

Part 2
RECEIVING THE KING
a study on mark



INTRODUCTION TO THE MARK BIBLE STUDY, PART 2

WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR THIS STUDY

To complete this study, you will need: The study guide (this book), a notebook, access to a Bible (digital or hard copy), and something to write with. Optionally, you may also want to access Grace’s YouTube channel to view the Mark sermons after completing your study and discussion.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

This study is formatted to guide you week by week through the Gospel of Mark. The weekly studies are broken out into six sections called Begin with Prayer, Observe & Meditate, Understand, Apply, Obey, and Share. Each week you’ll complete a study individually, followed by a group discussion the next week (if you’re studying Mark with a group), and conclude with a sermon over the passage the following week. The aim is to help you develop a daily practice of interacting with the Spirit of God through his word. We observe that we might understand, and understand so that we might trust and obey.

THE PURPOSE OF EACH SECTION

Below are notes and suggestions to help you get the most out of your time using this study and God’s word. We encourage you to set aside adequate time to do the study each week so you can take your time with each section.

Begin With Prayer

Always begin with prayer before anything else. Ask the Holy Spirit to use his word to grow you up in Christ. Suggested prayer points are provided for each week. Use them as starting points to ask your Father to transform your heart through interaction with the Spirit through his word.

Observe & Meditate

Start by seeking to know what the text says. This consists of three daily activities:

- Write the verses(s) in a notebook. The practice of writing a short passage of Scripture engages your mind in a way reading alone does not.
- Read the verse(s) slowly and deliberately.
- Write a summary of the verse(s) in your own words. Note any observations about the text or questions that come up as you read.

Understand

After familiarizing yourself with the text, the study will move toward understanding the meaning of what is written. These questions are designed to help you understand the historical context of the passage, the author’s intent, and its connection to the rest of Scripture.

Apply

God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only, so it’s not enough to just understand what the text means — it must change us. In this section, we seek to let the word begin to change you.

Obey

Do whatever the Lord has placed on your heart.

Share

Share with someone what you have learned through the study.

YOU’VE DONE THE STUDY. NOW WHAT?

The kingdom of God is nothing more than the rule and reign of Jesus in the lives of his people. Each week share what God has taught you with someone: a spouse, friend, someone in your community group, a co-worker, or even a complete stranger.

STUDY TIMELINE

Note: Study and discussion dates indicate the week that the study and discussion should take place to stay on track.

Week #12	Study: 11/13	Group Discussion: 11/20	Sermon: 11/26
Week #13	Study: 11/20	Group Discussion: 11/27	Sermon: 12/3
Week #14	Study: 11/27	Group Discussion: 12/4	Sermon: 12/10
Week #15	Study: 12/4	Group Discussion: 12/11	Sermon: 12/17
Week #16	Study: 12/11	Group Discussion: 12/18	Sermon: 1/7
Week #17	Study: 12/18	Group Discussion: 1/8	Sermon: 1/14
Week #18	Study: 1/8	Group Discussion: 1/15	Sermon: 1/21
Week #19	Study: 1/15	Group Discussion: 1/22	Sermon: 1/28
Week #20	Study: 1/22	Group Discussion: 1/29	Sermon: 2/4
Week #21	Study: 1/29	Group Discussion: 2/5	Sermon: 2/11

Individual study of Mark, Part 3 begins the week of February 5.

INTRODUCTION

Mark Chapters 1-8 answered the question - Who is Jesus? Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Christ (Mark 8:29) rightly identifies Jesus with a title worthy of the words and deeds recorded in Mark Chapters 1-8. Jesus is the Christ—the Greek word for the Hebrew Messiah—but what kind of messiah? Peter knew this but still attempted to rebuke Jesus for foretelling he would go to the cross. Even knowing that Jesus was the Messiah, Peter was still clueless about the nature of Christ’s messiahship. Too often Christians acknowledge they need a savior but pay no attention to what Christ’s salvation actually means—we are saved from something in order that we should become something new. Mark 9 begins a narrative section which answers the question, “What kind of messiah is Jesus?” If we want to know Jesus as the Christ, we will have to heed the words of the Father - This is my beloved Son; **listen to him**.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Open our eyes to see your truth.
- Open our minds that we might understand.
- Soften our hearts that we might believe and obey.

OBSERVE & MEDITATE: Daily Scripture Readings

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: v. 1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: v. 7-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: v. 14-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: v. 19-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: v. 24-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: v. 28-29 |

UNDERSTAND

1. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to a high mountain to see and hear things the crowds, and even the other disciples, were not privileged to experience. What did they see? What did they hear? How did they react or respond?

2. What does Jesus instruct Peter, James, and John to refrain from in verses 9-10? What might Jesus' motive have been for telling them to keep things quiet? What questions do Peter, James, and John express in verses 11-12?

3. After experiencing a foretaste of what Jesus' fulfilled kingdom will be like someday in verses 1-13, they descend to encounter the painful reality of their broken world in verses 14-22. Describe what they witnessed.

4. After the healing, Jesus tells the disciples that this kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer. Review the narrative and identify who prayed and what they specifically asked for.

