. Explain why it was important for Christ to give the disciples the opportunity to share both what they had done and what they had taught.
27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to have opportunities to share what happened as you taught others.

Christ wanted to spend the time privately with His disciples. However, He saw the great crowd of people and their need. Christ was always willing to meet the need of the people. Christ realized that the people were like sheep without a shepherd. They were looking for someone to follow but they did not know who to follow. Today people are just the same. People have an emptiness in their lives that they are trying to satisfy. If we do not teach them about Christ and show that He will fill the emptiness, such people will turn to some false religion that does not tell them how to have forgiveness of sins.

28. Read Mark 6:30-44 and write what Christ felt when He saw the multitudes of people.
29. Explain what these verses teach about our responsibility to the people that are like sheep without a shepherd.
30. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to follow the example of Christ and have compassion for those that do not know Christ.

We read that Christ had love for the people and He taught them many things. This is our responsibility also. As people get to know Christ, then they are able to ask Him to become the Savior and Shepherd of their lives. When they have become Christians, then they need to be taught many things so that they will grow and become strong Christians. Just before Christ returned to heaven, He said, "Feed my sheep." It is the responsibility of every pastor and every mature Christian to feed the less mature Christians so that they become strong, mature Christians who can then feed others.

31. Read Mark 6:32-44 and write what Christ did after He taught the people.
32. Explain why Christ realized that it was important to teach the people many things.
33. Explain why you feel that it is important for you to share with others the things that you have learned from the Word of God.

After Christ fed the people, He sent the disciples and the people away. Then He went alone into a mountain to pray. Christ had spent the day teaching the people. Now He knew that He must spend time alone with His Father. If we are going to be effective in teaching the Word of God, we must spend time alone with God in prayer and Bible study. In this way we renew our strength and learn from God the lessons that we need for our lives. Christ spent several hours in prayer. We read that Christ started across the sea about the fourth watch (about 3 in the morning). It usually did not take the disciples very long to cross the sea. However, the water was rough and the wind was blowing the wrong direction. The disciples had spent most of the night trying to get across the sea in the stormy weather. Suddenly they saw something walking across the water. They were filled with fear.

34. Read Mark 6:45-52 and write what Christ said to the disciples.
35. Explain why the disciples were fearful when they saw Christ coming across the water.
36. Explain why it is important to you to spend personal time in prayer and Bible study.

When Christ is with us, we never need to be afraid. We can always have peace and be full of

joy as Christians because we know that Christ is always with us. As soon as Christ got into the boat, the wind stopped. The disciples were amazed. Although the disciples had seen Christ do many miracles, they still had not yet realized that Christ could do everything. Sometimes our faith is like the faith of the disciples. We do not believe that Christ can do everything.

37. Read Mark 6:45-56 and write where the disciples went with the boat.

38. Explain why Christians often have a weak faith like the disciples had.

39. Explain what you should do when your faith is weak and you do not really believe that God can do a certain thing.

When Christ and the disciples arrived on the other side, many people recognized them as they got out of the boat. Those people ran to every part of the surrounding area telling the other people that Christ was there. Soon people began bringing sick people on beds so that Christ could heal them. Other people would just touch the clothes of Christ. Christ visited the villages and cities throughout that region. Everywhere He went the people brought others to be healed.

40. Read Mark 6:53-56 and write what happened to the sick people when they touched Christ.

41. Explain how the people in the area of Gennesaret showed that they had a great concern for relatives and friends.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to have a great concern for the spiritual needs of your relatives and friends.

Now reread Mark 6:1-56 and write down three important lessons that you learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Mark
Lesson #7
Mark 7:1-37

Today we will be studying the difference between the law of God and the ideas and laws of people. We will see that many people want to replace the Word of God with their own traditions. The Pharisees and other religious leaders had many teachings that they followed instead of obeying the Word of God. As we study today we will see how they used these teachings so that they had an excuse to disobey the Bible. We will also study some more miracles that Christ did. These miracles show us His power over disease and demons again.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson you should be able to:
Explain how the teachings of men disobeyed the laws of God.
Tell why the things you say are more important than the things you eat.
Tell why Christ did not heal the daughter of the foreign woman immediately.
Tell what happened when Christ healed the man who could not speak.

The Pharisees had many teachings that they followed. Altogether they had divided the law into a total of 613 rules that they followed. They considered these rules that had been given by their fathers even more important than the commandments in the Old Testament. Today we also have many people that say it is more important to follow their words than to follow the Bible. Some people say that the words of a particular man are more important than the Bible. Others groups teach that the words of a person or books other than the Bible are more important than the Bible. Whatever way people say this, they are actually saying that they reject the Word of God and have chosen to follow the words of people instead.

1. Now read Mark 7:1-13 and write what Christ calls those who follow their own teachings and traditions instead of the Bible.
2. Explain why many people want to follow their own words or the words of some other person instead of obeying the Word of God.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your life to obey the Word of God.

The Pharisees had also developed many traditions and rules. They had rules about the right way to wash their hands. They had other rules about the way to wash their dishes and their pots. Today we have many people like the Pharisees. They attend a church but have not had their lives changed by Christ. Like the Pharisees, these people think that they can work their way to heaven by doing certain things and keeping certain laws. Some people do not eat certain foods. Others feel that working for their church will help them get to heaven. However, these people do not realize that they cannot work their way to heaven.

4. Now read Mark 7:1-13 and write how Isaiah described the Pharisees.
5. Explain why it is common for people to want to substitute their own rules for the Word of God.
6. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to obey the Word of God instead of following human traditions.

In I Samuel 16:7 we read, “Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Christ knew the true attitude of the Pharisees and knew that they did not worship God even though they said that they worshiped God. When a person pretends to be a Christian but is still living in sin, he is like a Pharisee. However, God knows his heart even though that person may fool all of the people around him. God examines the thoughts and intents of the heart. Since the Lord knows that the heart is deceitful, we need to regularly examine our hearts so that we know that we are doing the things that please Christ.

7. Read Mark 7:1-13 and write the commandment that Christ says the Pharisees were disobeying.
8. Explain why many people think that they can sin and that God will not know that they are disobeying Him.
9. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to regularly examine your heart so that you know that you are walking in fellowship with the Lord.

When we look at the book of Matthew, we see that it also mentions in that book that the Pharisees were refusing to honor their parents. When their parents needed help, the Pharisees would say that they were sorry but they could not give them any money. The Pharisees would say Corban when their parents would ask for help. The Pharisees used Corban to mean that they had promised to God the money that would have been used to help their parents so they could not help their parents. By having such traditions and teachings, the Pharisees were completely disobeying the law of God. God tells us that we are to honor and respect our parents.

10. Read Mark 7:1-13 and then write what the Pharisees were doing to the Word of God by these traditions.
11. Explain what it means for us to honor our father and mother.
12. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to honor your parents both by the things that you say and by the things that you do.

After Christ showed the Pharisees that they were breaking the law of God by their traditions, Christ went on to talk about the sinful heart of man. In verses 14 through 23 we see that it is what a man says and not what he eats that will hurt him. The things that we eat may make us sick for a little while. In a few hours we are well again. However, what we say shows what we are thinking and what is in our hearts. Christ explained this to His disciples because He wanted the disciples to put their focus on what they thought, said and did and not on what they ate. It is very easy to emphasize the things that are unimportant and forget about the things that destroy our lives.

13. Read Mark 7:14-23 and write what Christ told the people who heard this parable just before He went into a house.
14. Explain why the heart of a person is much more important to God than the food that the person eats.
15. Explain why it is important to you in your life to study and obey the Word of God so that your thoughts and attitudes are becoming more like the thoughts and attitudes of Christ.

Christ finished many parables by saying, “If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.” In these

words we see a real warning to the crowds who had gathered. Christ here points out that we must both hear and take action. We are not just to hear and then forget. We are to hear and then put what we hear from the Word of God into action. Many times we hear something but we forget what we have heard. It does no good to hear the Word of God if we are not willing to obey what we hear. Instead we need to make it our goal to obey the things that we learn from the Word of God so that our lives are changed.

16. Read Mark 7:14-23 and write what defiles a man (makes a man sinful).

17. Explain why it is important for Christians to really listen to the Word of God and then obey what the Word says.

18. Explain how this helps you to understand that those that really hear the Word of God are actually those who both hear and obey what the Word says.

When the disciples were alone they asked Christ to explain the meaning of the parable. Many times the disciples did not learn the first time that Christ spoke. However, Christ would explain things to the disciples several times until the disciples finally understood. This is an important lesson for us when we teach. We must be willing to explain things several times if necessary so that the things we are teaching are clearly understood. As Christ took the time to explain the meaning of this and other parables, the disciples were growing in their understanding of the way that Christ wanted to work in their lives. The same thing will happen as we take the time to explain the Word of God to others.

19. Read Mark 7:14-23 and write from where the sins of man come.

20. Explain why the disciples showed that it is important to ask questions when we do not understand.

21. Explain why it is important for you to continue to explain the Word of God until those you are teaching understand what the Word is teaching.

As we look at the sins that come from the heart of man, we notice that evil thoughts are mentioned first. This is where all sin begins. First we think evil thoughts. Then our thoughts lead us to commit other sins. This is why it is so important for us to pray and ask God to give us victory over temptation as soon as the devil brings an evil thought into our mind. When we have prayed, then we should immediately begin saying verses that we have memorized and think about the meaning of those verses. In this way we remove the evil thoughts and replace them with God's thoughts. As we spend time thinking the thoughts of God, He is working in our lives to help us grow.

22. Read Mark 7:14-23 and write from where evil comes.

23. Explain what Christians should do when they realize that the devil is tempting them with evil thoughts.

24. Explain why you know that Christ will give you victory over temptation as you yield to Him instead of continuing to think about evil thoughts.

In verses 24 through 30 we read that Christ went to the area of Tyre and Sidon. This was an area where the people that lived there were not Jews. As Christ went to this area, He tried to keep it a secret that He was there. He went into a house where He could spend time with His disciples. Again we see that Christ wanted to be alone with His disciples so that He could teach them. However, word began to spread that Christ had come to that area. As a result, a woman from that area came to Christ with a need even though she was not a Jew.

25. Read Mark 7:24-30 and write what country that woman was in background.
26. Explain why this woman shows us that there were also many Gentiles that were hearing about Christ.
27. Explain why it is important to you that Christ chose to go to an area where the people were Gentiles.

The woman had a daughter that was controlled by a demon. Matthew says that Christ did not answer the woman right away. Christ wanted to teach the disciples through the woman some lessons about faith. Christ told the woman that He came first to the people of Israel. The woman agreed that was true that Christ had come to Israel but then she said that the dogs at least got to eat the crumbs that fell off the table. Here we see the real faith of the woman. Even though she was a foreigner, she realized that Christ could heal her daughter.

28. Read Mark 7:24-30 and write what Christ told the woman when He saw her faith.
29. Explain why Christ wanted the disciples to see and recognize the faith of this Gentile woman.
30. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to have faith that Christ will work in your life as you ask Him.

This is one of the miracles where Christ really showed His great power. He did not even go to the girl who had the demon. He only spoke the word and the demon came out of the girl. This is another example of the fact that Christ has all power and is able to answer every one of our prayers. At the same time this also demonstrates the great faith of the woman. She believed what Christ had told her. As she left Christ to return to her home, she was trusting that Christ was working in answer to her request. This gives us an example for ourselves that true faith will also cause us to believe the promises that Christ gives to us.

31. Read Mark 7:24-30 and write what the woman saw had happened to her daughter when she arrived home.
32. Explain why Christ chose to perform this miracle without even going to the home of the woman.
33. Explain why you also know that God answers yours prayers.

After casting the demon out of the girl, Christ and the disciples returned to the area around the Sea of Galilee. There they met another man with a need. This man was deaf and could not hear. He also could not speak plainly. These two problems together would make it very hard for the man to communicate with others. He could not hear what others said and he could not speak clearly to others. Christ was always ready to help a person with a need. Christ touched the ears and the tongue of the man. Then Christ looked toward heaven and spoke.

34. Read Mark 7:31-37 and write what Christ said.
35. Explain why these two problems together must have made it very difficult for this man to live his life.
36. Explain why you think that Christ took the man aside from the multitude and healed him in private.

As soon as Christ prayed, the man was able to hear and speak plainly. Hearing is one of the wonderful senses that the Lord has given to us. With it we are able to hear others and enjoy

fellowship with them. This man was changed in many ways because he met Christ. Now he was able to hear what Christ said. He was able to speak to Christ. This meant that the man could hear Christ explain to him how he could have his sins forgiven by Christ. That gave him the opportunity to have both his physical need and his spiritual need met by Christ.

37. Read Mark 7:31-37 and write what Christ told the people after He healed the man.

38. Explain why Christ was concerned to meet both physical and also spiritual needs.

39. Explain some of the ways that Christ changed your life when you placed your faith in Him.

Christ told the people not to tell anyone that He had healed the deaf man. However, that was a message of good news and they could not keep quiet. That had good news and they wanted to share that good news with others. This is the way that it should be for us as Christians. We have the good news that Christ died for sin to give men eternal life. This is such good news that we should not want to keep quiet. We should be anxious to tell others how Christ died to save people from sin.

40. Read Mark 7:31-37 and write what the people said when they saw that Christ had healed the man.

41. Explain why Christians should be anxious to tell others of the good news that Christ died to give them eternal life.

42. Explain why you want others to know about the power of Christ to forgive their sin and change their lives.

Now reread Mark 7:1-37 and then write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 8
Mark 8:1-38

Today in our study we will see that Christ warns His disciples again about the false teachings of the Pharisees. Christ emphasizes this many times in the New Testament because it is so important to watch out for false teachers. Today we live in a day when we have more false teachers than there ever were before. Unless we realize that they are false teachers, such men can quickly lead new Christians or weak Christians astray. In this chapter we will also learn about the day Christ fed four thousand people. Then we will study what Peter said about Christ and what Christ said about the man who tries to get riches instead of following Him.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why Christ fed the four thousand.

