

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Mar..... Mark 01..... Calls
- 2) 10 Mar..... Mark 02..... Forgives
- 3) 17 Mar..... Mark 03-04..... Unites
- 4) 24 Mar..... Mark 05..... Restores
- 5) 31 Mar..... Mark 06..... Sends
- 6) 07 Apr..... Mark 07..... Includes
- 7) 14 Apr..... Mark 08-09..... Commands
- 8) 21 Apr..... Mark 15..... Saves
- 9) 28 Apr..... Mark 10..... Serves
- 10) 05 May..... Mark 11-12..... Purifies**
- 11) 12 May..... Mark 13..... Promises
- 12) 19 May..... Mark 14..... Prepares
- 13) 26 May..... Mark 15-16..... Lives

INTRODUCTION

- Mark addresses other teachings and testings of Jesus as He begins His final week on earth: 1) The power of prayer; 2) The sanctity of God's house; 3) Is there sex in Heaven; and 4) The widow's mite.

| Passage | Comments |
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| Mark 11:1-11 | <p>Jesus Enters Jerusalem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Matthew's account (Mat 21:1-11), Matthew highlighted that the donkey incident was in fulfillment of OT prophecy • BUT Mark just recounted the incident with no stated purpose, possibly to impress his readers with Jesus' ability to know the future, which is a prerogative of God and God alone ("...you will find a colt") Prov 16:4; Amos 3:7 • Any other reasons for Mark to recount the Triumphant Entry? |
| 11:12-14 11:20-26 | <p>The Power of Prayer – The Cursed Fig Tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key to getting God to move mountains for us is if it is first in His will to do so 1John 5:14 • The purpose of our praying is to align us with God's will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Even Jesus asked His Father to remove the Cross from Him – if it be His will, but God did not do so..... Mat 26:52 ♦ ...and Paul could not get his own thorn in the flesh removed, even after praying 3 times..... 2Cor 12:7-9 • So, if we know God's will for a particular situation, pray big, pray boldly, and pray expectantly • vv25-26. Another aspect of getting our prayers answered is to forgive those who have wronged us – BUT, this is not universal forgiveness. Jesus only forgave 1 thief on the cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If an offender honestly asks us for our forgiveness, then we are obligated to forgive them "70x7" Mat 18:22 ♦ If an offender seeks to do us more harm and/or does not want to reconcile, then we avoid them 1Tim 3:1-5 |
| 11:15-26 | <p>Jesus Drives Out Money Changers in the Temple</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could any of us have done what Jesus did? How should we challenge/correct horrendous behavior in churches today? • Here are a few other tough treatments by spiritual leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Phinehas drove a spear through a couple making love, stopping a plague that had killed 24,000..... Num 25:7-9 ♦ Nehemiah threw Tobiah's furniture out of the temple; and reprimanded the officials for neglecting God's house and for profaning the Sabbath..... Neh 13:8-18 ♦ Nehemiah also cursed, struck, and plucked the hair off of Jews who had married foreign women..... Neh 13:23-25 • Even God asked if there was anyone who's got the guts to shut the temple doors to prevent idol worship Mal 1:10 • Do you think God takes His House & commands seriously? |
| <p>Summary of Church Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church discipline does take guts. It also takes gentleness and a thorough understanding of scriptural principles. The intent is to first protect the sheep (the congregation) then to seek restoration of the offender(s). • Paul's authority to use tough measures to straighten out the Corinthians came directly from God (2Cor 13:10). Recall that Paul directed the Corinthians to force out of their fellowship an unrepentant immoral person, which they did 1Cor 5 • Since apostolic authority has ceased we only have biblical principles, not direct revelation or an Apostle, to guide our behavior in all areas of life | |

| Passage | Comments |
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| 11:27-33 | <p>Jesus' Authority Questioned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why didn't Jesus come right out and tell them that He got His authority directly from God? Didn't Jesus command us to give to anyone who asks of us? Luke 6:30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We have an overriding principle – Do not cast pearls before swine (those who would do us harm)..... Mat 7:6 |
| 12:1-12 | <p>Parable of the Vine-growers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. The wicked become senseless as they seek to kill the heir, falsely thinking they will inherit the land. How ludicrous of them. The wicked seldom think through the consequences of their actions ("consider your ways")..... Hag 1:5-7 • How do we consider whether or not our ways are righteous? |
| 12:13-25 | <p>Test Question #1 – Should We Pay Taxes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v17. What should we render to Caesar (govt) and to God? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Respect? <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience? <input type="checkbox"/> Taxes? <input type="checkbox"/> Tithe? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? |
| 12:18-27 | <p>Test Question #2 – Who's Wife Will She Be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection of the dead. That's why they were Sad-You-See (that never gets old) • Why do many misinterpret doctrines of the Bible? • Consider this. Catholics, Pentecostals, Baptists, Methodists, and numerous other denominations all have their unique teachings – and everyone believes their belief system is the right one. Our only recourse is to have a hunger & thirst for God's word, don't be afraid to debate, and don't be too proud to adjust your beliefs as needed, & always "let God be true, but every man a liar" Rom 3:4 |
| 12:28-34 | <p>Test Question #3 – Which Commandment is the Greatest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus weaved 2 separate commands into one (Love God with all your being [Deut 6:4,5] and love your neighbor as yourself [Lev 19:18]). It's a great thing Jesus answered this question the way He did, otherwise we would still be debating it and splitting over it. |
| 12:35-37 | <p>How is the Messiah the Son of David?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus posed a question, but He did not answer it. WHY? |
| 12:38-40 | <p>Beware of the Scribes Who Were Pious Legalists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a shame when religious leaders are in the ministry solely for the wealth it might bring to them. They should be "free from the love of money" 1Tim 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7; 1Pet 5:2 |
| 12:41-44 | <p>The Widow's Mite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This passage seems to show God is a God of percentages. Not even Bill Gates ever gave like this woman gave, 100%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This widow probably lived a destitute life till her death • This story destroys the Prosperity Gospel where giving \$\$\$ automatically guarantees health, wealth, and success. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Also consider the faithful but destitute widows depicted in 1Timothy 5 who prayed night and day for financial relief. • How strong is our faith when we have nothing? .. Hab 3:17-18 |

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Never be afraid to pray big things for God – but realize we must be aligned with God's will for mountains to be moved

NEXT WEEK: Mark 13. Watch out for deception; Watch out for the end times; Watch for Angels; and Watch for the Son

