

THE GOSPEL OF MARK – LESSON 7

WATCH THE VIDEO

Login to rightnowmedia.org and search “Francis Chan Gospel of Mark”.

For this week’s lesson, watch Video # 7 (15 min).

* If you do not have a rightnowmedia account, contact Barbara Scorza at bscorza@fellowshipnorth.net

PAUSE & PRAY

Before diving in, pause and pray. Ask God to reveal himself to you through His Word.

READ & RESPOND

Read Mark 6:30 - 8:30

- What’s your immediate response to what you read?
- Write down any thoughts, questions, concerns, statements, and surprises that come to mind. You may want to write a summary that captures what you just read.

CONTEXT & KEY INSIGHTS

Here, we’ll provide helpful background information and key insights to consider in coming to the text. These are meant merely to supplement your time in the Word.

This week, we’ll take a moment to sit in the wilderness. This is a theme that permeates so much of Scripture. Perhaps you can even sit for a moment and think of stories throughout the Old Testament and New where the people of God find themselves isolated in the middle of nowhere, either of their own doing or someone else’s. The question isn’t whether or not wilderness moments and seasons will come, the question instead is what will we do with these wilderness experiences. How will they shape and define us for good?

The “wilderness” showed up early on in our reading of Mark. John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4). The Spirit sent Jesus into the wilderness as Christ was tempted by Satan for forty days (Mark 1:12-13). And after healing many who had diseases and driving out many demons, Jesus got up early in the morning and went off to a “solitary place” (the same word as “wilderness”), where he prayed (Mark 1:34-35).

Now in **Mark 6:30-32**, Jesus gathers the disciples to retreat alone with him to a “solitary place” as well. As you look at these wilderness spaces, consider what things take place in the wilderness that seemingly could not in more crowded, busier settings. What might be the point of highlighting these actions that only appear to occur on the fringes of society, and not at its center?

Read **Exodus 16:9-21**. This section picks up after God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt. The people started complaining pretty quickly, though, because they were out in the middle of the wilderness. Yet, even in their discontent, God provided in a supernatural way. In **Mark 6:30-44**, we see Jesus miraculously providing in a wilderness place as well. Think about what Mark might be wanting to tell us about Jesus in this.

As you read on in **Exodus 16:22-30**, you see God’s people fail to trust in God’s promised provision, even as he has faithfully given every time before. As you read through Mark this week, notice where others may be doing that very same thing as well. Even though Jesus bears fruit everywhere he goes, those around him continue to doubt his ability or willingness to provide.

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SEEK & STUDY

Our sermon series is titled, **Who Do You Say I Am?** As we look to the Scriptures, we'll keep that question front and center, helping frame all we're seeking in the Word.

1. In **Mark 6:30-44**, look at how Jesus is sharing in the caring. The disciples have just returned from carrying out the work of Christ: preaching the good news and casting out demons. Now he wants them to continue that good work in this miracle. But they balk at the idea. See **6:37**. What did the disciples miss out on by not following Christ's command in this? Have there been times in your own life where you might have missed out on an opportunity to serve God in a meaningful way because you were reluctant to believe God could use you?
2. Read **Mark 6:45-56**. The verb "to pass by" in verse 48 also occurs in two key passages in the Old Testament: **Exodus 33:19-34:7** and **1 Kings 19:11-12**. In the context of these Scriptures, it appears Mark has greater intentions in letting us know Jesus was passing by. What do you see happening here?
3. Read **Mark 7:1-20**. Why do you think Jesus has such hard words for the religious leaders? What are they missing? Think of the roles traditions have played in both your personal and church life. How have those traditions helped you honor and obey God? How have they hindered?
4. **Mark 6:30-7:37** mirrors **Mark 8:1-30** nearly identically. We see two miraculous feedings, two sea trips, two confrontations with Pharisees, two object lessons with food, two sets of healings, and two declarations of faith in Jesus. Chapter 8 seems to be an opportunity for the disciples to implement all they've just experienced from chapters 6 and 7. Do you see any difference in the disciples yet? When you've answered this, look at what Mark tells us in **Mark 6:52** and **8:21**.
5. In **Mark 8:22-26**, it takes two intentional actions on Jesus' part for the blind man to see clearly. With this double-down miracle in mind, look to **Mark 8:27-30**. Again, we see a two-fold interaction. What could connect these two stories?
6. Read **Mark 8:29**. Now flip back through all you've read in Mark up to this point. Take a moment to consider how he has revealed himself to you throughout the whole book. What are some aspects of Christ that have popped off the page in your reading of this gospel?

FIND & FOLLOW

Each week, we'll conclude with these two questions:

1. How did Jesus reveal more of himself to you this week?
2. From what you *found* in Christ, how will you *follow* Him now?