Tell what Christ says about false teachings.

Tell why the blind man did not see clearly the first time Christ touched him.

Explain what Peter said about Christ.

Explain what Christ said about the person that follows riches.

Mark 8:1-9 tells us about Christ feeding a crowd of 4000 people. The people had come to Christ to hear Him teach. They became so interested in His teaching that they forgot all about time. This helps us to realize that Christ taught in a way that no other teacher had taught. For three days the people listened to Him teach. They did not even eat during that time. Here we see the power with which Christ taught. People even forgot their hunger. Finally Christ turned to the disciples and told them that He was concerned because the people had not eaten for three days. Some of the people had come many miles so Christ knew they would faint on the way home.

1. Read Mark 8:1-9 and write what the disciples answered.
2. Explain why Christ had compassion on this particular group of people.
3. Explain why you think that people could get so interested in the teaching of Christ that they would go without eating for three days.

The disciples told Christ that there was no place to buy food in the wilderness. From the answer of the disciples, we learn more about the need of the people. The disciples were worried because they could not think of a place to buy food for the people. However, if Christ would have sent the people away without eating, there would have been no place for them to buy food either because they were out in the middle of the desert. The people were many miles away from any place to buy food. Christ knew that some would not be able to get to a place where they could buy food.

4. Read Mark 8:1-9 and write how much food the disciples had.
5. Explain how Christ was teaching the disciples that He would supply when He asked them how much bread they had.
6. Explain why you think that Christ used every opportunity like this to teach the disciples that He could supply the needs.

Little is much when it is given to Christ. Christ took the seven loaves and the small fish and thanked God for them. He broke them and gave them to the disciples to give to the people. We read that the people ate, were filled and that there were seven baskets of food left. These baskets were not regular baskets like those Christ used when the 5000 were fed. Instead these were very large baskets. These were the same kind of baskets that were used to let Paul down over the wall of Damascus in Acts 9. You can imagine how large these baskets were if they were large enough to hold a man. This shows us again how wonderful a Lord we serve. He multiplied that small amount of food so that it fed 4000 people and there was enough food left to fill seven very large baskets.

7. Read Mark 8:1-9 and write what Christ did after the people had eaten.
8. Explain what Christ was trying to teach the disciples by this miracle.
9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses about the Lord meeting your needs.

The Pharisees tried again to get an excuse to condemn Christ. This time they came and asked Him to give them a sign to prove that He was God. Here we see a good example of what happens when people have not learned to depend on Christ moment by moment. People look for things they can see or feel instead of accepting the promises of God. Today there are also Christians that are depending on things they can see or feel instead of studying the Word of God. A Christian who is depending on things he can feel or see will not know the Word of God and will not become a strong, mature Christian who can teach the Word of God to others.

10. Read Mark 8:10-21 and write what Christ told the Pharisees about a sign.
11. Explain why the Pharisees asked Christ to prove that He was God by giving them a sign.
12. Explain why you think that many people today want signs or miracles or some other thing instead of accepting the promises of God.

Just as the Pharisees did not need a sign to prove that Christ was God, Christians today do not need signs to prove that they are Christians. God promises many places in His Word that we are Christians when we have repented of our sin and placed our trust in Him. As Christians, we can claim the promises of God. We do not need to seek signs or trust in feelings. If we are depending on our feelings to know that we are Christians, we may wonder whether we are Christians when things go wrong or we get sick. That allows the devil to have the opportunity to deceive us with doubts. God has promised in His Word that He will save and keep us when we trust in Him.

13. Read Mark 8:10-21 and then write of what Christ warned the disciples to beware.
14. Explain why people today should depend on the promises in the Word of God instead of our feelings or something we feel is a sign.
15. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to know that you can base your salvation on the promises of God and not your feelings of the moment.

After Christ told the Pharisees that He would not give them a sign, He and the disciples got into a boat and left. In the book of Matthew, Christ warned about the false teachings of the Pharisees. Christ says that false teachings are like a little piece of yeast in some bread dough. Soon the yeast will spread through all of the dough. A little false teaching in a church will soon

hurt the entire church. People can be deceived easily by false teachings if they have not studied and learned the Word of God. That is why it is so important to help every Christian become familiar with the Word.

16. Read Mark 8:10-26 and write what kind of a man the people brought to Christ when He arrived in Bethsaida.

17. Explain why Christ said that the teachings of the Pharisees were like a piece of yeast in some bread dough.

18. Explain why the danger of being deceived by false teachers gives you a great desire to become more familiar with the entire Bible.

This is one of the four times that we read about Christ healing a blind person. Each time Christ healed a blind man, Christ did it a different way. Here we see that Christ is not limited to doing things one way. He can answer our prayers in many different ways. We limit God when we say that He can only answer our prayers one way. We also limit the power of God to work through our lives when we try to limit God to working in a particular way in our lives. Instead we need to realize that Christ can work in our lives and through our lives in many different ways as we yield the control of our lives to Him. We will see that Christ works in ways far beyond what we can even imagine as we allow Him to work through our lives.

19. Read Mark 8:22-26 and write what Christ did before He healed the man.

20. Explain why Christ chose to heal each blind person that He healed in a different way than He healed the other people that were healed of blindness.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ can work in many different ways through your life as you yield to Him.

Christ wanted to spend the time teaching the disciples instead of answering the Pharisees. In order to keep a crowd from gathering around Him, Christ led the man out of town before He healed the man. Here we see a beautiful picture of the way that Christ worked. He was not too busy to spend time with one person with a need. At the same time He realized that the work that He was called by the Father to finish before His crucifixion was to train the disciples so that they would carry on His work when He returned to heaven. As a result, Christ met the need of the man but did not spend a lot of time in useless debate with the Pharisees.

22. Read Mark 8:22-26 and write how many times Christ put His hands on the man before the man was healed.

23. Explain why it was important for Christ to continue to train the disciples while He was meeting the needs of the blind man.

24. Explain why it is important for you to train others by showing them how to serve the Lord by your example.

Christ also wanted to teach the blind man some lessons about faith. The blind man had to be led to Christ by his friends. Some of the blind men that Christ healed called for Christ to heal them. Perhaps this man did not really believe that Christ could heal him. We read that Christ touched the eyes of the man and he could see a little. He began to realize that Christ could perform a miracle. Then Christ touched him again and he saw clearly. Suddenly he realized that Christ could do all things. Here we see that Christ always finishes what He starts. Christ never leaves a job half done. Just as the blind man may have had doubts that Christ could heal him, we sometimes have doubts and fail to trust the Lord completely.

25. Read Mark 8:22-26 and write what Christ told the blind man to do after Christ healed him.
26. Explain why we are sinning when we doubt the Word of the Lord by failing to believe that Christ can work in our lives.
27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ will complete what He has started in your life.

In Mark 8:27-33 we read about the various ideas that the people had about Christ. Although people had many different ideas about Christ, very few recognized that He was the Son of God. They recognized Christ as a great leader or a great prophet but they did not recognize Him as the Son of God. This is true today just as it was in the days of Christ. Many people say good things about Christ but they refuse to recognize Him as the Son of God that can take away their sin. By doing this they limit the work of Christ in their lives and they do not receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

28. Read Mark 8:27-33 and write the three people that men thought Christ might be.
29. Explain why the people thought of Christ as a great man or a great teacher instead of recognizing Him as the Son of God.
30. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ is the true Son of God.

When Christ had finished asking the disciples what other men thought about Him, then Christ made the question personal and asked the disciples who they thought He was. Christ did something that is very important for us to do when we teach or preach. As we teach the Bible, we need to help each person realize how the Bible applies to him in his life today. It is important for people to realize how the Word of God changed others. However, it is even more important for people to realize that obeying the Word of God can change their lives today. We must realize the importance of making the Bible personal to the individuals with whom we talk.

31. Read Mark 8:27-33 and write what Peter said about who Christ was.
32. Explain how we can help people to realize that the Bible applies to them today as we preach or teach.
33. Explain why it is important for you to ask Christ for wisdom to make the Word of God clear so that people can understand that Christ still speaks to them through the Bible.

When Christ asked the disciples who they thought He was, Peter spoke for the disciples and said, "You are the Christ." As soon as the disciples showed that they knew He was Christ, Christ began to teach them things that He could not teach them before. Now they understood that He was Christ. As a result, He could begin to teach them why He came. They had been able to understand the easier things. Now Christ began to give them teachings that were more difficult to understand. We are also told to go from the simpler things to the more difficult. By doing this individuals will grow both in knowledge and understanding in their Christian lives.

34. Read Mark 8:27-33 and write what Christ began to teach His disciples.
35. Explain why it was important for the disciples to understand that Christ is God before Christ could begin to explain the purpose of His death.
36. Explain why it is important as you teach others to know what they already understand and what they need to learn.

In Mark 8:34-38 Christ warned of the danger of following riches. A man may gain all the money in the world but that money will do him no good if he does not trust Christ as Savior and Lord. Christ said that we must choose to deny ourselves and take up His cross and follow Him. Christ wants people to realize that it is easy for them to make money or possessions their god. That means people face a choice. Will they follow their god of money or will they follow Christ. We also read that the value of one person is worth much more than all of the money of the world.

37. Read Mark 8:34-38 and write what will happen to the man who tries to save his own life.

38. Explain why it is important for every person to realize that he or she must choose to follow Christ or choose to follow some other god.

39. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ considers the value of one person worth more than all of the money and other things of this world.

Christ also gives some instructions to those who want to follow Him. He says we are to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. Christ gave us a real example of what it means to deny ourselves. He gave Himself to save others. He was willing to help a needy person any time of the day or night. He was willing to spend long hours teaching the people when He wanted to spend the time teaching His disciples. Denying self is forgetting your personal desires so that others will be reached for Christ.

40. Read Mark 8:34-38 and write what will happen to the one who is willing to lose his life for Christ's sake.

41. Explain why Christ calls for all Christians to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him.

42. Explain what the example of Christ teaches you for your own life about the importance of giving each person you know the opportunity to hear how to have their sins forgiven.

Now reread Mark 8:1-38 and write down the three most important lessons that that you learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 9
Mark 9:1-50

Christ begins this chapter by telling His disciples that some would not die until they had seen the kingdom of God in its glory and power. We will see what Christ meant as we study this chapter. Three of the disciples saw the glory of Christ as that glory will be when Christ rules all things. We will also learn why the disciples could not cast out certain demons. People without Christ determine what is important by worldly values. Christ shows that God has a very different way of determining what is important. We see that Christ helped the disciples to focus on the importance of godly inner attitudes. Finally, we will study again what Christ says about hell.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell what the disciples learned about the glory of Christ.
- Explain why the disciples could not cast certain demons out.
- Explain what Christ said about how to be important.
- Explain what Christ warned about hell.

In Mark 9:1-13 Christ teaches us some things about the glory He will have in heaven.. Christ told the disciples that some of them would see Him in all of His glory. Six days later Christ took Peter, James and John with Him up into a mountain. There we read that the Father revealed a little of the glory of Christ to the three disciples. We read that the clothing of Christ began to shine. It became very, very white. It was even whiter than a man who works with new cloth could make the new cloth. This is just a little picture of what Christ will be like in heaven. We read that there will be no need for light in heaven because Christ will be the light of heaven.

1. Read Mark 9:1-13 and write how the disciples felt when they saw the glory of Christ.
2. Explain why Christ allowed three of the disciples to see the glory of Christ and what it would be like in heaven.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for the three disciples to have the opportunity to have a short view of the glory of Christ.

While Christ was shining in all of His glory, God spoke from heaven and said, “This is my beloved Son; hear him.” As Christ came down from the mountain, He told the three disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen until He rose from the dead. Until a person has understood the meaning of the death and resurrection of Christ, that person will never be able to understand the glory of heaven. The disciples themselves did not fully understand Christ yet. Christ had just told them a few days earlier that He was going to die. Now they had the opportunity to see the glory that He would have in heaven. As a result, they were probably having a difficult time trying to see how these things were all related. Today many people also have a difficult time understanding. That is why Christ promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to help Christians to know and understand these things.

4. Read Mark 9:1-13 and write the question that they were asking each other.
5. Explain why it is necessary for people to understand and accept the death and resurrection of Christ before they will be able to understand very much about eternal life.
6. Explain why you think that the disciples were questioning each other rather than asking Christ to explain His death and resurrection more fully.

When Christ and the three disciples returned to the other disciples, they found a large crowd gathered around the other disciples. A man had a son with a demon. He had brought the boy to the disciples but they could not cast the demon out. Here again we see the power of demons. The demon in the boy would cause the boy to fall into the water and the fire. It would throw him to the ground. It would cause him to foam at the mouth and grind his teeth together. It would even look like the demon was going to tear the boy apart. The other disciples saw the boy that was possessed with the demons. However, they did not know how to deal with the demons. As a result, when the people saw Christ coming, the crowd turned from the disciples and went running toward Christ.

7. Read Mark 9:14-29 and write how Christ described the people after the man said the disciples could not cast the demon out.
8. Explain why Christ used this opportunity to teach both the disciples and also the crowd the importance of faith.
9. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to have faith in the power of Christ to transform your life.

