

THE GOSPEL OF MARK – LESSON 9

WATCH THE VIDEO

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

For this week’s lesson, watch Video # 9 (9 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 11:1 - 13:37

- 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.

- The Jews needed to convert Roman currency into something acceptable to pay the temple tax because Roman coins with images of Caesar were considered unclean. And instead of bringing doves from their homes, they bought doves in Jerusalem. Also, the temple was on the east side of Jerusalem, near the Mount of Olives. Because a bridge and gate into the city were nearby, merchants used the temple as a shortcut on their way to do business.
- In Mark 12 we read that the Pharisees and other religious leaders tested Jesus; thus trying to trap him so they could accuse Him, arrest Him and end his ministry. In Mark 1 we read where Satan tempted Jesus before He began His ministry. The Greek word translated for “tempt” and “test” is the same word. The motives of Satan and these religious leaders were essentially the same: to get rid of Jesus. Neither wanted to lose a grip on the people.
- The word “parable” comes from two Greek words meaning “to throw alongside”. Parables illustrate or explain something that is known and “throw alongside” a spiritual lesson.
- The phrase “day of the Lord” usually identifies events that take place at the end of history and is often closely associated with the phrase “that day” or “those days” or “at that time” (Mark 13:21, 24, 26). This phrase always identifies a span of time during which God personally intervenes in history, directly or indirectly, to accomplish some specific aspect of His plan. Most people associate the day of the Lord with a period of time or a special day that will occur when God’s will and purpose for His world and for mankind will be fulfilled. Some scholars believe that the day of the Lord will be a longer period of time than a single day—a period of time when Christ will reign throughout the world before He cleanses heaven and earth in preparation for the eternal state of all mankind. Other scholars believe the day of the Lord will be an instantaneous event when Christ returns to earth to redeem His faithful believers and send unbelievers to eternal damnation.

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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. Jesus Christ has arrived in Jerusalem. *Jesus* - the miracle-worker who has raised people from the dead and thrown down the religious leaders of the day... *Christ* - the Son of God - has arrived in this capital city of Israel. The crowds have no idea what Jesus is really there to do. Only the disciples heard Jesus' predictions of his death and even they were not fully comprehending the message. But, regardless, the gathered masses are excited because they think they're finally getting the king they've been awaiting for centuries.

Read **Mark 11:1 - 13:37** again. As you read this time, look for how Mark treats the issue of power. Who has it? Who thinks they have it? When is power good? When is it bad?

2. Think back over the first ten chapters of Mark. What kind of relationship did Jesus have with the leading officials of Israel? Look at these passages to help you remember: **Mark 3:1-6, 3:20-22, 7:1-13, 8:11-12, 10:2-9**
3. In **Mark 11** what do we see as God's intention for the temple? (Use **Isaiah 56:7** and **Jeremiah 7:11** to help). What is the issue that Jesus is addressing when he clears out the money changers and dove sellers? The religious leaders question Jesus about his authority to do these things. What does His response reveal?
4. In **Mark 12** Jesus speaks a parable. Who is he addressing? And what was their response to Jesus? Did they receive him or reject him? Read **Isaiah 5:1-2**. Who planted the vineyard? Who is the vineyard? The vine-growers? The slaves? And the son? What is the main point of this parable?
5. In **Mark 13** Jesus tells of the destruction of the temple and its implications. These predictions bring up two questions from the disciples. Jesus describes general world conditions during the period between His ascension and His Second Coming. What are some of these events? What are we supposed to be doing during this time? What relevance do these events have to today's events? What is the main emphasis in verse 32-27 of what we are to be doing?
6. Jesus' response to the two questions wasn't just about the temple's destruction but about persecution, war, betrayal and even death. He predicted that people will claim that the Messiah is already here or there. But will we know when He returns? After all, the Jews didn't recognize Him as Messiah when He came the first time; He looked like any other Jewish man. Why will it be different when He comes back? Read **Revelation 1:7** and any other Bible references you might know to help answer this question.

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?