

LESSON 1 – MARK 1:1-13

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way;

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.’”

4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6 And John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

7 And he was preaching, and saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals.

8 “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him;

11 and a voice came out of the heavens: “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.”

12 And immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness.

13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.

LESSON 2 – MARK 1:14-45

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

1:14 And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,

15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

16 And as He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.

17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

18 And they immediately left the nets and followed Him.

19 And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.

20 And immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

21 And they went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach.

22 And they were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

23 And just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

24 saying, “What do we have to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!”

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”

26 And throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice, and came out of him.

27 And they were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

28 And immediately the news about Him went out everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

29 And immediately after they had come out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Him about her.

31 And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.

32 And when evening had come, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed.

33 And the whole city had gathered at the door.

34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

35 And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there.

36 And Simon and his companions hunted for Him;

37 and they found Him, and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

38 And He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, in order that I may preach there also; for that is what I came out for."

1. How does Jesus' statement of purpose in v. 38 fit with Mark's depiction of Him throughout this gospel?

39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

40 And a leper came to Him, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

41 And moved with compassion, He stretched out His hand, and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."

42 And immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

43 And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away,

44 and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them."

LESSON 3 – MARK 2:1-17

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

2:1 And when He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home.

2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them.

3 And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men.

4 And being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying.

5 And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.”

6 But there were some of the scribes sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,

7 “Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?”

8 And immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, “Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?”

9 “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’; or to say, ‘Arise, and take up your pallet and walk’?”

10 “But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — He said to the paralytic —

11 “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.”

12 And he rose and immediately took up the pallet and went out in the sight of all; so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”

13 And He went out again by the seashore; and all the multitude were coming to Him, and He was teaching them.

14 And as He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, “Follow Me!” And he rose and followed Him.

LESSON 4 – MARK 2:18-3:12

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

2:18 And John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they came and said to Him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?"

19 And Jesus said to them, "While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom do not fast, do they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

20 "But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

21 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; otherwise the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear results.

22 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and the skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

1. How do you explain Jesus' illustration in vv. 21-22?

23 And it came about that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of grain.

24 And the Pharisees were saying to Him, "See here, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

25 And He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and became hungry, he and his companions:

26 how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he gave it also to those who were with him?"

27 And He was saying to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

28 “Consequently, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

3:1 And He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there with a withered hand.

2 And they were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, in order that they might accuse Him.

3 And He said to the man with the withered hand, “Rise and come forward!”

4 And He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?” But they kept silent.

5 And after looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

6 And the Pharisees went out and immediately began taking counsel with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

7 And Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and also from Judea,

8 and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude heard of all that He was doing and came to Him.

9 And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the multitude, in order that they might not crowd Him;

10 for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed about Him in order to touch Him.

11 And whenever the unclean spirits beheld Him, they would fall down before Him and cry out, saying, “You are the Son of God!”

12 And He earnestly warned them not to make Him known.

2. What do you find interesting or important in this passage?

LESSON 5 – MARK 3:13-35

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

3:13 And He went up to the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him.

14 And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach,

15 and to have authority to cast out the demons.

16 And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter),

17 and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, “Sons of Thunder”);

18 and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot;

19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

20 And He came home, and the multitude gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal.

21 And when His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.”

22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”

23 And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan?

24 “And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

25 “And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

26 “And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished!

27 “But no one can enter the strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

28 “Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter;

LESSON 6 – MARK 4:1-34

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

4:1 And He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very great multitude gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,

3 “Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow;

4 and it came about that as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.

5 “And other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil.

6 “And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 “And other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

8 “And other seeds fell into the good soil and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

9 And He was saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

10 And as soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables.

11 And He was saying to them, “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God; but those who are outside get everything in parables,

12 in order that while seeing, they may see and not perceive; and while hearing, they may hear and not understand lest they return and be forgiven.”

1. What are some of your observations from the parable of the sower? What do you think Jesus was trying to teach His audience by telling them this parable?