The people refused to believe in Christ and did not have any faith in Christ. The faith of the disciples was weak and they were not able to cast the demon out. Today the reasons that Christ does not answer prayer are the same two reasons we see here. The only prayer Christ always answers of the person who is not a Christian is the prayer to become a Christian. The reason Christ does not answer the prayers of Christians is due to a lack of faith in those Christians. Christ promises us in Matthew 21:22, "Whatsoever you shall ask in prayers, believing, you shall receive." However He may answer our prayers in ways that we do not expect. That is why it is important to pray and ask Him to work instead of trying to do things in our own strength. If God is not answering our prayers, then it is time to examine our own lives and see if we are asking Him to work in the way He chooses rather than just asking Him to satisfy our desires.

10. Read Mark 9:14-29 and write what Christ asked the scribes that were questioning the disciples of Christ.
11. Explain why the one prayer that Christ will answer of those that are not Christians is their prayer for salvation.
12. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ will always answer your prayers even though He may sometimes answer them in ways that you do not expect.

When the demon went out of the boy, it threw him to the ground in one last effort to kill the boy. Many of the people even thought the boy was dead. However, Christ took him by the hand and raised him up. Later the disciples came to Christ and asked Him why they could not cast the demon out of the boy. Christ told them that it took much prayer and fasting to cast out that particular kind of demon. That is why as we pray that we ask Christ to cast out the demon and do not try to command the demon ourselves. We are to spend much time in prayer praying that Christ will defeat the power of Satan that is working in the life of that person.

13. Read Mark 9:14-29 and write what Christ tells us to do if we want to see Christ defeat the power of Satan in the life of another person.
14. Explain why Christians are to pray and ask Christ to defeat the power of Satan if they are in a situation where a person is demon possessed.
15. Explain why you are thankful that even though Satan is powerful that you know that Christ has all power over Satan.

Christ again told His disciples about His coming death and resurrection. We see in the various Gospels that Christ told His disciples many times that He was going to die. However, they never understood what He meant. One of the reasons why people find some things hard to understand is due to the fact that they expect certain things to happen and they are hearing that Christ chooses to do things differently. The disciples were expecting Christ to become their new king. Instead Christ was telling them that He was going to die. The disciples did not understand at this point that Christ had come to pay the penalty for sin so that He could offer forgiveness of sins to all that came to Him.

16. Read Mark 9:30-32 and write what the disciples were afraid to ask Christ.
17. Explain why many people expect Christ to do things their way instead of letting Christ show them His way of doing those things.
18. Explain why you think that many people have failed to understand the purpose of why Christ came to this earth.

James 1:5 tells us that if we lack wisdom or understanding, we are to ask God to give us wisdom. He will gladly give us wisdom and never say that we are wrong for asking. Here we see an important lesson. The disciples did not understand because they did not ask. Today we sometimes do not understand the Word of God as we study it. Here we see that it is important to ask God to help us when we lack wisdom and understanding. The disciples did not understand but were afraid to ask. There are many reasons why people are afraid to ask their questions when they do not understand. A key lesson to learn from this fact is that people are often driven by their own fears instead of being led by the love of Christ. Christ makes it clear that we can come to Him boldly with our questions.

19. Read Mark 9:30-32 and write where Christ was this particular time that He told the disciples about His coming death and resurrection.
20. Explain what these verses and James 1:5 mean for us today when we do not understand the Word of God.
21. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to ask God for wisdom to help you in your understanding as you study the Word of God.

When Christ and the disciples came to Capernaum, He asked the disciples what they had been talking about as they walked along the road. The disciples were ashamed to answer because they had been talking about who would be the greatest and the most important. All people without Christ want to be important so that other people will look up to them. That does not automatically change when a person becomes a Christian. It is only as we grow in Christ and learn to develop the attitudes that Christ demonstrated to us by His life. As we grow in Christ, we learn to lead others by love and example. We learn to humble ourselves as we follow the example of the way that Christ humbled Himself and became flesh and lived among us. We see

how He continued to humble Himself and become obedient unto death even to the point where He willingly died on the cross.

22. Read Mark 9:33-41 and write what will happen to a man who wants to be first.

23. Explain how the fact that the disciples were discussing who would be greatest and most important shows that they still had to grow in their spiritual lives.

24. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to learn to follow the example of Christ by leading others by example with love and with a humble spirit.

Christ shows us here that the person that wants to be important will not be important. Instead Christ said that those that want to be first will be the last. Christ makes it clear that Christians are to learn to serve others. In fact in the next chapter Christ will tell the disciples again that if they want to become great that they must learn to become the servant of all. In the same way we are to learn to serve others and help others grow in their relationship with Christ. Christ is the one that is important and we should point people to Him instead of ourselves.

25. Read Mark 9:33-41 and write what Christ picked up to show the disciples what they should be like instead of trying to make themselves important.

26. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to serve others instead of trying to make themselves important.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life for you to continue to grow and continue to allow Christ to change any wrong attitudes in your own life.

Christ took a child and picked up the child and held it. Then Christ invited the disciples to follow His example and accept the children just as He accepted them. Christ used this example to show the disciples the importance of humility even in their relationship with young children. We go on to read about a man casting out demons in the name of Christ even though he was not one of the disciples. John told the man to stop because he was not one of the disciples traveling with Christ. However, Christ told John to let the man perform miracles in the name of Christ.

28. Read Mark 9:33-41 and write what Christ said a man could not do if he was doing miracles in the name of Christ.

29. Explain why Christ wants all Christians to have a concern to show the love of Christ to young children.

30. Explain why you think that Christ told John not to stop the man that was doing miracles in the name of Christ.

Today we have churches that preach about Christ and do miracles in the name of Christ. However, they are not teaching much of the Word of God to the Christians so that the Christians will grow and become strong, mature Christians. These churches preach salvation and a few other things but they do not emphasize the importance of learning the entire Word of God and applying it to daily living. As a result, the Christians in these churches are often weak and depend on feelings rather than the Word of God. Rather than condemning these pastors and the people in their churches, we need to encourage them to really study the Word of God. These people are preaching about salvation through Christ and the thing that they need is encouragement to study the entire Word of God so that they will grow to maturity.

31. Read Mark 9:33-41 and write what Christ says about those who are not against us.

32. Explain why we need to encourage other Christians rather than criticize them.

33. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to share the Word of God with others to help them grow to spiritual maturity.

Christ wanted the disciples to realize that there are many others that also follow Christ. Instead of condemning them, we are to encourage them. Christ finished the verses about not condemning others by stating that whoever gives a cup of water in the name of Christ will receive a reward. As we teach the Word of God and encourage those that do not know the Word of God, we will receive a reward. This is why it is important to teach and encourage weak Christians rather than condemn them.

34. Read Mark 9:33-41 and write what Christ says will happen to those who give us a cup of water in the name of Christ.

35. Explain what these verses teach about the eagerness of Christ to give rewards.

36. Explain why it is important for you to reach out and help others by the things that you say and do.

The final section of this chapter gives us a warning about hell. In these verses we are warned of the danger of causing others to be offended so that they do not believe in Christ or ask Him to forgive their sins. Christ says it would be better for a person to die if that person is keeping someone else from trusting in Christ. Christ says it would be better for us to go through life missing a part of our body than to go to hell. Although it is difficult to go through life missing a part of the body, that is much better than it will be to experience eternal judgment.

37. Read Mark 2:42-50 and write two things these verses tell us about hell.

38. Explain why it would be better to have a part of the body missing in this life than it would be to experience eternal judgment.

39. Explain why it is important for you to be able to understand and to be able to explain clearly to others what these verses teach about eternal judgment.

These verses teach us two very important things about hell. First, we see that it is a fire that will not be put out. Second, we see that this judgment has not end but will last forever and ever. Today you probably have some relatives and friends that are not Christians. One day they will die and go to hell if no one warns them of this coming judgment. There they will suffer in the fire of hell eternally if they have not become Christians. This is why it is so important for us to help them realize the choice that they face. They must choose to repent and place their faith in Christ while they are here on this earth or they will experience eternal judgment.

40. Read Mark 9:42-50 and write the number of times that these verses say that the fire in hell will not be quenched.

41. Explain why it is important to help every person to realize that they will make a choice in this life that will determine where they spend eternity.

42. Explain why it is important to you to warn all of your relatives and friends about the judgment that they face if they reject Christ until they die.

Now reread Mark 9:1-50 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these verses today.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 10
Mark 10:1-52

Today in our study of Mark we will learn what Christ teaches about divorce. Divorce is a great problem in many countries of the world and we need to know what Christ taught about the subject of divorce. We will also learn what happened when some parents brought their children to meet Christ. In this chapter we will also see that Christ promises a reward to those that follow Him. One day James and John came to Christ and asked for an important place in the kingdom of Christ. This shows that they did not really understand the kind of kingdom that Christ would have. Finally, we read about a blind man receiving his sight.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Christ teaches about divorce.
- Explain what Christ says about the dangers of riches.
- Explain what Christ said about serving others.
- Tell what happened when Bartimaeus met Christ.

The Pharisees came to Christ to ask Him whether divorce was right or not. We read that the real reason why they asked this question was to try and test or trap Christ. Divorce had become very common during the time of Christ. One group taught that a man could divorce his wife for almost any reason. Another group taught that adultery was the only reason for divorce. As a result, the Pharisees decided to test Christ by asking which group was right. Christ told them that Moses had only allowed divorce because of their hardhearted, sinful hearts.

1. Read Mark 10:1-12 and write what Christ says happens when two people are married.
2. Explain why Christ said that divorce is really caused by hardhearted, sinful hearts.
3. Explain why you think that the Pharisees tried to use this particular question to try and trap Christ.

According to these verses marriage unites two people so that they become one. This unity is not to be broken except by death. In the Old Testament when either a husband or a wife committed adultery with someone else, the Old Testament commanded that the ones that had committed adultery were to be taken out of the town where the people lived. Then the people were to throw stones at them until those guilty of adultery had died. Under the law, God made it clear that those that break their marriage by adultery should be put to death. When a couple is married, they are joined together by God and they are to be faithful to one another.

4. Since God unites a couple, read Mark 10:1-12 and write what God says people are not to do.
5. Explain why the penalty for adultery was so serious in the Old Testament.
6. Explain why you think that Christians should provide an example by developing healthy marriages that do not lead to divorce.

The book of Matthew points out that the only reason for divorce was the adultery of one partner. In these verses we see that anyone that divorces his or her partner and marries someone else for

any other reason is guilty of committing adultery. The purpose of God in marriage is that a couple becomes joined together for life. Because most people are in rebellion against God, divorce is very common in the world. However, that is not the plan or desire of God. In fact God uses marriage to describe the relationship of Christ to the church because a godly marriage is so important to Him.

7. Read Mark 10:1-12 and write what people do when they put away and divorce their partner.
8. Explain what Christ teaches about marriage in these verses.
9. Explain what lessons you learn from the fact that these verses state that God is the One that joins a couple together.

In Mark 10:13-22 we read about some children and a young man coming to visit Christ. The children came first. In these verses we see that the parents brought the children to Christ. These were concerned parents. They wanted their children to know Christ while the children were young. The disciples told the parents not to bother Christ with their children because Christ was busy. However, this made Christ very unhappy. Christ always has time to help every person whether that person is an adult or a child. Christ wanted to help His disciples realize the importance of children and so He took them up in His arms.

10. Read Mark 10:13-22 and write what Christ did with the little children that He was holding.
11. Explain why Christ wanted to make certain that the disciples understood the importance of ministering to children.
12. Explain why you think that it is important to include children as a part of your ministry as you minister.

Soon after Christ blessed the children, a young man came to talk to Christ. We see several good things about this young man. He came running to Christ. He knelt in front of Christ. He called Christ, Good Master. This young man wanted to know how to inherit eternal life. He had done his best to keep the commandments. However, all of these things were not good enough to get him into heaven. The problem with this young man was that he was depending on his own efforts to get himself to heaven. He did not understand that his sin was what separated him from God and that his sin must be forgiven in order to receive eternal life as a free gift.

13. Read Mark 10:13-22 and write the very first question that Christ asked this young man.
14. Explain why all of these things that the young man had done were not enough to get him to heaven.
15. Explain why you think that Christ began by telling the young man that the only one that is good is God.

The young man had been very good by the world's standards but he had not lived a perfect life. There was also one thing that he was not willing to do. He was not willing to follow Christ. Christ helped him to realize that he must make the choice to follow Christ in order to have eternal life. When it came to a choice, he chose his possessions instead of Christ. Today many people are making the same choice. This is why Christ immediately warned about the danger of riches, money and possessions after the young man left. Christ said that it is very hard for a rich man to become a Christian because he trusts his money to take care of him. The disciples then asked the question, "Who, then, can be saved?"

16. Read Mark 10:17-27 and write the answer of Christ.

17. Explain why Christ did not go after the young man and try to make the choice less difficult for the young man.
18. Explain why it is important for you to help each person realize that they must make a choice when you share the Gospel with them.

It is completely and totally impossible for a man to save himself. However, there is nothing impossible for God. Since we are the children of God, it is also true that there is nothing that is impossible for the Christian that is depending on God for his wisdom and strength. We may think a person is so hard that the person will never become a Christian. However, our responsibility is to share the Gospel with that person and not judge that person. Remember that Paul was doing everything he could to stop the Christians before the Lord changed his life. Yet Christ changed his life. Our responsibility is to share the Gospel and allow God to change the person.

19. Read Mark 10:23-31 and write what Peter said after Christ told the disciples that all things are possible with God.
20. Explain why it is important for Christians to share the Gospel and allow the Father to draw people to Christ.
21. Explain why you realize that Christ can change even the most difficult and rebellious person.

