

**Episode:** Three Gospels Series No. 02

**Narrator:** Mark

**Primary Scriptures:** Mark 6-10

**Story Summary:** Passages selected from the Gospel of Mark

**Location:** Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Mark 6:6, 11, 52; 7:8; 8:29, 33, 34, 36; 9:7, 23, 29, 35; 10:15, 43

Virtually the entire book of *Mark* is found in the Gospels of *Matthew* and *Luke*. Only 3% of *Mark* is exclusive material; 76% of *Mark* is found in both *Matthew* and *Luke*; 18% of *Mark* is found in *Matthew*; and, 3% in *Luke*. This episode does not repeat very much of the material presented in the Eyewitness Luke Series.

Unlike *Matthew* and *Luke*, *Mark* does not address the birth or genealogy of Jesus, and many of the events found in *Mark* are told in less detail than in the other Gospels. Unlike the author of *Matthew*, the author of *Mark* does not quote the Old Testament extensively.

*Mark* is by far the shortest of the Gospels; many scholars believe it was the first Gospel written and that much of the author's material came directly from Peter. This episode presumes John Mark is the author of *Mark*.

This episode gives a summary of the life of Jesus, but it also alludes to something that is almost impossible for a typical reader of the Bible to see. As pointed out in the video, Mark and Luke did not accompany Jesus during his ministry, so their accounts read much more like a collection of stories placed in roughly chronological order. Matthew accompanied Jesus, but he was not trying to write a travelogue. Modern readers can easily get the impression that Jesus wandered around the countryside, delivering random sermons and performing miracles for people he happened to encounter.

Much more likely, Jesus had very specific plans about his travel schedule. Especially at the end of his ministry, it appears he traveled to specific places to get away from Herod Antipas and gain more private time with his apostles without having to provide for their safety. As his end approached, he traveled with clear purpose to Jerusalem, although he did not always go in a direct path.

Mark 7:31-35 is the story of a deaf man being healed, and Mark 8:22-26 is the story of a blind man being healed at Bethsaida. Mark is the only one who records these two miracles. It seems that both of these were done in private, and both required a significant effort from Jesus. The healing of the blind man is the only recorded healing done in two stages. Perhaps the apostles needed to learn that not every healing would be instantaneous.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are two miracles that only Mark recorded?
2. Mark 6:1-6 tells the story of Jesus returning to his hometown of Nazareth. Why were the people offended by him? Why couldn't Jesus do many miracles at that event? Do you ever get offended by people with whom you are familiar?
3. Mark tells the story of Herod Antipas beheading John the Baptist. In what ways would that execution affect Herod's thoughts about Jesus?
4. Peter declared Jesus to be Messiah at Caesarea Philippi. What is the difference between Caesarea and Caesarea Philippi?

1. The healing of a deaf man, and the healing of a blind man at Bethsaida. 2. They were offended by him because he was acting far above what they thought a hometown boy should be capable of. 3. He would fear that Jesus was John come back from the dead. He would keep a close watch on Jesus. 4. Caesarea, also known as Caesarea Maritima, was a port city on the Mediterranean Coast. Caesarea Philippi was a small city near Mount Hermon in far north Israel. It had been a center for pagan worship.

### Application Questions:

1. Mark 6:7-11 tells of Jesus sending out the apostles in pairs. Why do you think Jesus sent them in pairs instead of as singles? Does that give any wisdom for how missionaries should be sent?
2. The Greek woman in Tyre humbled herself when begging Jesus to heal her daughter. Would you be more willing to humble yourself to heal one of your children or to heal yourself? Why?
3. What was the importance of Peter's declaration in Mark 8:29? Are you willing to make that same declaration in the way you live?
4. Read Mark 9:23. Do you believe those words of Jesus apply to you?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. The healing of the blind man at Bethsaida was not instantaneous. Are you willing to be patient for healings in your life and in the lives of others? Why might God not want people to be healed instantly?
2. What does it mean to have a hard heart? What is the antidote for a hard heart?
3. Read Mark 8:36. What do you value too highly? How can you change your value system? If you changed your values, would some of your behavior change? Can you ever be happy if your value system is messed up?