2. Why were some people given the mystery of the kingdom of God while others were not?

13 And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? And how will you understand all the parables?”

14 “The sower sows the word.

15 “And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

16 “And in a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;

17 and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

18 “And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

19 and the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

20 “And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

3. What do you find interesting or important in Jesus’ explanation of the parable of the sower?

21 And He was saying to them, “A lamp is not brought to be put under a peck-measure, is it, or under a bed? Is it not brought to be put on the lampstand?”

22 “For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it should come to light.

23 “If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.”

24 And He was saying to them, “Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it shall be measured to you; and more shall be given you besides.

25 “For whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”

26 And He was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;

27 and goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts up and grows — how, he himself does not know.

28 “The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.

29 “But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

30 And He said, “How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it?

31 “It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil,

32 yet when it is sown, grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade.”

33 And with many such parables He was speaking the word to them as they were able to hear it;

34 and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

4. What are some of your observations from the parables in vv. 21-34? Do you see any connection between these parables and the parable of the sower?

LESSON 7 – MARK 4:35-5:20

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

4:35 And on that day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.”

36 And leaving the multitude, they took Him along with them, just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with Him.

37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

38 And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

39 And being aroused, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

40 And He said to them, “Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?”

41 And they became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

5:1 And they came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes.

2 And when He had come out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him,

3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain;

4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him.

5 And constantly night and day, among the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out and gashing himself with stones.

6 And seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him;

7 and crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What do I have to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!”

8 For He had been saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”

9 And He was asking him, “What is your name?” And he said to Him, “My name is Legion; for we are many.”

10 And he began to entreat Him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

11 Now there was a big herd of swine feeding there on the mountain.

12 And the demons entreated Him, saying, “Send us into the swine so that we may enter them.”

13 And He gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.

14 And their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened.

15 And they came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the “legion”; and they became frightened.

16 And those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the swine.

17 And they began to entreat Him to depart from their region.

18 And as He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was entreating Him that he might accompany Him.

19 And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.”

20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone marveled.

1. What are your observations from this passage?

2. Remember that as we read through the events of Jesus' public ministry, He was not only teaching and performing miracles, He was also training His disciples to continue the work after His departure. With this in mind, what lessons do you think Jesus was trying to teach His disciples through the events that unfold in this text?

3. Explain the reaction of the people in v. 17.

4. Why do you think some people were allowed (or even invited) to follow Jesus, while the man who had been demon-possessed was not, even though he "was entreating Him that he might accompany Him"?

LESSON 8 – MARK 5:21-43

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

5:21 And when Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered about Him; and He stayed by the seashore.

22 And one of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and upon seeing Him, fell at His feet,

23 and entreated Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, that she may get well and live.”

24 And He went off with him; and a great multitude was following Him and pressing in on Him.

25 And a woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years,

26 and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse,

27 after hearing about Jesus, came up in the crowd behind Him, and touched His cloak.

28 For she thought, “If I just touch His garments, I shall get well.”

29 And immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

30 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My garments?”

31 And His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude pressing in on You, and You say, Who touched Me?”

32 And He looked around to see the woman who had done this.

33 But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him the whole truth.

34 And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”

LESSON 9 – MARK 6:1-29

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

6:1 And He went out from there, and He came into His home town; and His disciples followed Him.

2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?”

3 “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.

4 And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his home town and among his own relatives and in his own household.”

5 And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them.

6 And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching.

1. How do you explain Jesus’ apparent inability to perform miracles in this place (v. 5)?

7 And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs; and He was giving them authority over the unclean spirits;

8 and He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belt;

9 but to wear sandals; and He added, “Do not put on two tunics.”

10 And He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town.

11 “And any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet for a testimony against them.”

12 And they went out and preached that men should repent.

13 And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.

14 And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, “John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him.”

15 But others were saying, “He is Elijah.” And others were saying, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”

16 But when Herod heard of it, he kept saying, “John, whom I beheaded, has risen!”

17 For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her.

18 For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”

19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death and could not do so;

20 for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; but he used to enjoy listening to him.