Peter wanted to know more about the rewards that there would be in the future for those that choose to follow Christ. He and the other disciples had left their families, their houses, and their way of earning a living to follow Christ. Now they were living by faith. They never knew how Christ was going to provide the food for the next meal. Many times they did not know where they would sleep that night. They were learning that the Lord would provide. The disciples give us a good example of the importance of being willing to leave behind those things that will hinder us from doing what Christ has called us to do. However, they also wanted to know if they could look forward to rewards for serving Christ.

22. Read Mark 10:23-31 and write how many times as much Christ promised the disciples that they would receive.
23. Explain why Christians can rejoice in the fact that we are promised rewards for faithful service to Christ.
24. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be willing to leave all and follow Christ.

As we see that the disciples were learning to live by faith and depend on Christ to supply their needs, we learn some important lessons for our own lives. Many times Christians have never learned to walk by faith. They have never learned to trust the Lord to supply their needs. As we learn to follow Christ and walk by faith, we learn that the Lord will supply our needs in various ways as we follow Him. The life of faith and dependence on Christ is an exciting life. It is an exciting experience to watch God supply our needs in ways that we would never expect. We learn to trust the Lord and watch Him work instead of depending on our own plans.

25. Read Mark 10:23-31 and write what kind of rewards Christ promises for both this life and also in the future.
26. Explain what it means to trust in the Lord and live by faith as the disciples did.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to learn to walk by faith.

In Mark 10:32-45 we realize again that the disciples did not understand that Christ was going to die. Christ began to tell the disciples again about His coming death and resurrection. However, the disciples were thinking about other things. They were not even thinking about the things that Christ was saying. This happens many times in Bible studies where the teacher does all of the talking. The teacher does not know what those in the Bible study are thinking unless the teacher asks questions and gives those in the Bible study the opportunity to ask questions. Here we see that Christ gives us a real lesson about the way to be effective as we teach others. He encouraged the disciples to ask their questions.

28. Read Mark 10:32-45 and write the thing that James and John asked.

29. Explain why the request of James and John shows about their lack of understanding of the plan of Christ.

30. Explain why you think that James and John made such a request of Christ.

James and John thought that it would be a wonderful thing to have an important position when Christ set up His kingdom. They were thinking about the position so much that they did not even listen as Christ talked about His coming death and resurrection. Here we see another important lesson about teaching. Christ took the question or request of the disciples and used it to teach some additional truths to His disciples. We should be prepared to use the questions of our students to guide them to realize what the Word of God teaches about the questions that they are asking.

31. Read Mark 10:32-45 and write how the other disciples felt about the request of James and John.

32. Explain what the request of James and John showed about their desire to have a position of importance when Christ set up His kingdom.

33. Explain why it is important to you as you teach others to encourage those you are teaching to ask their questions.

Christ used the request of James and John to teach the disciples about the importance of serving one another. In Ephesians 4:12 Christ emphasized the fact that every Christian should serve and minister to other Christians. As we serve other Christians, we are fulfilling the command of Christ. Here we see that spiritual leadership is based on serving others rather than trying to have a position of power over others. As Christians our desire should be to serve others and help them develop their full potential for Christ. If we drive others, we will drive them until they get out of the way. If we lead others we can lead them as far as we have gone. If we serve others we can help them develop their full potential for Christ.

34. Read Mark 10:32-45 and write what Christ says we are to become if we want to be the most effective leader.

35. Explain why many Christians want to follow the pattern of leadership of the world and exercise authority over others.

36. Explain why you realize that true spiritual leadership in your own life will be most effective if you make it your goal to serve others and help them develop their full potential.

In Mark 10:46-52 we read about the healing of a blind man by the name of Bartimaeus. When

we first read about Bartimaeus, he was sitting by the side of the road begging. The government did not have any welfare program in the time of Christ and so the only way that a blind person could get any money was to beg. A sinful person is like Bartimaeus in many ways. That person is spiritually blind. That person cannot help himself. That person has no hope. However, Bartimaeus heard that Christ was going by on the road and so he began to call for help in a loud voice. For the first time in his life he had some hope. The people around him told him to be quiet but that only made him call louder for Christ.

37. Read Mark 10:46-52 and write what the people told Bartimaeus.

38. Explain why spiritual blindness keeps many people from following Christ.

39. Explain why it is important to you to help those that are presently spiritually blind learn how to follow Christ.

Today Christ is calling those that are lost in their sins to salvation. He is inviting them to follow Him. Although people are spiritually blind, unable to help themselves and without hope, Christ is waiting to help them. In fact, we read that Christ is looking for them just like a shepherd looks for a sheep that is lost. When Bartimaeus came to Christ, Christ asked him what he wanted. He said that he wanted to see. Christ told Bartimaeus that his faith had made him well and two things happened to Bartimaeus that day.

40. Read Mark 10:46-52 and write the two things that happened to Bartimaeus that day.

41. Explain what Christ teaches is the cure for spiritual blindness.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your contacts with others to know how to explain to them clearly how to receive spiritual sight.

Now reread Mark 10:1-52 and write down the three most important lessons that you have learned from this chapter today.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 11
Mark 11:1-33

Today we will begin studying about the final week before the death of Christ. As we study this final week of the public ministry of Christ, we will see that the religious leaders were filled with hate toward Christ. They did not like to hear Christ talk about their sins. They were especially angry when Christ chased them out of the temple as they were selling animals for sacrifices. This was one of the ways that the religious leaders were cheating the people and making extra money. Christ also used this final week of ministry before His crucifixion to teach the disciples many important lessons. Two of those lessons mentioned in this chapter are faith and the importance of having a forgiving spirit.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- Explain why Christ chased a group of people out of the temple.
- Explain what Christ teaches about prayer.
- Explain how Christ stopped the questions of the religious leaders.

In Mark 11:1-11 we read about Christ riding into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. Most leaders when they rode into a city would ride on a beautiful horse. However, Christ was a different kind of leader. He came with a humble attitude. The donkey is the animal of the poor people. However, Christ did not even own a donkey. Instead He walked wherever He went. Here we read that Christ had to borrow a donkey to ride into Jerusalem. Christ also used every opportunity to teach the disciples lessons about faith. He told two of the disciples to go to a certain street where they would find a colt that had never been ridden. Christ told them to bring the colt to Him.

1. Read Mark 11:1-11 and write the questions some men asked the two disciples as they were untying the colt.
2. Explain what this particular event in the life of Christ teaches us about His humility.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to follow the example of Christ and have a humble attitude.

Christ had even told the disciples what to say to the men that asked the disciples why they were taking the colt. Again the disciples were forced to realize that Christ knew all things. As soon as the disciples gave the answer Christ had told them to give, the men immediately let the disciples take the colt. Here we learn a real lesson for our own lives. Christ never tells us to do something that is impossible. If we will obey Him, He will work out everything so that we can do what He has commanded us to do even when it looks impossible.

4. Read Mark 11:1-11 and write what the people shouted as Christ rode into Jerusalem on the colt.
5. Explain what the two disciples learned about Christ as they went and got the colt that Christ sent them to get.

6. Explain some ways that you have learned for your own life that Christ will give you His strength to do the things that look impossible to you.

As the people shouted, some of them were showing their thanks to God for the coming of Christ to save them from sin. Others were looking for Christ to reestablish the kingdom that David had ruled. Most of the people did not understand that Christ was going to die for their sins. Instead they were expecting Christ to become a king and chase out the Romans that had conquered their country. These people did not realize why Christ rode into Jerusalem on a colt. They did not know that Christ was coming to the city of Jerusalem to die for their sins.

7. Read Mark 11:1-11 and write where Jesus went when He came into the city of Jerusalem.

8. Explain why most of the people did not understand that Christ came to die.

9. Explain why you are thankful that Christ knew His purpose for coming and that He was willing to die for your sins.

As we go on in our study of this chapter we read about Christ judging a fig tree because it did not have any fruit. Christ came to the tree and it had no fruit. Christ said that the fig tree would never have fruit again. Matthew tells us that the fig tree dried up in a short time and died. Today many Christians are like that fig tree. They never produce any fruit for Christ. A Christian that does not tell others about Christ often becomes a person that is unhappy, bitter and complaining. Their life is like a tree that is dried up. They lose the joy and inner beauty that is normal for the Christian that is busy serving the Lord.

10. Read Mark 11:12-19 and write what Christ found when He came to the fig tree.

11. Explain what happens in the life of a Christian that is not producing fruit for the Lord.

12. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be a fruitful Christian.

We also read about Christ chasing some men out of the temple. These men were using the temple as a place to get rich instead of recognizing it as a place to worship God. Jews would come from many different countries to Jerusalem to worship God and offer sacrifices to God. Since these people came from different countries, they would have different kinds of money. The religious leaders only allowed the people to buy animals for sacrifices with Jewish money. As a result, there were men in the temple that would change the money so that the Jews from other countries would have Jewish money. The leaders in charge of changing money were getting rich because they were charging a large amount to change the money.

13. Read Mark 11:12-19 and write what the temple was to be called by the people of all of the nations.

14. Explain why many people are using religion as a way to make money rather than follow Christ and worship God.

15. Explain why you think that there are people that use religion as a way to make money for themselves.

In addition to making money by charging the strangers to change their money, the Jewish religious leaders also made money by selling animals and birds for sacrifices. They would charge a much higher price for the animals that they had paid for them. In this way they were also getting rich by receiving extra money for the animals. These men were using the temple to make money for themselves. God says that we are not to use His house to buy and sell.

16. Read Mark 11:12-19 and write what these men had made the house of God.
17. Explain how the religious leaders had totally changed the purpose of the temple by their actions.
18. Explain why it is important to you in your life to make sure that you do things in a way that pleases God.

Christ explained the purpose of the temple. Christ said that the real purpose of the temple was to be a place of prayer for people of all nations. However, Christ said that the religious leaders had turned the temple into a den of thieves. The religious leaders were only using the temple to take money from the people. When Christ chased the religious leaders out of the house of God, these leaders immediately began to plan how they could kill Christ. Here we see that people are not happy when someone stops their sin. Instead they are ready to get rid of the person that stopped them.

19. Read Mark 11:12-19 and write what Christ did in the evening.
20. Explain why sinful people do not like to have others stop them from cheating and stealing.
21. Explain what these verses teach you about the real purpose of the temple that was in the city of Jerusalem.

In the first part of this chapter we read about Christ judging the fig tree. The next morning the disciples and Christ walked by the tree again. Peter told Christ to look at the way that the tree had dried up and died. It was dried clear down to the roots. It was easy to see that the tree would never again have any more figs. It was completely dead. The fig tree is often used to picture the nation of Israel. Because the people had turned away from God and rejected Him, Christ was giving a visual warning of the fact that judgment would soon be coming on the city of Jerusalem. It was time for the people to turn to Christ. Those that did not turn to Him would face judgment.

22. Read Mark 11:20-24 and write the answer that Christ gave to Peter.
23. Explain why rejection of Christ will one day result in the judgment of each of those that have rejected Him.
24. Explain why you think that Christ chose to curse the fig tree and cause it to die and dry up clear down to the roots.

Christ used the dead fig tree to teach the disciples a lesson about faith and answered prayer. Christ told the disciples that they needed to have faith in God. In the same way we also need to have faith in God. We need to trust Him and know that He will answer our prayers if we are praying according to His will and not praying to try and get what we want. Christ promises in these verses that He will answer our prayers if we do not have doubts in our hearts. Christ says that it is even possible to move a mountain if we have the faith to believe that God will answer our prayers.

25. Read Mark 11:20-24 and write where Christ says we could cast a mountain if we had faith to believe.
26. Explain why it is so important for Christians to have faith in God and to know that He will hear and answer as we pray according to the will of God.
27. Explain what lessons you learn from these verses that you can apply in your own prayer life.

Christ also tells us what we should do after we pray for the things that we know are the will of God. We should then go ahead believing that God has already answered that prayer even though we have not seen the answer yet. This is real faith. This is the meaning of faith as it is given to us in Hebrews 11:1. In that verse we see that God will do exactly what He has promised to do even though we have not seen it happen yet. We expect God to answer our prayers even before we see the answer. As a result, we move forward with faith in the Lord instead of depending on ourselves.

28. Read Mark 11:20-24 and write what these verses teach us about the fact that God answers prayer.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the problem of doubt and why doubt affects the prayer life of many Christians.

30. Explain why you can expect the Lord to work in your life and then through your life as you learn to walk by faith.

We also read the reason why God sometimes does not answer our prayers. God says that He cannot answer our prayers when we refuse to forgive another person. The first thing that we should do when we realize that we have not forgiven another person is to go to that person and ask the person to forgive us. Then we should pray and ask God to forgive us. When we have confessed our sin to the other person and to God, then we know that we have nothing between God and us. However, if we refuse to forgive another person, our hearts will be filled with doubts because the refusal to forgive another person will cause us to have doubts.

31. Read Mark 11:25-33 and write what will happen if we refuse to forgive another person.

32. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to forgive if they want to be effective in their spiritual lives.

33. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the importance of forgiving others from these verses.

As Christ came back to the temple the day after He had chased the religious leaders out of the temple, the leaders were waiting for Him. They wanted to know who had given Christ the permission to chase them out of the temple. These men were very unhappy because Christ had stopped them from stealing money from the people by charging more than the animals were worth. Instead of telling the religious leaders who had given Him authority to chase them out of the temple, Christ chose to answer their question by asking them a question.

34. Read Mark 11:25-33 and write the question that Christ asked the Jewish religious leaders.

35. Explain why the religious leaders chose to challenge the authority of Jesus to cleanse the temple.

36. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the attitudes of the religious leaders toward Christ.

