

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Dec.....Mark 1.....How Can Jesus Help Me?
- 2) 13 Dec.....Mark 2:1-3:6..... What does Jesus' call mean for me?
- 3) 20 Dec.....Luke 2..... Why did Jesus come?
- 4) 27 Dec.....Mark 3:7-6:6a.....Is God still working in the world?
- 5) 3 Jan.....Mark 6:6b-56..... **How to be courageous**
- 6) 10 Jan.....Mark 7:1-8:33.....How to develop your faith
- 7) 17 Jan.....Mark 3:1-6; 5:21-43; 10:13-16..... How to be Pro-Life
- 8) 24 Jan.....Mark 8:34-10:31.....How to get along with others
- 9) 31 Jan.....Mark 10:32-52..... How to be successful
- 10) 7 Feb.....Mark 11-12..... When your priorities are challenged
- 11) 14 Feb.....Mark 13.....When you feel overwhelmed
- 12) 21 Feb.....Mark 14.....When you have difficult decisions
- 13) 28 Feb.....Mark 15-16.....When life is unfair

INTRODUCTION

- **Historical Note: Herod the Great** – who is best known for rebuilding the Temple and for slaughtering the children in Bethlehem in order to try and kill the Messiah, had 3 sons (Aristobulus IV, Philip and Antipas)
 - ♦ **Herodias** was the daughter of Aristobulus. She was first married to her uncle Philip (Herod II), and then she opted to marry her other uncle Antipas – who helped crucify Christ.
- **Questions** – If Herod Antipas, Herodias and Philip (Herod II) were all unsaved, why does it matter who's married to whom?
 - ♦ Why would John the Baptist be pre-occupied with the sins of unbelievers?
 - ♦ Did John the Baptist lose his head for nothing, or was marriage of such importance to a culture that it warranted such attention – a challenge from a notable religious figure to a government leader to live biblically?

| Passage | Comments |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRUE – we should not commit adultery, but we are not going to be stoned if we do, and God is able to use us in this age of grace in spite of us • God did not try to prevent people from intermarrying between tribes or even to prevent Jews from marrying non-Jewish believers • Instead, God tried to establish marriage as a stability factor for the family and for the nation |
| 6:30-44 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding the 5000 – another attestation of Jesus being the Messiah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is the only miracle recorded in all 4 Gospels |
| 6:45-52 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus walking on water – an attestation of Jesus being God since He could change, over-ride or void the laws of physics |
| 6:53-56 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus continued to heal all (“...and all who touched his garment were healed”) • Wouldn't it be nice to have that kind of power available today! Kosair Children's Hospital and hospital cancer wards and burn wards would be emptied of patients, and soldiers who came back injured from war would be restored • Alas, such days are gone... • Even Gideon asked “If the Lord is with us, why do bad things happen to us, and where are all His miracles?..... Judges 6:13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ BUT, believe it or not, we are more blessed today. “...Blessed are they who believe and have not seen!” John 20:29 |

| Passage | Comments |
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| Mark 6:6b-13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling and sending the Apostles • It is interesting to note the Apostles were sent out with tremendous abilities to work all kinds of miracles, yet their faith was quite immature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This shows that God does not need to wait for us to reach a high level of doctrinal or personal maturity before He can use us ♦ Also, the Apostles were to dress like the common man to whom they were to witness to (no fancy clothes or 2 tunics), and they were not to look for better accommodations but to gracefully accept what was freely offered to them) ♦ In essence, the Apostles, with no money or provisions, solely relied on the providential care of God to direct other people to meet their needs ♦ The Apostles had an urgent message to tell, but they were not to force themselves or their message on anyone |
| 6:14-29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John the Baptist was beheaded for trying to biblically break up a marriage • The Law says... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ ...Commit adultery and die..... Ex 20:10 ♦ ...Do not take thy brother's wife ... Lev 18:16 • BUT – it would be wrong for Herodias to go back to her first husband since it would somehow pollute the land..... Deut 24:4 • NOW, these Mosaic laws were very Jewish-centric and do not cleanly apply to Gentiles |

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

- Ex 20:10** And the man that commits adultery with another man's wife, even he that commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall die.
- Lev 20:21** "If a man marries his brother's wife, it is an act of impurity; he has dishonored his brother. (see Lev 18:16)
- Deut 24:4** ...then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD.
- 1Thes 4:6** and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter (sexual immorality) because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.

NEXT WEEK:

- Mark 7-8 – Jesus addresses legalistic doctrines of men; Jesus heals the daughter of a Greek heathen and a deaf/dumb man; He feeds 4000 men and their families; He double-heals a blind man; and He asks His disciples ‘who do men say that I am?’ and ‘who do you say that I am?’