21 And a strategic day came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his lords and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee;

22 and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you.”

23 And he swore to her, “Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you; up to half of my kingdom.”

24 And she went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.”

25 And immediately she came in haste before the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me right away the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

26 And although the king was very sorry, yet because of his oaths and because of his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her.

27 And immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded him to bring back his head. And he went and had him beheaded in the prison,

LESSON 10 – MARK 6:30-56

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6:30 And the apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught.

31 And He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest a while.” (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.)

32 And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves.

33 And the people saw them going, and many recognized them, and they ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them.

34 And when He went ashore, He saw a great multitude, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.

35 And when it was already quite late, His disciples came up to Him and began saying, “The place is desolate and it is already quite late;

36 send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

37 But He answered and said to them, “You give them something to eat!” And they said to Him, “Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat?”

38 And He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go look!” And when they found out, they said, “Five and two fish.”

39 And He commanded them all to recline by groups on the green grass.

40 And they reclined in companies of hundreds and of fifties.

41 And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all.

42 And they all ate and were satisfied.

43 And they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish.

44 And there were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

45 And immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the multitude away.

46 And after bidding them farewell, He departed to the mountain to pray.

1. Can you think of any explanation for Jesus' behavior in vv. 45-46? As you answer, consider the parallel account of this event in John 6:14-15.

47 And when it was evening, the boat was in the midst of the sea, and He was alone on the land.

48 And seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.

49 But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out;

50 for they all saw Him and were frightened. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid."

51 And He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were greatly astonished,

52 for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

53 And when they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore.

54 And when they had come out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him,

55 and ran about that whole country and began to carry about on their pallets those who were sick, to the place they heard He was.

56 And wherever He entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the market places, and entreating Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were being cured.

LESSON 11 – MARK 7:1-23

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

7:1 And the Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered together around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, 2 and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed.

3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders;

4 and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.)

5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?”

6 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.

7 ‘But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’

8 “Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

9 He was also saying to them, “You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

10 “For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death’;

11 but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, given to God),’

12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother;

13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

LESSON 12 – MARK 7:24-8:10

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

7:24 And from there He arose and went away to the region of Tyre. And when He had entered a house, He wanted no one to know of it; yet He could not escape notice.

25 But after hearing of Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit, immediately came and fell at His feet.

26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of the Syrophenician race. And she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

27 And He was saying to her, “Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”

28 But she answered and said to Him, “Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table feed on the children’s crumbs.”

29 And He said to her, “Because of this answer go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter.”

30 And going back to her home, she found the child lying on the bed, the demon having departed.

1. Explain Jesus’ statement in v. 27 and the woman’s response in v. 28. How did this response demonstrate her faith?

31 And again He went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis.

32 And they brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they entreated Him to lay His hand upon him.

33 And He took him aside from the multitude by himself, and put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva;

34 and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, “Ephphatha!” that is, “Be opened!”

35 And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly.

36 And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it.

37 And they were utterly astonished, saying, “He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.”

8:1 In those days again, when there was a great multitude and they had nothing to eat, He called His disciples and said to them,

2 “I feel compassion for the multitude because they have remained with Me now three days, and have nothing to eat; 3 and if I send them away hungry to their home, they will faint on the way; and some of them have come from a distance.”

4 And His disciples answered Him, “Where will anyone be able to find enough to satisfy these men with bread here in a desolate place?”

5 And He was asking them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said, “Seven.”

6 And He directed the multitude to sit down on the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and started giving them to His disciples to serve to them, and they served them to the multitude.

7 They also had a few small fish; and after He had blessed them, He ordered these to be served as well.

8 And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven large baskets full of what was left over of the broken pieces.

9 And about four thousand were there; and He sent them away.

10 And immediately He entered the boat with His disciples, and came to the district of Dalmanutha.

2. What do you find interesting or important in this text?

LESSON 13 – MARK 8:11-9:1

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

8:11 And the Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him.

12 And sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, “Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.”

1. Why does Jesus refuse to give the Pharisees a sign?

13 And leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side.

14 And they had forgotten to take bread; and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them.

15 And He was giving orders to them, saying, “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”

16 And they began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread.

17 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart?”