Here Christ gives us a good example of the way to answer the questions of those who refuse to believe God and make fun of Christ. Christ answered their question with another question. This way they were forced to think about the message of John the Baptist. We should never try to argue with those who refuse to believe in Christ. Instead we should ask them questions that cause them to think about the Word of God and how the Word of God applies to their own lives. In this way the Holy Spirit can continue to bring conviction to their lives.

37. Read Mark 11:25-33 and write the question that Christ asked the religious leaders.
38. Explain why you think that Christ answered the question of the religious leaders with another question.
39. Explain why it is important for you to ask questions that make people think about the Bible instead of arguing with them about the Bible.

The religious leaders were afraid to answer the question of Christ. They did not want to admit that John the Baptist came from God. That would mean that they would have to admit that they were sinners. The leaders did not want to say that they were sinners and so they would not say that John the Baptist came from God. They were afraid to say that John was not sent from God because the people recognized that John was a prophet from God. The religious leaders were controlled by fear and so were afraid to answer the question of Christ. The religious leaders answered Christ that they could not tell where John received his message.

40. Read Mark 11:25-33 and write the answer Christ then gave to the religious leaders.
41. Explain why the religious leaders were afraid to answer the question that Christ asked them.
42. Explain what you learn from this event about the way that people without Christ are controlled by fear.

Now reread Mark 11:1-33 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 12
Mark 12:1-44

Today we will be spending much of our time learning how Christ answered the religious leaders when they tried to trick Him and find something that He said that they could use to accuse Him. We will also learn about one woman who did not have very much money but gave everything that she had to God. Many times people that are rich may give a large amount to God and think that they have given a lot. However, they have so much more money that their gift is not very much for them to give. This woman gave her last bit of money even though it meant that she did not have money to buy food for her next meal. This is a real example of faith.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the parable of the evil servants.
- Explain what Christ teaches about life in heaven.
- Explain what it means to love the Lord with all of your heart.
- Explain what the poor woman teaches us about faith.

As we begin Mark 12 we see that Christ began to speak to the people in parables. We read about a man that planted a field of grapes. The man also built the needed fences and building to protect the vineyard and to harvest the grapes when they ripened. This man leased his field to a group of tenants with the agreement that they would give him a part of the crop when it ripened. The man then traveled to a country a long distance from his field. However, the men that leased the vineyard were very evil. When the owner of the field sent men to get his share of the crops, the evil men beat them, stoned them and killed them. Finally the owner sent his own son. He was sure that they would respect his son. Instead the evil men killed the son.

1. Read Mark 12:1-12 and write what the owner will do to those evil men.
2. Explain what these verses teach about the evil hearts of these men that leased the field.
3. Explain who you think the son represents in the parable and why you think Christ spoke this parable.

Suddenly the religious leaders realized that Christ was talking about them. Christ also gave another picture from the Old Testament to show how they were rejecting Him. When Solomon was building the temple in the Old Testament, a piece of stone was brought to the building from the place where they were preparing the building materials. Since the builders could not find a place for the stone, they rejected it and threw it away. Suddenly they realized that it was the cornerstone (the most important stone in the building). The Jewish religious leaders were now ready to reject Christ and He was the most important person that had ever lived. The leaders knew that Christ was talking about them. They wanted to kill Him.

4. Read Mark 12:1-12 and write why the leaders did not kill Christ right then.
5. Explain what Christ is teaching the religious leaders about their rejection of Him.
6. Explain why you think that Christ chose to show the religious leaders what their hearts were like by this parable.

Since the religious leaders wanted to kill Christ, they tried to find an excuse to kill Him. Usually the religious leaders fought against each other. However, in the rest of the chapter, we will see how different groups of religious leaders tried to get Christ to say the wrong thing so that they could accuse Him of sin. The Pharisees and the Herodians (a group of Jews that supported the Roman government) came together to question Christ. These two groups came together and tried to trick Christ by asking Him about paying taxes. Here we see that they are going to use that question to try and trap Christ.

7. Read Mark 12:13-17 and write what the Pharisees and Herodians called Christ.
8. Explain why the Pharisees and Herodians came together to trick Christ when they usually were against each other.
9. Explain what you learn about the heart of sinful man by the fact that these two groups came together to try and trick Christ.

The Pharisees and the Herodians called Christ, Master, but they did not mean what they said. A master is one that controls the lives of those who serve him. Neither group was willing to serve Christ. Instead they were looking for an excuse to kill Him. Today many people are just like those religious leaders. They say that they worship Christ but they refuse to follow and obey Him. They speak nice words but inwardly they are full of sin. The Pharisees and the Herodians told Christ that they knew that He told the truth and did not play favorites with any man. Here we see that they chose to lie to cover up the fact that they were trying to trick Christ by asking whether they should pay taxes to Caesar or not.

10. Read Mark 12:13-17 and write what they said that Christ taught.
11. Explain why the Pharisees and Herodians showed that they were hypocrites when they called Christ, Master.
12. Explain what it means to you in your own life to recognize Christ as the Master of your life.

The religious leaders realized that Christ spoke the truth. They had heard Him teach about the way to know God. They knew that Christ was telling the truth. Yet these men tried to trap Christ by their question about paying taxes. This teaches us an important lesson. People can know the truth. They can even know how to become Christians. However, that does not help a person at all if that person knows something but does not let the things that he knows change his life. Christ asked them for a coin. Then Christ asked them whose picture was on the coin.

13. Read Mark 12:13-17 and write how Christ then answered their question.
14. Explain the difference between knowing what God says and obeying what God says.
15. Explain how the answer of Christ helps you to realize that you are to obey God and to obey government leaders also.

When the Sadducees heard that Christ had answered the question of the Pharisees and the Herodians, they decided to try and trick Christ with a question. The Sadducees did not believe in miracles or the resurrection of the dead. However, their question is about the resurrection. Here we learn another important lesson. Many people may pretend that they do not believe the Bible. They say that the Bible is not true. Yet they often ask questions about the Bible. Christ chose to teach the Sadducees before He answered their question. We also need to be ready at all times to explain what the Bible teaches because some people may be searching for truth even when they say that they do not believe the Bible.

16. Read Mark 12:18-27 and write what we will not do in heaven.
17. Explain why Christ chose to answer their question by teaching them about the resurrection as well as answering their question.
18. Explain why it is important for you to pray that the Lord will give you wisdom to teach Biblical principles as well as answer specific questions.

The Sadducees made their first mistake when they did not realize that there would be no marriage in heaven. However, their second mistake was more important. They did not realize that God is the God of the living and not the dead. Christ knew that the Pharisees did not believe in the resurrection. However, He used the opportunity to explain the resurrection to them. In the past few years some people have started to say that God is dead. Here we see that such ideas are not new. We see that the people that say such things are just like the Sadducees. They have not realized that God is the God of the living.

19. Read Mark 12:18-27 and write how God showed Moses at the burning bush that He is the God of the living.
20. Explain what Christ meant when He said that God is the God of the living.
21. Explain why it is important for you to help others understand the importance of the resurrection.

When Christ had answered the Sadducees, one of the scribes (men that made copies of the Old Testament) came to Christ with a question. The man asked Christ which was the most important of all of the commandments. Christ said that the most important commandment is to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind and strength. The second commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Christ said that there is no greater commandment than these. In Matthew 22:40 Christ said that these two commandments summarize the entire Old Testament. The scribe agreed that Christ was right.

22. Read Mark 12:18-40 and write what the scribe said was not even as important as those commandments.
23. Explain why the entire Old Testament can be summarized by the command to love God and love our neighbor.
24. Explain what it means to you to love God with your whole heart, soul, mind and strength.

Here was one religious leader that realized that it was more important to love God than it was to offer sacrifices. Most of the religious leaders would offer sacrifices to God but those sacrifices meant nothing because the religious leaders did not love God. Today many people think that they can get to heaven by going to church, putting money in the offering plate, working for the church or helping other people. All of those things will not help a person that does not love God. The Pharisees did many other works in addition to those mentioned above. However, we read that they will be judged because they do not love God.

25. Read Mark 12:28-40 and write what Christ told the scribe after he said that loving God and others was more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices.
26. Explain why love of God and love of others is much more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices.
27. Explain why it is important for you to help others understand that their real need is to learn to love God.

Christ told the scribe that he was not far from the kingdom of God. Because he realized that loving God was more important than offering sacrifices, the only thing that he needed to do was ask Christ to become the new master of his life. After his question, the religious leaders were afraid to ask Christ any more questions. Then Christ asked the leaders a question. He asked them why David called Christ, Lord, if Christ was the son of David. Christ wanted the religious leaders to realize that He was the Son of God. However, the religious leaders would not believe Him.

28. Read Mark 12:28-40 and write how the people that were not leaders felt about Christ.

29. Explain why Christ told this scribe that he was not very far from the kingdom of God.

30. Explain why it is important for you to understand that David recognized that Christ is the Son of God even though he lived about 1000 years before Christ.

Many times the people that think that they are important will not listen to Christ. The ones that know that they are sinners and realize that they are not important are often the people that really want to know more about Christ. Christ went on to tell what the religious leaders were like in the next few verses. They made their coats extra long so that people would think that they were important. They wanted people to bow down and call them teacher when they walked through the market place. They wanted to sit in the seats where everyone could see them when they went to the synagogue. They wanted to sit at the head table when they attended a dinner. They would steal the house of a widow and then make a long prayer for her to cover up the fact that they were the one that had stolen her house.

31. Read Mark 12:28-40 and write what Christ says they will receive because of their sinfulness.

32. Explain what these verses teach about the pride of the scribes.

33. Explain why it is important for you in your life to have a humble attitude rather than having pride like the scribes had.

In Mark 12:41-44 we read about the woman that gave all that she had to the Lord. After Christ had finished answering the questions of the religious leaders, He and the disciples sat down in the temple where they could see the people putting their money into the offering box. Many of the rich people would come and drop large bags of money in the offering box. Then a poor widow came and put her offering in the box. She was very poor and did not have very much to give. However, she was giving her gift to God in love.

34. Read Mark 12:41-44 and write how much the woman put in the offering box.

35. Explain why Christ took the disciples and sat down in a place where He and the disciples could watch the people give their offerings.

36. Explain what you learn from these verses about the fact that God is more concerned about attitude in giving than the amount that we give.

Christ turned to the disciples and told them that the poor woman had given more than any of the rich men. The rich men may have given a large amount of money. However, they were rich and would never miss the money that they had given. The poor woman did not give very much. In fact what she gave was worth less than a penny. However, the poor woman was giving all that she had. She was showing her love for God by the way that she gave to Him. She did not have any money left after her gift to God.

37. Read Mark 12:41-44 and write from what the rich gave.
38. Explain how these verses show us that Christ looks at our heart attitudes.
39. Explain what you have learned from these verses about the attitude you should have as you give to the Lord.

The poor woman also gives us a real lesson about faith. She gave all of the money that she had to the Lord. She did not even know where she would get any money to buy food for her next meal. The poor woman knew that if she gave everything that she had to God that He would supply her needs. This is a real example of faith in God. God promises us that He will supply our needs if we will put Him first in our lives and in our giving. The woman did not have any money but she knew that she worshiped a God that would supply her needs. We need to ask ourselves if we have the faith to believe that God will supply our needs. If we do not have that kind of faith, we need to let God develop our faith. One way we can do that is by starting to give more to the Lord than we have given in the past. We will soon see that God keeps His promises.

40. Read Mark 12:41-44 and write how much money the woman had after she gave her gift to the Lord.
41. Explain why many Christians find it difficult to have the faith to believe that the Lord will supply their needs.
42. Explain what things you learn from the example of this woman about how to let God develop your faith.

Now reread Mark 12:1-44 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 13
Mark 13:1-37

Today we will be studying about the things that will happen on this earth during the seven years after Christ takes the Christians to heaven and before Christ comes back to become the king of the earth for one thousand years. During that seven year period many Jews and many people that have never heard of Christ before will place their trust in Christ. However, they will experience great suffering because the people that hate God will hurt them and try to kill them. In fact many will be killed. However, God will give them the words to speak when they are called in front of the judges and the rulers because of their faith in Christ.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell about the things that will happen during the seven years of suffering.

Explain what the Jews will have to do to be safe.

Explain what the coming of Christ will be like.

Explain why it is important for the people living then to be ready.

As Christ came out of the temple after watching the poor woman give all of the money that she had to God, one of the disciples pointed to the walls of the temple. He mentioned how beautiful the walls were. Christ agreed that the buildings were very beautiful. Then Christ told the disciples that the buildings would be completely destroyed so that there would not even be one stone on top of another. This probably came as a great surprise to the disciples. They had never thought about the fact that the temple would be destroyed. As a result, four of the disciples asked Christ about what He meant when they were alone.

1. Read Mark 13:1-13 and write the two questions that four of the disciples asked Christ when He arrived at the Mount of Olives.
2. Explain why Christ probably shocked the disciples when He told them the temple would be destroyed.
3. Explain why you think that many Christians today are like the disciples and are more focused on the beauty of their buildings than they are about the future.

Christ used the two questions of the disciples as an opportunity to talk about the things that will happen in the future. Today many people want to know what will happen in the future. Some people are trying to find out what is going to happen in the future by seeking answers from Satan through such things as fortune tellers, ouija boards, reading their horoscopes or going to people that try to predict the future. God tells us that all of these things come from the devil and are controlled by him. People who try to find out about the future through one of these ways are opening themselves up to Satan and it is possible for them to even become demon possessed. The real way to find out what will happen in the future is to study the Bible because it teaches us many things about the future.

