

Recap of the series so far:

- Why are we going through the Gospel of Mark?
 - Who was Mark?
 - Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, as prophesied about in the Old Testament.
 - 4 Credentials
 - Jesus didn't just come to die on the cross and forgive us of our sins. He also came to make disciples who would continue to pass along His methods and ways of living in this life as a citizen of heaven.
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Mark 3:13-19 The Selection of The 12 (also Luke 6:12-16)

Peter, James, John, Andrew, Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas.

- Andrew, Peter James, and John were fishermen.
 - Simon was a zealot who was engaged in politics and interested in overthrowing the Roman government.
 - Judas probably stole stuff to make a living.
 - The Bible doesn't say much about Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Thaddaeus, or the other James.
 - At that time, the top priority for boys ages 13-15 was being chosen by a Rabbi to learn from and follow. These young men were passed up by all of the other Rabbis (we know because they're working, not following a Rabbi). **They were already labeled as unqualified.**
 - Jesus doesn't call the qualified or the worthy. He qualifies the called and gives them worth.
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Mark 2:13-17 The Calling of Matthew (also Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 5:27-32)

- His original name was Levi, but after his decision to follow Jesus, he is referred to as Matthew
 - Matthew means "gift of the Lord."
 - The really interesting thing about Matthew is that He was a tax collector. Matthew was unqualified *and* immoral.
 - A tax collector in that day was a thief and a traitor to his own people. Tax collectors worked for the Roman government (whom the Jews hated) by collecting taxes from the Jews, but in order to make money, they would collect above and beyond what the Roman government required and would pocket it.
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1) There is a cost in pursuing Jesus.

- It WILL require that you give something up.
 - Money, time, comfort, plans...
 - Jesus doesn't want to take something from you but to give you something better than what you already have.

Matthew writes in his Gospel this...

Matthew 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Romans 8:32 James 1:17 Mark 2:15-17

2) Don't wait to be "good enough" to pursue Jesus.

Here is what Jesus says the prerequisite is to pursuing after Him: admit you are broken. Accept Him as the answer for your life that you can never be.

- Don't fall into the trap of, "God, I'm not... I don't know... I can't..."
- Look at some of the great men of the faith—Abraham, Moses, David, Paul!

Romans 3:10-12 (ESV) ¹⁰as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Mark 2:23-28 Controversy over Working on The Sabbath (also Matthew 12:1-8, Luke 6:1-5)

- The Sabbath was meant to be a blessing, not a burden.
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Mark 3:1-5 Controversy over Healing on The Sabbath (also Matthew 12:9-13, Luke 6:6-10)

Mark 3:6-12 Pharisees Plan to Kill Jesus (also Matthew 12:14-16; Luke 6:11)

Mark 3:22-30 The Unpardonable Sin (also Matthew 12:24-32, Luke 11:17-23)

- If you’re worried that you’ve committed the unpardonable sin, you probably haven’t. It’s all about the heart.

The sin He was confronting was the Pharisees’ deliberate rejection of that which they knew to be God. They could not deny the reality of what the Holy Spirit had done through Him, so they attributed to Satan a work they knew was God. Someone never exposed to Christ’s divine power and presence might reject Him in ignorance and be forgiven—assuming the unbelief gives way to genuine repentance. Even a Pharisee such as Saul of Tarsus could be forgiven for speaking against Jesus or persecuting His followers—because his unbelief stemmed from ignorance. But those who know His claims are true and reject Him anyway sin “against the Holy Spirit”—because it is the Holy Spirit who testifies of Christ and makes His truth known to us. No forgiveness was possible for these Pharisees who witnessed His miracles first hand, knew the truth of His claims, and still blasphemed the Holy Spirit—because they had already rejected the fullest possible revelation.

-Commentary by John McArthur

Mark 3:31-35 Jesus Redefines Worldly Relationships (also Matthew 12:46-50; Luke 8:19-21)

3) When you pursue Jesus, you are given a new identity.

- Once Levi decided to follow Christ, Jesus called him Matthew, “gift of God.”
- Jesus doesn’t care what you have done or who you used to be.
- Jesus He changes who we are.
- He gives us a new identity: we are His brother or sister or mother. We are part of His family. (vs 31-35)
- Once we’ve given our lives to Christ, we have the ultimate rags to riches story.

Questions for your devotional time and conversations with others:

1. What from the sermon resonates with you?

a. How will it impact you this week?

As you read/listen to **Mark 4:1-5:43**, be thinking about:

2. What is Jesus saying and doing? How are people reacting to Him?
3. What is something new you see in Mark’s account of Jesus? What questions do you have about what you are reading/listening to?
4. What is this passage showing you personally? How will you respond?
5. With whom will you share something God is showing you?

The Book of Mark Reading Plan:

May 27-June 2: **Mark 4:1-5:43**

June 3-June 9: **Mark 6:1-52**

June 10-June 16: **Mark 6:53-7:23**