18 “Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember,

19 when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.”

20 “And when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?” And they said to Him, “Seven.”

21 And He was saying to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

2. What exactly were the disciples failing to understand? Are there ways we can make similar mistakes today?

22 And they came to Bethsaida. And they brought a blind man to Him, and entreated Him to touch him.

23 And taking the blind man by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes, and laying His hands upon him, He asked him, “Do you see anything?”

24 And he looked up and said, “I see men, for I am seeing them like trees, walking about.”

25 Then again He laid His hands upon his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.

26 And He sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

3. Consider all the times Jesus has healed people in the book of Mark. Do you think there is a reason behind the different methods He uses? Do you think there is anything significant about the way Jesus heals this blind man?

27 And Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, “Who do people say that I am?”

28 And they told Him, saying, “John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; but others, one of the prophets.”

29 And He continued by questioning them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “Thou art the Christ.”

30 And He warned them to tell no one about Him.

8:31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

LESSON 14 – MARK 9:2-29

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

9:2 And six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them;

3 and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

4 And Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.

5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

6 For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified.

7 Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!”

8 And all at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.

9 And as they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man should rise from the dead.

10 And they seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead might mean.

11 And they asked Him, saying, “Why is it that the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

12 And He said to them, “Elijah does first come and restore all things. And yet how is it written of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?”

13 “But I say to you, that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him.”

1. To whom is Jesus referring in v. 13? As you answer, consider Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 1:8-17, and Matthew 11:11-15.

14 And when they came back to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them.

15 And immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed, and began running up to greet Him.

16 And He asked them, “What are you discussing with them?”

17 And one of the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute;

18 and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth, and stiffens out. And I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it.”

19 And He answered them and said, “O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!”

20 And they brought the boy to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling about and foaming at the mouth.

21 And He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.

22 “And it has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!”

23 And Jesus said to him, “‘If You can!’ All things are possible to him who believes.”

24 Immediately the boy’s father cried out and began saying, “I do believe; help my unbelief.”

25 And when Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.”

26 And after crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, “He is dead!”

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples began questioning Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

29 And He said to them, “This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.”

LESSON 15 – MARK 9:30-50

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

9:30 And from there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He was unwilling for anyone to know about it.

31 For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, “The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.”

32 But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.

33 And they came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, “What were you discussing on the way?”

34 But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest.

1. In the context of chapter 9, can you think of any reasons why the subject of greatness might have been a topic of discussion for the apostles? How does Jesus’ answer in v. 35 fit with the theme of Mark’s gospel?

35 And sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all.”

36 And taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them,

37 “Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.”

38 John said to Him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to hinder him because he was not following us.”

39 But Jesus said, “Do not hinder him, for there is no one who shall perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me.

40 “For he who is not against us is for us.

LESSON 16 – MARK 10:1-31

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

10:1 And rising up, He went from there to the region of Judea, and beyond the Jordan; and crowds gathered around Him again, and, according to His custom, He once more began to teach them.

2 And some Pharisees came up to Him, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.

3 And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?”

4 And they said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.”

5 But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.

6 “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.

7 “For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother,

8 and the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh.

9 “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

10 And in the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again.

11 And He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her;

12 and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.”

13 And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them.

14 But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

15 “Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.”

16 And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them.

17 And as He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and began asking Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

19 “You know the commandments, ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’”

20 And he said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.”

21 And looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

22 But at these words his face fell, and he went away grieved, for he was one who owned much property.

23 And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, “How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

25 “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 And they were even more astonished and said to Him, “Then who can be saved?”

27 Looking upon them, Jesus said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.”

28 Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You.”

29 Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake,

30 but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

31 “But many who are first, will be last; and the last, first.”

1. Write down all the things you find interesting or important in this text.

LESSON 17 – MARK 10:32-52

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

10:32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him,

33 saying, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and will deliver Him to the Gentiles.

34 “And they will mock Him and spit upon Him, and scourge Him, and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again.”