4. Read Mark 13:1-13 and write five things that will happen on the earth that show that we are getting close to the end times and that the time of sorrow (the seven years of tribulation) will soon come.

5. Explain why Christians need to study the Bible to find out what will happen in the future instead of turning to other things to learn about the future.
6. Explain why you think that there are many people that want to know what will happen in the future.

Today we are seeing each of the things that are mentioned in these verses begin to happen. As the coming of the Lord comes closer, these things will happen more and more. We also read that the Gospel will be preached to all of the nations. Within the last two or three hundred years, Christians have taken the Gospel to almost every nation and group of people. Everything shows us that the coming of the Lord is getting closer. We also read in these verses that we may have the privilege of suffering for Christ. This too, is happening in some countries. Some Christians are even dying for Christ today. Paul and the other disciples were thankful that they could suffer for Christ. In fact they were happy to die for Christ.

7. Read Mark 13:1-13 and write who will give believers the words to speak when they are persecuted for Christ.
8. Explain why a Christian should consider it a privilege to suffer or even die for Christ.
9. Explain why you realize that all of the things that are happening in the world show that the coming of Christ for the church is getting very close.

Timeline

Christ church rapture tribulation return millennium final judgment eternity

A timeline gives a tiny picture of the future as it is explained in the Bible.

Christ - the death and resurrection of Christ

Church - the age of the church (we are living in this time period right now)

Rapture - the taking of the church to heaven (rapture)

Tribulation - the seven years of terrible suffering (Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, Luke 21, Revelation 6-19 and other chapters in the Bible all talk about the seven years of suffering called the tribulation)

Return of Christ – the time when Christ comes back to be the king of the earth

Millennium – the one thousand years when Christ will be king of the earth

Final judgment – the unbelievers are sent to the lake of fire and brimstone and the earth is burned up with fire leading to the creation of the new heavens and new earth

Eternity – eternity begins and lasts forever

After Christ takes the church to heaven, the things mentioned in verses 5 through 8 will happen more than they have ever happened in the past. Those who place their trust in Christ during the tribulation will have all of the things mentioned in verses 8 through 13 happen to them.

10. Read Mark 13:14-23 and write the name of the prophet that spoke of the abomination of desolation (a very sinful man-made god).

11. Explain why it is important for Christians to understand that they will be taken to heaven before the tribulation.

12. Explain why it is helpful for you to know the order of the events given in this chapter.

During the first three and one half years of the tribulation, the false christ that claims to be

Christ will be friendly to the Jews. Right in the middle of the tribulation he will show what he is really like. He will set up his own god in the Jewish Temple at Jerusalem. As soon as he puts his god in the temple, he will try to kill all of the Jews. The Jews will have to hide in the mountains and caves in order to be saved. This will happen so suddenly that the Jews will not even have any time to go into their houses to get anything to take with them.

13. Read Mark 13:14-23 and write two places where the Jews will be when they receive word that they must hide quickly because the false christ has placed his god in the temple.

14. Explain what will make it possible for this false christ to deceive most of the people of the world.

15. Explain why you think the false christ will set up his own image in the temple.

The Jews that are sitting on the roof of their house will not even have time to go into their house to get some food or clothes. If they do not hide immediately, they will be killed because they waited too long to escape. The false christ will do everything that he can do to kill the Jews and also all of the others that believe in Christ. There will be greater suffering than there has ever been at any time in the past on the earth. This will happen because the false christ wants everyone to worship him. This is why he will try to kill any that refuse to worship him.

16. Read Mark 13:14-23 and write what God will do to help those that believe in Him.

17. Explain what these verses teach us about the attitude that the false christ will have in his heart.

18. Explain why you are thankful that as a Christian you will be taken to heaven before the tribulation begins.

If God did not keep the days short, the false christ would kill every person that believed in Christ. However, Christ will keep the days short so that many of those that believe in Him will not be killed. There will also be false christs and false prophets who will do miracles to try and trick those that follow Christ. Here we see that during the tribulation that there will be much confusion among the people. The false christs and the false prophets will deceive many people. They will think that their miracles comes from God instead of realizing that these false workers are doing miracles through the power of the devil

19. Read Mark 13:14-23 and write who they will even try to deceive.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the tribulation

21. Tell how you would explain the events that will happen during the tribulation to a person that has not placed his or her trust in Christ.

In Mark 13:24-27 we see what it will be like when Christ returns to the earth at the end of the seven years of tribulation. When Christ comes, several things will happen in the sky. The sun will be darkened. The moon will not give its light. Part of the stars will fall and no longer give their light. God is in control of all of the stars and planets. At the end of the tribulation all of the people that are alive at that time will see God show a little of His power. Here we see that at the end of the tribulation that God is going to show the whole world who is really in control.

22. Read Mark 13:24-27 and write what the people will see after they see the power of God displayed.

23. Explain why God is going to use the sun, moon and stars to get the attention of the people of the earth.

24. Explain how these verses show you that God is in control at all times and knows exactly what will happen.

When Christ returns to become the king of the earth, everyone will see Him come. It will be a wonderful time for all those that have placed their trust in Christ. When Christ went back to heaven, He promised that He would come back just as He went. In Acts 1:9 we read that Christ went up into the air and He went into a cloud. Here we see that Christ is coming in the clouds. There will be no questions about who it is that is coming. Everyone will recognize that it is Christ. This will bring fear to those who reject and joy to those who have believed in Christ during the tribulation.

25. Read Mark 13:24-27 and write what the angels will do as soon as Christ returns to the earth.

26. Explain how the appearance of Christ in the clouds will affect every person on the earth.

27. Explain why you are thankful that you will be with Christ when He comes.

Here we see that Christ will have the angels gather all of the believers together from wherever they may be. None will be forgotten. As Christ becomes the king of the earth, there will be a great meeting of all those that follow Him. This will be a great gathering and will include people of every race, nation and tribe. At this point all those who have rejected Christ will be taken off the earth. Only those who serve Christ will be left on the earth as He begins to rule as king of the earth.

28. Read Mark 13:24-27 and write from where the elect will be gathered.

29. Explain what will happen when Christ returns to become the king of the earth.

30. Explain why you think the tribulation saints will be eagerly waiting for the return of Christ.

In Mark 13:28-37 Christ gives several warnings to be ready for His coming. The word “watch” (be ready) is written several times to let us know that it is important to be ready for the coming of the Lord. The first picture Christ gives to show us we should be ready is the fig tree. As soon as a fig tree starts to get leaves you know that it is almost summer. Christ says that when we see the things happening that are mentioned in this chapter that His coming is very near. Today we need to be ready for Christ to come and take the Christians to heaven at any minute. Those who trust in Christ during the tribulation will need to be ready for Christ to return and begin His reign as king of the earth.

31. Read Mark 13:28-37 and write the number of times that it says to watch (be ready).

32. Explain why Christ uses the fig tree to picture His coming to rule.

33. Explain why it is important for you to be ready to meet Christ at any time.

Christ also tells us in these verses that He will keep His Word even if heaven and earth pass away. Here we see that the Word of God will last even when the heaven and the earth pass away and are replaced by the new heavens and the new earth. The Word of God is always true. Everything that is written in the Bible will happen exactly as the Bible says that it will happen. This is why it is so important for us to believe the entire Bible.

34. Read Mark 13:28-37 and write who knows what day Christ is coming.

35. Explain why the Word of God will not pass away.

36. Explain how you know that the entire Bible is true.

Christ says that His coming may happen at any time of the day or the night. Since we do not know when Christ will come, we must be ready at all times. Christ has gone back to heaven and left the Christians here to tell about His return. Today some Christians are living like Christ will not come back for hundreds of years. Those Christians do not seem to care that their family and friends are not Christians. Today we see that many of the things that are mentioned in this chapter are already beginning to happen. The coming of Christ to take the Christians to heaven is very close. We must tell others about Christ now so that they will have the opportunity to become Christians.

37. Read Mark 13:28-37 and write the four times during the day that these verses say that Christ could come.

38. Explain why Christians should be concerned to tell their relatives and friends about Christ while they have the opportunity.

39. Explain what ways you have found effective to share the Gospel with your family.

Since Christ may come at any time of the day or night, we need to be ready all of the time. There will be no time to get ready when Christ comes. Either a person is ready or he is too late. The coming of Christ will be very sudden. There will be no advance warning except for this warning and the warnings given in other chapters of the Bible. As Christians, we can look forward to the return of Christ at any minute. If people are unprepared when Christ comes, for those people it will be too late.

40. Read Mark 13:28-37 and write what some of the people will be doing when Christ comes suddenly.

41. Explain why Christians are to be working as they wait for the return of Christ.

42. Explain what work the Lord has given you to do as you wait for His coming.

Now reread Mark 13:1-37 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 14
Mark 14:1-72

Today we are going to look at a short summary of the last night of Christ before His crucifixion and death. These events are also covered in each of the other Gospels as the Lord gives us the opportunity to look at these events from four different points of view. A few of the things mentioned in Mark are not recorded in any of the other Gospels. This may indicate that Mark was in Jerusalem and may even been watching from a distance when Christ was arrested. Our purpose as we study this chapter will be to study the last hours of Christ before His crucifixion in a brief summary and learn how to apply lessons from that night to our own lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why Mary poured precious ointment on the head of Christ.

Explain the main events of the entire evening.

Explain what Christ teaches about prayer.

Tell why Peter said three times that he did not know Christ.

The religious leaders were looking for an opportunity to kill Christ. They wanted to do it in such a way that there would not be an uproar among the people. Here we see that the religious leaders knew that the common people recognized that Christ came from God. The religious leaders did not realize that Christ had come to die for the sins of every person. Their only thought was to destroy Christ. Christ had told the disciples several times that He was going to die and be raised from the dead on the third day. Since the disciples were expecting Christ to become a king, they did not understand Him when He said that He was going to die. However, there was one person that did understand that Christ was going to die. Her name is not mentioned in Mark. From the other Gospels we learn that her name was Mary.

1. Read Mark 14:1-11 and write the names of two other people mentioned in these verses besides Mary.
2. Explain why the religious leaders wanted to kill Christ without starting a riot among the people.
3. Explain why you think that the religious leaders were so anxious to put Christ to death.

From these verses we learn something about each of the three people mentioned. We read that Judas was planning to find a way to turn Christ over to the religious leaders so that they could kill Him. Simon was a man that had been a leper until he had met Christ. He had been forced to live outside the town and shout “unclean” whenever someone came near because of his leprosy. Since Christ had healed him of his leprosy, he was no longer unclean and he was able to sit down and enjoy eating a meal with Christ. In these verses we also see how much Mary loved Christ. She showed her love by pouring some very expensive ointment on Christ to prepare Him for death.

4. Read Mark 14:1-11 and write how much the ointment cost.
5. Explain how Christ had changed the life of Simon the leper when Christ healed him of his leprosy.

6. Explain why you think that Mary wanted to pour this expensive ointment on Christ that day.

The expensive ointment that Mary poured on Christ cost about a year's wages. It probably was all of the money that she had saved throughout her life. However, she was happy to use it to prepare Christ for His coming death. We read that there were some that complained because of the waste of money. The book of John mentions that it was Judas that was doing this complaining. He said that the money could have been given to the poor. However, it shows us in these verses that he was only concerned about how to get more money for himself. Christ, however, said that Mary had done a good thing. She showed that she believed the things that Christ had said.

7. Read Mark 14:1-11 and write what Christ says we will always have on the earth.

8. Explain what we learn about the character of Judas from these verses.

9. Explain why you think that Christ chose to complement Mary for the good deed that she had done.

Mark 14:12-25 tells us about the Last Supper that Christ ate with His disciples before He died. Christ sent two of His disciples to prepare the meal. This particular meal was the Passover that the Jews ate each year to remember how God had taken them out of the land of Egypt under the leadership of Moses. Christ told two of the disciples to go into the city and watch for a man carrying a large jar of water. They were to follow him to the place where he lived. Then they were to ask the owner of the house for a place to prepare the supper. Christ even told the disciples what the room would be like.

10. Read Mark 14:12-25 and write what the disciples did when they reached the upstairs room.

11. Explain why Christ gave the two disciples an unusual way to find the place where they were to prepare the Passover.

12. Explain why you think that Christ chose to make the Passover His last meal before His crucifixion.

During the meal Christ told the disciples that one of them was going to betray Him. They began to ask if they were the one that would do such a thing. Here we see that Christ had loved Judas just as He loved each of the others and so no one suspected Judas. As they were eating, Christ took some bread and broke it into pieces. Then He thanked God for it and gave each of the disciples a piece. As they ate the bread, Christ said that the bread was a picture of His body. Then Christ took some juice, thanked God for it and gave some of the juice to each of the disciples. He told them that the juice was a picture of His blood that He was going to shed on the cross.

13. Read Mark 14:12-25 and write for whom Christ was dying and shedding His blood.

14. Explain why Christ chose to use common things like bread and juice to help the disciples remember His death.

15. Explain why Christ chose to love Judas as much as He loved the other disciples even though He knew that Judas would betray Him.

Christ did die for many. In fact I John 2:2 tells us that He died for the sins of the whole world. This is what we are remembering each time that we eat the Lord's Supper together. We need to remember the death of Christ often so that we never forget how much Christ loved each one of

us. Christ told the disciples that the juice was a symbol of His blood that would be the blood of a new covenant or new testament. The old covenant was the law and the people had to offer blood sacrifices to cover their sin. Christ said His blood was the blood of a new covenant. His blood was going to pay for sin so that the sins of all that came to Him in repentance would be taken away instead of just covered.