35 And James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Him, saying to Him, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You.”

36 And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

37 And they said to Him, “Grant that we may sit in Your glory, one on Your right, and one on Your left.”

38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

39 And they said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.

40 “But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

41 And hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John.

42 And calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.

43 “But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant;

3. How does v. 45 summarize the entire gospel of Mark?

4. What is significant to you about the healing of Bartimaeus?

LESSON 18 – MARK 11:1-26

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

11:1 And as they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples,

2 and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here.

3 “And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he will send it back here.”

4 And they went away and found a colt tied at the door outside in the street; and they untied it.

5 And some of the bystanders were saying to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?”

6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had told them, and they gave them permission.

7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and put their garments on it; and He sat upon it.

8 And many spread their garments in the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.

9 And those who went before, and those who followed after, were crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;

10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!”

11 And He entered Jerusalem and came into the temple; and after looking all around, He departed for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late.

12 And on the next day, when they had departed from Bethany, He became hungry.

13 And seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

14 And He answered and said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” And His disciples were listening.

15 And they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves;

16 and He would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple.

17 And He began to teach and say to them, “Is it not written, My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a robbers’ den.”

18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for all the multitude was astonished at His teaching.

19 And whenever evening came, they would go out of the city.

20 And as they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up.

21 And being reminded, Peter said to Him, “Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed has withered.”

22 And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God.

23 “Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him.

24 “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.

25 “And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions.

26 [“But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.”]

1. What do you find interesting or important from this text?

2. Why do you think Jesus cursed the fig tree for not bearing fruit, even though “it was not the season for figs” (v. 13)? Do you see any symbolism in this?

LESSON 19 – MARK 11:27-12:17

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

11:27 And they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, and scribes, and elders came to Him,

28 and began saying to Him, “By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?”

29 And Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question, and you answer Me, and then I will tell you by what authority I do these things.

30 “Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me.”

31 And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’

32 “But shall we say, ‘From men?’” — they were afraid of the multitude, for all considered John to have been a prophet indeed.

33 And answering Jesus, they said, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

12:1 And He began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard, and put a wall around it, and dug a vat under the wine press, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey.

2 “And at the harvest time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive some of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers.

3 “And they took him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed.

4 “And again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully.

5 “And he sent another, and that one they killed; and so with many others, beating some, and killing others.

6 “He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’”

7 “But those vine-growers said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!’

8 “And they took him, and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

9 “What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers, and will give the vineyard to others.

10 “Have you not even read this Scripture: ‘The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner stone;

11 This came about from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes?’”

12 And they were seeking to seize Him; and yet they feared the multitude; for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And so they left Him, and went away.

13 And they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him, in order to trap Him in a statement.

14 And they came and said to Him, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?

15 “Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?” But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, “Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at.”

16 And they brought one. And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” And they said to Him, “Caesars.”

17 And Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesars, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed at Him.

1. Write down your observations from this text.

2. What stands out to you about Jesus’ teaching method on this occasion?

3. What lessons do you learn from the parable of the vineyard owner?

LESSON 20 – MARK 12:18-44

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

12:18 And some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to Him, and began questioning Him, saying

19 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, and leaves behind a wife, and leaves no child, his brother should take the wife, and raise up offspring to his brother.

20 “There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife, and died, leaving no offspring.

21 “And the second one took her, and died, leaving behind no offspring; and the third likewise;

22 and so all seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also.

23 “In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one’s wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife.”

24 Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures, or the power of God?

25 “For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

26 “But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

27 “He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken.”

28 And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?”

29 Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;

30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

31 “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

32 And the scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher, You have truly stated that He is One; and there is no one else besides Him;

33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

34 And when Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

35 And Jesus answering began to say, as He taught in the temple, “How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?

36 “David himself said in the Holy Spirit, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet.”’

37 “David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; and so in what sense is He his son?” And the great crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

38 And in His teaching He was saying: “Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places,

39 and chief seats in the synagogues, and places of honor at banquets,

40 who devour widows’ houses, and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.”

41 And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the multitude were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums.

42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent.

43 And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;

44 for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”

1. What do you find interesting or important in this text?

2. What do you think Jesus means in v. 24 when He tells the Sadducees, “you do not understand the Scriptures, or the power of God?”

3. Do you see any benefit to the fact that Mark records Jesus’ interaction with His opponents?

4. What lessons do you learn from the Sadducees in this text? From the poor widow?

LESSON 21 – 13:1-37

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

13:1 And as He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”

2 And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,

4 “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

5 And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.

6 “Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He!’ and will mislead many.

7 “And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end.

8 “For nation will arise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

9 “But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.

10 “And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

11 “And when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.

12 “And brother will deliver brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

13 “And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.

14 “But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

15 “And let him who is on the housetop not go down, or enter in, to get anything out of his house;

16 and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak.

17 “But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days!

18 “But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

19 “For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created, until now, and never shall.

20 “And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days.

21 “And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him;

22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray.

23 “But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

26 “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

27 “And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth, to the farthest end of heaven.

28 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 “Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

30 “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

31 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

32 “But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

33 “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is.

34 “It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.

35 “Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning —

36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

37 “And what I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”

1. What do you find interesting or important in this chapter?
2. What event(s) do you believe Jesus is talking about in chapter 13? What evidence do you see in the text that supports this?
3. Compare v. 14 with the parallel statement in Luke 21:20. According to Luke’s account, what is the “abomination of desolation” referring to? What does this mean?
4. What practical lessons do you learn from Jesus’ words in chapter 13?

LESSON 22 – MARK 14:1-31

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

14:1 Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread was two days off; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth, and kill Him;
2 for they were saying, “Not during the festival, lest there be a riot of the people.”

1. Explain why the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were important to the Jews. Do you see any significance to the fact that the final week of Jesus’ life takes place during these holidays?

3 And while He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head.

4 But some were indignantly remarking to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted?”

5 “For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they were scolding her.

6 But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me.

7 “For the poor you always have with you, and whenever you wish, you can do them good; but you do not always have Me.

8 “She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial.

9 “And truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, that also which this woman has done shall be spoken of in memory of her.”

2. What details stand out to you from this account of Jesus' anointing (also compare the accounts of this event in Matthew 26 and John 12)? What important lessons do you learn from this?

10 And Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests, in order to betray Him to them.

11 And they were glad when they heard this, and promised to give him money. And he began seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.

12 And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

13 And He sent two of His disciples, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him;

14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'

15 "And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; and prepare for us there."

16 And the disciples went out, and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

17 And when it was evening He came with the twelve.

18 And as they were reclining at the table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me — one who is eating with Me."

19 They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, "Surely not I?"

20 And He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl.

21 "For the Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

22 And while they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it; and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is My body."

23 And when He had taken a cup, and given thanks, He gave it to them; and they all drank from it.

24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

25 “Truly I say to you, I shall never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

26 And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

27 And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, because it is written, ‘I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.’

28 “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”

29 But Peter said to Him, “Even though all may fall away, yet I will not.”

30 And Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, that you yourself this very night, before a cock crows twice, shall three times deny Me.”

31 But Peter kept saying insistently, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all were saying the same thing, too.

3. What are your observations from vv. 10-31?

4. Explain what you think v. 25 means.

LESSON 23 – MARK 14:32-72

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

32 And they came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, “Sit here until I have prayed.”

33 And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled.

34 And He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.”

35 And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground, and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by.

36 And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for Thee; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt.”

1. What are your thoughts on the meaning of the “cup” which Jesus asks to have removed?

37 And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?”

38 “Keep watching and praying, that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

39 And again He went away and prayed, saying the same words.

40 And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

41 And He came the third time, and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 “Arise, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”

43 And immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

44 Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him, and lead Him away under guard.”

45 And after coming, he immediately went to Him, saying, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

46 And they laid hands on Him, and seized Him.

47 But a certain one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

48 And Jesus answered and said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as against a robber?”

49 “Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.”