16. Read Mark 14:12-25 and write when Christ said He would next drink the fruit of the vine.

17. Explain the importance of the new testament (new covenant).

18. Explain why you think we should eat the Lord's Supper together as Christians.

As we go on to Mark 14:26-42 we learn several lessons about the importance of prayer. Christ told the disciples that they would go away and leave Him alone that night. Christ said that He was the shepherd and that He would be killed. He said that the disciples were like sheep and would be scattered. Christ also told them that He would be raised from the dead and that He would meet them in Galilee. Peter and the other disciples quickly said that they would never leave Christ. Christ told Peter that Peter would say three times that night that he did not know Christ. Peter then said that he would never leave Christ even if he had to die for Christ.

19. Read Mark 14:26-42 and write the name of the place where Christ and the disciples went to pray.

20. Explain why Christ told the disciples that the time of His death and resurrection had arrived.

21. Explain why Peter gives you an example of the danger of saying that you will not sin even if it would mean death.

Here we see our first important lesson about prayer. Christ gives us a real example of the importance of prayer. Christ knew that He would face the power of the devil that night. He knew that He must be prepared. As Christians, we also face the power of the devil every day. The devil does everything he can do to get Christians to fail and sin. We will fail if we are depending on our own strength instead of depending on the Lord. We need to spend time in prayer every day asking the Lord to give us His strength to meet the temptations of the devil. Christ also knew the need to pray for His disciples. Christ knew that they would also face a difficult time that night.

22. Read Mark 14:26-42 and write what Christ said to Peter about the need for prayer when He later found Peter sleeping.

23. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of prayer in the life of every Christian.

24. Explain why you think that prayer was such an important part of the life of Christ.

We learn a second lesson about prayer from the disciples. We see that they failed to pray. As a result, they failed. We see that we are weak in our own strength. We will fail if we do not depend on the Lord and ask Him to give us His strength. The devil knows that we are weak. He comes to tempt us at our weakest moment. Only as we have spent time praying and asking Christ for His strength will we have victory over the devil. As Christ prayed to the Father, He said that He knew all things are possible for the Father. He knew the Father could choose to accept some other payment for sin. However, Christ said He wanted the will of the Father and not His own will.

25. Read Mark 14:26-42 and write why Christ told the disciples that it was important for them to pray.

26. Explain why it is important for each Christian to pray every day that the Lord will give him or her victory over the temptations of the devil.
27. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to want the will of the Father instead of your own will.

Judas had agreed to help the religious leaders catch Christ at a time when there would not be crowds of people around Christ. The religious leaders knew that the people realized that Christ came from God. The leaders were afraid that the people might start a riot if they caught Christ while a crowd was gathered around Him. Here we see that the religious leaders sent a large group of their men to capture Christ. These men came with swords and clubs just as if they were after a very dangerous man.

28. Read Mark 14:43-52 and write what Christ said they thought He was like since they came after Him with swords and clubs.
29. Explain why the religious leaders were trying to hide their actions from the rest of the people.
30. Explain why you think that Judas would betray Christ after traveling with Him for three years.

Christ then went on to point out the fact that they were fulfilling the Old Testament by coming after Him with swords and clubs. Immediately after this, all of the disciples left Christ and ran away. They had failed to pray. Now they were unable to stand with Christ and meet the test. We also read about a young man that was following the disciples. Many people think that the young man was Mark and that he was writing about something that he remembered very well. Apparently the young man had been in a hurry to see what was happening. Instead of taking time to get completely dressed, he grabbed a piece of cloth and wrapped it around himself. Some of the men in the group that captured Christ caught the young man.

31. Read Mark 14:53-72 and write what the young man did.
32. Explain why the disciples showed by their actions that they could not be strong in their own strength.
33. Explain why you think these verses talk about the young man that is mentioned.

In these verses we also read about the trial of Christ in front of the religious leaders. As the men led Christ to the high priest, Peter started to follow. However, he stayed a long way behind the group. When they got to the court of the high priest, Peter sat with the guards that had captured Christ so that he could warm himself by their fire. Here we see that Peter had failed in several ways. He had failed to pray. He had failed to continue to stand with Christ when the men captured Christ. He had stayed a long way behind Christ instead of walking with Christ as the guards led Christ to the chief priest. Now he was sitting with the enemies of Christ. Finally he said three times that he did not even know Christ. Notice how one sin or failure leads to other sins and failures.

34. Read Mark 14:53-72 and explain what these verses teach us about one of the reasons that a Christian fails and commits sin.
35. Explain what would cause a person like Peter to deny Christ.
36. Explain why you have found that you will fail when you depend on your own strength.

The religious leaders brought many false witnesses to speak against Christ. However, none of the witnesses agreed because they were all false witnesses. Today the devil still has many false teachers that speak against Christ. You can tell that they are false witnesses because the things that they say do not agree with the Word of God. These false witnesses tried to twist the words that they had heard Christ speak. Here we see that the words of these false witnesses did not even agree with each other.

37. Read Mark 14:53-72 and write what Christ answered when the false witnesses spoke against Him.

38. Explain why false witnesses and false teachers choose to speak against Christ.

39. Explain why you know that the teachings of false teachers will not agree with the Word of God.

Finally the high priest asked Christ if He was Christ, the Son of the blessed. In this question the religious leaders were asking Christ if He was the Son of God. When Christ said that He is the Son of God, the religious leaders accused Him of speaking blasphemy (speaking against God). They did not want to believe Christ and so they used His words to say that He was speaking against God. The leaders had decided to kill Christ long before. The trial was only an excuse to make it look like they had obeyed the law. Now they were ready to turn Christ over to the Roman government and ask the Roman government to put Christ to death.

40. Read Mark 14:53-72 and write what the religious leaders did after they said that Christ was guilty of blasphemy.

41. Explain why the religious leaders refused to believe that Christ is the Son of God.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ is the Son of God.

Now reread Mark 14:1-72 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 15
Mark 15:1-47

Today we will be studying about the trial before Pilate and the crucifixion of Christ. As we have been studying the book of Mark, we have learned many things about the life of Christ. We have seen from the miracles of Christ that He is God. However, the purpose of Christ in coming to this earth was not to do miracles. Instead the purpose of Christ for coming to this earth was to die to pay the penalty for our sins and rise again to give us eternal life. Today we will be learning about the death of Christ to pay the penalty for our sins.

As you study this chapter, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why the religious leaders wanted Christ crucified.
- Tell how the Romans soldiers treated Christ.
- Explain what Christ said as He hung on the cross.
- Tell what happened after the death of Christ.

Mark 15:1-15 tells us about the trial of Christ by Pilate, the Roman governor. The Jewish religious leaders had condemned Christ to death. However, the Roman government would not let the Jews put anyone to death without its approval. As a result, after the Jewish religious leaders had condemned Christ, they took Him to Pilate so that they could try and talk Pilate into putting Christ to death. When the Jewish religious leaders brought Christ to Pilate, they accused Him of many things. The Jews were trying to find some reason that Pilate would accept and give him an excuse to put Christ to death. As a result, the religious leaders made many accusations against Christ.

1. Read Mark 15:1-15 and write what Christ answered when the religious leaders brought these false charges against Him.
2. Explain why the religious leaders had to give Pilate a reason to put Christ to death.
3. Explain why you think that Pilate chose to listen to the accusations of the religious leaders when they could not prove any of them.

During the time that Pilate had been a Roman ruler, he had probably had many men come before him for trial. When a man knows that his life is in danger, he will do everything possible to defend himself. However, Christ did not try to defend Himself. Christ had come to this earth to die for the sins of men. He was willing and glad to die so that we could have eternal life. Because Christ knew His purpose and reason for coming to this earth, He did not need to defend Himself. Christ also gave us an example of what to do when people speak evil of us.

4. Read Mark 15:1-15 and write what Pilate did when he saw that Christ was not going to answer or defend Himself.
5. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ knew His purpose and reason for coming to this earth.
6. Explain why you think that Christ did not answer any of the accusations that the religious leaders made against Him.

Pilate was very surprised when Christ did not answer. He realized that it was due to the fact that Christ was innocent. However, Pilate wanted to make the leaders happy and so he decided to give them a choice. One of the men in prison at that time was a man named Barabbas. He had led an attempt to overthrow the Roman government in the land of Judaea. He was also guilty of murder. Pilate decided to give the leaders a choice of freeing either Barabbas or Christ. He probably thought that the leaders certainly would not want to choose to let a murderer like Barabbas go free. We see, though, that the leaders chose to free a murderer instead of Christ.

7. Read Mark 15:1-15 and write why the people decided to choose Barabbas.
8. Explain what the religious leaders showed about their attitudes toward Christ by asking Pilate to release Barabbas.
9. Explain why you think that Pilate decided to give the religious leaders the opportunity to choose whom to release.

Today there are many people that are making the same choice that the Jewish religious leaders made that day. Many people today choose to follow someone or something rather than choosing to follow Christ. This choice is the most important choice that anyone will make in their entire life. This choice will determine whether a person will spend all eternity in heaven or in hell. Pilate also made two choices that day. He made a choice to kill an innocent person so that he could maintain his political power. Pilate also made a choice to reject Christ.

10. Read Mark 15:1-15 and write why Pilate chose to release Barabbas.
11. Explain what lessons Christians should learn from the choices that Pilate made that day.
12. Explain why you need to help a person clearly understand what it means to either follow or reject Christ.

The Roman soldiers decided that they were going to entertain themselves by persecuting Christ. They led Christ into the hall of judgment. There they called together all of the Roman soldiers. In order to mock and make fun of Christ, they put a purple robe on Him like the robe that kings usually wore. Then they made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. The thorns were from an inch to two inches long. They were also very sharp and must have made deep cuts on the head of Christ. These Roman soldiers were also making choices.

13. Read Mark 15:16-23 and write what the Roman soldiers said to Christ after they put the robe and crown of thorns on Christ.
14. Explain what these verses teach us about the choices that the Roman soldiers made that day.
15. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to pray that Christ will give you wisdom so that you make wise choices.

The Roman soldiers were making fun of Christ by pretending that He was a king. In addition to calling Him king, they also bowed down in front of Christ. They also took a small stick to hit Christ on the head. In this way they drove the thorns into the head of Christ. After the Roman soldiers had finished entertaining themselves, they took the purple robe off of Christ. Then they led Christ out of the hall of judgment and took Him to be crucified. They also made a man by the name of Simon that came from the area of North Africa called Cyrene carry the cross of Christ.

16. Read Mark 15:16-23 and write the names of the two sons of Simon.
17. Explain why the Romans soldiers were looking for entertainment and not thinking about the choices that they were making.
18. Explain why you think that many people today only want to be entertained and so do not think about the results of the choices that they are making.

The fact that Mark mentions the two names of the sons of Simon shows that the Christians to whom Mark was writing knew Simon and his sons. This could only mean that Simon and his sons had become Christians. It may be that Simon and his family became Christians because he met Christ that day. Here we see that Christ can even use the choices of sinful men to give other people an opportunity to meet Christ. This reminds us of the fact that if we help people learn about Christ by teaching them the Bible that some of them will also become Christians.

19. Read Mark 15:16-23 and write where they took Christ to crucify Him
20. Explain how the Lord was able to work through the decision of the soldiers to give Simon of Cyrene the opportunity to meet Him.
21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

There were many people that came to watch Christ die on the cross. We will learn a little more about the people that watched the death of Christ. The first group was those who knew little about Christ and were unconcerned about His death. This group included the Roman soldiers and the two men that were crucified with Christ. The two thieves were paying the penalty for their own sins. They realized that they were guilty and deserved to die. The Roman soldiers had crucified many people on crosses before. It was a part of their job. Their greatest concern was to decide how to divide the clothes of Christ.

22. Read Mark 15:24-41 and write what the soldiers wrote on a sign that hung above the head of Christ.
23. Explain what these verses show about the attitudes of those who know little about who Christ really is.
24. Explain why it is important for you to share the message of the death and resurrection of Christ with those who are presently unconcerned and know little about Christ.

The second group of people that watched Christ die on the cross was the people that had asked Pilate to crucify Christ. They were enjoying the day because they thought that they would not need to worry about Christ any longer. They thought that they would never hear of Christ again once He died. These men included the chief priests, the scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. They made fun of Christ as He hung on the cross. For those men it was a day of victory. Here we see the attitude of people that are in open rebellion against Christ.

25. Read Mark 15:24-41 and write what these men told Christ to do if He was God.
26. Explain what these verses teach about the attitudes of people that are in open rebellion against Christ.
27. Explain why you think that even the people that are in open rebellion against Christ need to hear about His death and resurrection

There was also a third group of people that watched Christ die on the cross that day. Those were the friends of Christ. This group included some of His disciples and the women that had

followed Christ. We also see the witness of Christ even as He was dying on the cross. One of the Gospels tells us that one of the thieves in his dying moments decided to follow Christ. Verse 39 tells us that the leader of the Roman soldiers recognized that Christ was the Son of God. One of the Pharisees, Nicodemus, also followed Christ and even helped bury Him. There were even a few from the group that hated Christ that finally followed Christ.

28. Read Mark 15:24-41 and write what happened from the sixth to the ninth hour.

29. Explain why we should not become discouraged even when people do not want to hear about Christ and even act like they hate Christ.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the lives of those that loved Christ and were at the cross that day.

As Christ hung on the cross, He said several things. Most of the things that Christ said are mentioned in the other Gospels. Only one of the things that Christ said is mentioned in the book of Mark. In verse 34 we read that Christ said, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" Here we see what it cost Christ to die for our sins. The Father and Christ had always enjoyed perfect fellowship. For three hours on the cross that fellowship was broken because Christ was carrying our sins as He hung on the cross and the Father could not look at our sins. Sometimes Christians do not realize the importance of fellowship with Christ.