50 And they all left Him and fled.

51 And a certain young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him.

52 But he left the linen sheet behind, and escaped naked.

53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes gathered together.

54 And Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers, and warming himself at the fire.

55 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death; and they were not finding any.

56 For many were giving false testimony against Him, and yet their testimony was not consistent.

57 And some stood up and began to give false testimony against Him, saying,

58 “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’”

59 And not even in this respect was their testimony consistent.

60 And the high priest stood up and came forward and questioned Jesus, saying, “Do You make no answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?”

61 But He kept silent, and made no answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

62 And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

63 And tearing his clothes, the high priest said, “What further need do we have of witnesses?”

64 “You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?” And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.

65 And some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, “Prophecy!” And the officers received Him with slaps in the face.

2. In what ways was Jesus’ trial illegal? Why is it important that Mark records the unfairness of the trial?

66 And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came,

67 and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him, and said, “You, too, were with Jesus the Nazarene.”

68 But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you are talking about.” And he went out onto the porch.

69 And the maid saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, “This is one of them!”

70 But again he was denying it. And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean too.”

71 But he began to curse and swear, “I do not know this man you are talking about!”

72 And immediately a cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, “Before a cock crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And he began to weep.

3. What do you find interesting or important in vv. 32-72?

LESSON 24 – MARK 15:1-41

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

15:1 And early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes, and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate.

2 And Pilate questioned Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And answering He said to him, “It is as you say.”

3 And the chief priests began to accuse Him harshly.

4 And Pilate was questioning Him again, saying, “Do You make no answer? See how many charges they bring against You!”

5 But Jesus made no further answer; so that Pilate was amazed.

6 Now at the feast he used to release for them any one prisoner whom they requested.

7 And the man named Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection.

8 And the multitude went up and began asking him to do as he had been accustomed to do for them.

9 And Pilate answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

10 For he was aware that the chief priests had delivered Him up because of envy.

11 But the chief priests stirred up the multitude to ask him to release Barabbas for them instead.

12 And answering again, Pilate was saying to them, “Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?”

13 And they shouted back, “Crucify Him!”

14 But Pilate was saying to them, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify Him!”

15 And wishing to satisfy the multitude, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.

16 And the soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and they called together the whole Roman cohort.

17 And they dressed Him up in purple, and after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on Him;

18 and they began to acclaim Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

19 And they kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting at Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him.

20 And after they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, and put His garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him.

21 And they pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross.

22 And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.

23 And they tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it.

24 And they crucified Him, and divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

25 And it was the third hour when they crucified Him.

26 And the inscription of the charge against Him read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS."

27 And they crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left.

28 [And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."]

29 And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,

30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"

31 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking Him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself.

32 "Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!" And those who were crucified with Him were casting the same insult at Him.

33 And when the sixth hour had come, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

LESSON 25 – MARK 15:42-16:20

Directions for the textual worksheet: As you study the text, mark the things you find interesting and important. Write down your observations. Spend as much time as you can reading and re-reading the text, noticing as much detail as possible. Try to discover things in each text you have never seen before. Be prepared to share your findings in class. After studying the worksheet, answer the questions that follow.

15:42 And when evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,

43 Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

44 And Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead.

45 And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

46 And Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus were looking on to see where He was laid.

16:1 And when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

2 And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

3 And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”

4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.

6 And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him.

7 “But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He said to you.’”

8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

9 [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.

10 She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.

11 And when they heard that He was alive, and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

12 And after that, He appeared in a different form to two of them, while they were walking along on their way to the country.

13 And they went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

14 And afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

16 “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

17 “And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.]

1. What details do you find interesting or important in this text?

2. Do some research to find information about the different theories that are used to explain Jesus' resurrection in a non-miraculous way (i.e., theories used to argue that a literal resurrection never took place). Do you see any evidence in the gospel of Mark (or in the other gospels) that refutes some of these theories?

3. How does the end of Mark's account tie in with some of the other themes we have seen throughout the book?

4. What are your impressions of the gospel of Mark as a whole? How has this study helped you?