31. Read Mark 15:24-41 and write for whom the people thought Christ was calling when He spoke.

32. Explain why the greatest suffering of all for Christ was the fact that His fellowship with the Father was broken for those three hours.

33. Explain why you have come to realize that your fellowship with Christ is very important.

The people thought that Christ was calling for Elijah because the words that Christ used sounded like Elijah. After Christ had given one last cry, He willingly gave up His life and died. When Christ died, the veil of the temple was ripped from the top to the bottom. This veil was very thick. However, God was the One that ripped the veil. Before the death of Christ, only the high priest could go behind the veil to talk to God and he had to go with blood as a covering for sin. Because of the death and resurrection of Christ, everyone can now pray directly to God through Christ. We now have that wonderful privilege because of what Christ has done for us.

34. Read Mark 15:42-47 and write who asked Pilate for permission to bury Christ.

35. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that we can come directly to the Father in prayer.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your life to be able to come boldly to God in prayer because the price for sin has been paid.

Joseph was a rich man that came from the town of Arimathaea. We have not met this man before in our study of the life of Christ. The time of the death of Christ is the first time that Joseph is mentioned. However, we see that he had put his trust in Christ. Here we see that he came boldly to Pilate to ask for permission to bury the body of Christ. He was not ashamed to admit that he had placed his trust in Christ even though he knew that he might lose his friends. Here we see that Joseph also made a choice and that choice was to follow Christ.

37. Read Mark 15:42-47 and write how Joseph of Arimathaea is described.

38. Explain what lessons Christians should learn from the choices that Joseph made that day.

39. Explain why we should follow the example of Joseph of Arimathaea and not be ashamed to speak boldly for Christ.

When Joseph of Arimathaea came and asked Pilate for permission to bury the body of Christ, Pilate was very surprised to hear that Christ was already dead. However, we read in verse 37 that Christ gave up the spirit. He had completed the work that God had given Him to do and so He died willingly. His work was complete. Joseph then took the body down from the cross and prepared the body for burial. He laid the body of Christ in a grave that had been cut out of the rock. As a result, this was a grave that had been prepared for a rich person and fulfilled a prophecy that had been recorded in Isaiah 53 that Christ would make His grave with the rich.

40. Read Mark 15:42-47 and write who Pilate asked to make certain that Christ was dead.

41. Explain how even the place where Christ was buried fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy.

42. Explain why you are thankful that Christ was willing to die for you and complete His work of providing salvation for all.

Now reread Mark 15:1-47 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.

Survey of Mark
Lesson 16
Mark 16:1-20

Today we will be studying about the resurrection of Christ. In our lesson we will also read what Christ told the disciples to do before He went back to heaven. We also see that Christ gave the apostles certain signs to show that they were from God and that their message was true.

Hebrews 2:4 tells us that these were the signs of the apostles. Then in II Corinthians 12:12 we read that God gave these special signs to Paul also even though he calls himself an apostle born out of due time. These signs included casting out demons, speaking in other languages, holding poisonous snakes without being hurt and healing every sick person on whom they laid hands.

Today there are no apostles because no one is alive that followed Christ for the entire three and a half years of His public ministry. However, Christ does give Christians instructions about praying that Christ will cast out demons in Mark 9:14-29 and praying for Christ to heal the sick in James 5:13-16. If we will obey these instructions today, we will see the power of God work to defeat the power of Satan.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happened when Christ rose from the dead.
- Explain what we learn about unbelief.
- Explain what Christ told the disciples.
- Explain what Christ meant by signs.

In Mark 16:1-8 we read about the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection of Christ is the most important event in the history of the world. If it were not for the resurrection of Christ we would have no hope. Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins. The Father showed that He was satisfied by that payment and raised Christ from the dead. That makes it possible for Christ to give us life. It is impossible for a dead man to do anything. We also read how people learned about the resurrection of Christ after Christ rose from the dead.

1. Read Mark 16:1-8 and write what several women brought to the sepulcher (grave) where Christ had been buried.
2. Explain why the resurrection of Christ is the most important event in the history of the world.
3. Explain what the resurrection of Christ means to you in your own life.

Early in the morning on the first day of the week after Christ was crucified, several of the women came to the sepulcher where Christ was buried to put sweet smelling spices on the dead body. One of these women was the woman that had earlier anointed Christ with the very expensive ointment. They came very early in the morning. As they came, they talked about who would roll away the stone that covered the front of the sepulcher where Christ was buried. It was a very heavy stone and the women knew that it would be impossible for them to move it.

4. Read Mark 16:1-8 and write what had happened to the stone when they arrived.
5. Explain why these women were showing their love for Christ by coming to anoint His body with sweet smelling spices.

6. Explain why you think that the women were coming to anoint the body of Christ even though they had no idea how the stone would be rolled away.

The women realized that something was different when they came and saw the stone rolled away. When they entered the sepulcher where Christ had been buried, they saw a young man with a long white coat. Then they were filled with surprise. This young man had an important message for the women. He said that he knew that they had come to see the body of Christ. However, he told them that they would not find the body because Christ had risen from the dead. Instead there was only an empty place where the body of Christ had been laying.

7. Read Mark 16:1-8 and write what the young man told the women to do.

8. Explain why the women were to tell the disciples and especially Peter that Christ was risen from the dead.

9. Explain why you think that the women trembled and were amazed at what had happened at the tomb.

Because these women now knew about the resurrection of Christ, they were now given the responsibility to tell others about the resurrection of Christ. However, we read that they did not tell anyone because they were afraid. Today we have also been given the responsibility of telling others about the resurrection of Christ. This is the message that the world needs today because this is the message that gives life. People can only have eternal life when they put their trust in Christ, the One that was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. As a result, we need to pray that Christ will give us courage to share this message with boldness.

10. Read Mark 16:1-8 and explain why many Christians are afraid to speak about the resurrection on Christ.

11. Explain why it is important for Christians to pray that Christ will give them boldness to speak about the resurrection of Christ.

12. Explain why it is important to you to share the message of the death and resurrection with your relatives, friends and other acquaintances.

The women did not see Christ when they went to the grave. However, Christ did appear to several people during the day. The first person to whom Christ appeared was Mary Magdalene. That appearance is explained in detail in John 20. Christ had made a great change in Mary. When Christ first met Mary Magdalene, she had been demon possessed. In fact there were seven demons in Mary. Mary had been completely changed by meeting Christ because Christ cast the demons out of Mary. Mary Magdalene was one of the women that came to the sepulcher with spices early that morning.

13. Read Mark 6:9-13 and write what Mary did after she met Christ.

14. Explain how Christ had changed and transformed the life of Mary.

15. Explain why you think that Christ chose Mary Magdalene to be the first person to whom He appeared after His resurrection.

Those who had been with Christ were filled with sorrow. Since they all thought Christ was still dead, they were all crying even though Christ had risen from the dead and was now alive. For them it was a time of great sadness. First Christ had been killed. Now His body was not even in the grave. As a result, the disciples were filled with sorrow. They were like men that had

lost their only purpose in life. Then Mary came and told the disciples that Christ was alive. She told them that she had just seen Christ.

16. Read Mark 16:9-13 and write what the disciples thought when they heard that Christ was alive.

17. Explain why the disciples did not believe Mary when she told them that Christ had risen from the dead and that she had seen Him.

18. Explain why you think that the disciples were unwilling or unable to believe what Mary had told them.

Here we see one of the real problems of many Christians today. Even though a person may say that the entire Word of God is true, some Christians still act like they do not believe what God says in the Bible. Some say that it is impossible for this or that to happen. However, we know that nothing is impossible with God. We will see that Christ had to rebuke the disciples because they refused to believe. Christ also appeared to two other disciples that day. Luke gives us more details about what happened as these two walked along the road with Christ and then as He revealed Himself to them.

19. Read Mark 16:9-13 and write how the disciples responded when these two also told them that Christ was alive.

20. Explain why a Christian can limit the work of God in his or her life by refusing to believe the promises of God

21. Explain why you think that Christ chose to show Himself to others before He showed Himself to the disciples.

The disciples had refused to believe when they heard about the resurrection of Christ. First Mary had told them and then two of the other followers told how they had seen Christ after Christ rose from the dead. The disciples would not listen. Then Christ appeared to the disciples. He spoke to them about their hardhearted hearts and their failure to believe in His resurrection. Today we also often live as though Christ has not been raised from the dead. When we really believe in the resurrection of Christ, we will be telling others about that resurrection so that they can also believe in Him and receive eternal life.

22. Read Mark 16:14-16 and write what Christ told the disciples to go and do.

23. Explain why the disciples show us that unbelief in the resurrection of Christ is a common problem.

24. Explain what these verses teach you about the fact that it is also possible for you and me to become hardhearted.

The Gospel is the message that we have been given. It is the good news that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. It is the good news that the Father raised Christ from the dead to show that He was satisfied with the payment that Christ made for our sins. It is a message that offers life to all those who accept it by asking Christ to forgive their sins and take control of their lives. Here we see that we are given the privilege and responsibility to take this message to others. Many will never hear about the resurrection of Christ if we do not tell them. We are not to be satisfied until every person on the earth has heard about the resurrection of Christ. Today there are more people alive that have never heard about the resurrection of Christ than at any time in history. This gives us a great responsibility.

25. Now read Mark 16:14-16 and write what a person must do to be saved.
26. Explain what these verses teach about the responsibility of all Christians.
27. Tell how you would explain the Gospel to a person that is not a Christian.

In order for a person to become a Christian, that person must believe that Christ died to pay the penalty for his or her sins. That person must also believe that Christ rose again. That person must put that belief into action by repenting of sin and asking Christ to forgive him or her. At that moment Christ gives that person forgiveness of sins and eternal life. At that moment Christ also baptizes that person with the Holy Spirit by putting the Holy Spirit in that person. We are also warned that those that fail to put their trust in the death and resurrection of Christ are damned and will spend all eternity separated from Christ in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

28. Read Mark 16:14-16 and write where Christ appeared to the eleven.
29. Explain what it means to be saved.
30. Explain what these verses teach about your personal responsibility to those that do not know about the death and resurrection of Christ.

In our introduction to this chapter we mentioned that Christ gave special signs to the apostles. We read about the disciples using part of these signs in Acts 2:4-11 and in Acts 5:12-16. Paul also used these signs in Acts 19:11-12. Then we read about Paul being bitten by a poisonous snake in Acts 28:3-6. According to II Corinthians 12:12 certain signs were given to the apostles. These special signs were given to the apostles for a reason. It is very important for us to understand why the apostles were given these special signs.

31. Read Mark 16:17-20 and write the number of signs that the apostles were given in these verses.
32. Explain why it was important for the apostles to be given special signs to verify their message about the resurrection of Christ.
33. Tell how you would explain why these special signs were given to the apostles.

The apostles were the living witnesses of the resurrection. They had seen Christ alive after He rose from the dead. Acts 1:21-22 says that it was necessary for one to be appointed to take the place of Judas to be a witness of the resurrection. Hebrews 2:3-4 says that God gave them these special signs to show that they were given to confirm what they said about the death and resurrection of Christ because they were eyewitnesses. Today we do not have apostles to be eyewitnesses of the resurrection because no one is alive that walked with Christ during the three and a half years that He ministered publicly on the earth and also saw Christ after He rose from the dead. The apostles completed their work of witnessing about the resurrection of Christ. We have their testimony in the Bible and so we do not need apostles today.

34. Read Mark 16:17-20 and write down the first sign that is mentioned.
35. Explain why it is important that the apostles were given as one of their primary responsibilities the responsibility to be witnesses of the resurrection.
36. Explain why you know that you can depend on the testimony of the apostles about the resurrection of Christ.

Since we do not have apostles today, God gives instructions for casting out demons in Mark

9:14-29. We are told to spend time in prayer and fasting and ask Christ to cast out the demons from the person. God also tells us the purpose of tongues in I Corinthians 14:21-22. Tongues were a sign to the unbelieving Jews to show that the Gospel is for all people. Acts 11:1-18 shows why this sign was necessary. The Christian Jews did not believe that the Gospel was for the Gentiles. In Acts 11 the Jews finally gave glory to God when they realized that the Gospel is for all people. The only times that tongues are mentioned in the book of Acts is when the Gospel went to a new group of people: Jews – Acts 2; possibly when the Gospel went to the Samaritans in Acts 8; Gentiles – Acts 10; and Old Testament saints - Acts 19. Since those four groups include all people, tongues are no longer needed as a sign today.

37. Read Mark 16:17-20 and write what Christ did after He spoke these words to the apostles.

38. Explain why it is important to understand that there were apostles present each time the Gospel went to a new group of people and people spoke in tongues.

39. Explain why you think God gave the apostles these special signs.

Special instructions are also given for healing since we no longer have apostles today. In James 5:13-16 we are to call for the elders of the church to come and pray for the sick person and that God will heal. Today we have two groups that are failing to follow the instructions given in James 5:13-16. One group is a group where one person is the only person that prays. That person acts as though he has been given a special gift of healing which makes him better than others. Many times this leads to pride. The second group forgets about the verses in James and the elders in a church never go to the homes of the sick to pray for them. James 5:13-16 tells us that God will heal the sick as the elders of the church pray for the sick person and anoint the person with oil.

40. Read Mark 16:17-20 and write what the apostles did after Christ returned to heaven.

41. Explain why God will be glorified by the healing of a person when a group of elders pray so that no one can claim the credit for healing the person.

42. Explain why you think that many Christians have become confused about the purpose why God heals.

Now reread Mark 16:1-20 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from this chapter.