APPLY

1. The life of a disciple is characterized by spiritual highs, plateaus, and valleys. Describe a time when, like Peter, James, and John, you experienced God’s presence in a way that caused you to want to stay there.

2. The Father’s words to Peter, James, and John indicate that they should listen to all Jesus says. What is the evidence of a life that is characterized by listening to Jesus? Is it possible to hear Jesus' words without listening? If so, describe a time when you heard but failed to listen.

3. Earlier the disciples were successful in casting out demons (Mark 6) but were unsuccessful in Mark 9. Describe a scenario where your attempted obedience to God led to failure, frustration, or both.

4. The father’s confession that he believed is followed by a prayer to help him overcome his unbelief. How does your faith illustrate moments of trust and moments of unbelief? Where do you struggle to trust God, and what are you doing to address your unbelief?

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you’ll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to be great? Tom Brady would be considered the GOAT (greatest of all time) as an NFL quarterback. Michael Jordan would be the GOAT in the NBA. Jesus’ disciples, knowing Jesus will establish himself as the ruling and reigning Son of Man (Messiah) of the world, have assumptions about the nature of his greatness and how they will personally become great through their association with him. Jesus wants his disciples to be great, but he has to turn their understanding of greatness upside down first.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Teach us what it means to be truly great.
- Show us the ways we have bought into the ideas of greatness we have adopted from the world.
- Give us hearts that are willing to serve.

OBSERVE & MEDITATE: Daily Scripture Readings

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: v. 30-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: v. 33-37 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: v. 38-40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: v. 41 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: v. 42-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: v. 50 |

UNDERSTAND

1. Mark tells his readers that Jesus avoided crowds because he was teaching his disciples (v. 31). In verses 31-50, there are four separate lessons Jesus passes on to his disciples. Summarize in your own words what Jesus taught the disciples in the following Scriptures.
 - Mark 9:31-32
 - Mark 9:33-37
 - Mark 9:38-41
 - Mark 9:42-50

2. Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man. This title is a common Jewish reference to the Messiah first used in Daniel 7:13-14. How might their traditional understanding of Daniel's Son of Man and Jesus' declaration in Mark 9:31 have caused confusion?

3. Why might the disciples not have wanted to seek clarity from Jesus (v. 32)?

4. Thinking about how verses 33-37 describe the disciples' argument, what did they believe it meant to be great? How does Jesus' teaching in verses 35-37 turn their understanding of greatness upside down?

5. How does the disciples' confusion about greatness explain why they could not understand Jesus' words in verse 31?

6. Characterize the disciples' concern in verse 38 and Jesus' response in verses 39-41.

APPLY

1. The disciples were clearly confused that Daniel's Son of Man and Jesus' suffering servant (Isaiah 53 and Mark 9:31) could be the same person. Describe something about Jesus' present rule and reign that confuses you.

2. In what ways has your own pursuit of greatness hindered your growth as a Christian?

3. Does Jesus teaching on greatness necessarily mean a person should not aspire to excellence in their chosen vocation or endeavors? Why or why not?

4. The disciples display an element of competitiveness when concerned about the man casting out demons in Jesus' name. Where do you see this spirit of kingdom competition displayed in the church today?

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

Week 15 begins on the next page.

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you'll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus tells his disciples that whoever does not receive the kingdom like a child shall not enter it. How does a child receive the kingdom? How and why we approach Jesus determines what we will take away from our encounter. How do you come to him? Do you come with the heart of a trusting child who has the audacity to jump into Jesus’ lap and expect him to love and care for you? Or are you far more adult-like in your approach, untrusting like the Pharisees who desired to test him or the Rich Young Ruler who wanted to justify himself? The children wanted Jesus to touch them. The Pharisees wanted to test and prove him unworthy of their worship, and the Rich Young Ruler wanted to prove he could pass Jesus’ tests.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Give us the faith and trust of a child.
- Guard our hearts against the cynicism and unbelieve of the Pharisees.
- Identify and root out anything in our hearts that would rival our devotion to you.

OBSERVE & MEDITATE: Daily Scripture Readings

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: v. 1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: v. 6-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: v. 13-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: v. 17-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: v. 23-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: v. 28-31 |

UNDERSTAND

1. Compare and contrast three different motives for coming to Jesus: The Pharisees (v. 2), the children (v. 13), and the rich man (v. 17).

2. What is it about the children’s approach that positions them to enter the kingdom (v. 15)? How do the Pharisees and the rich man demonstrate their hearts are not prepared to receive the kingdom?

3. How does the man’s reply in verse 20 illustrate a lack of understanding regarding the content and meaning of the Ten Commandments? Why did the rich man go away sad? What about his response revealed he was not keeping the Ten Commandments?

4. After Jesus declared how difficult it was for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, the disciples were amazed. The Jews of Jesus’ day believed wealth was a sign of God’s blessing. How does this explain the disciples’ question, “Who then can be saved?” (v. 26)?

APPLY

1. Is it wrong to approach Jesus, the Bible, or both, with a question similar to the legitimacy of divorce? Why or why not? What made the Pharisee’s approach in bad taste?
2. There is much about children that adults should not imitate. The Scriptures are full of examples of how Christians should grow up in the faith (1 Corinthians 3:1 and Hebrews 5:13). How is receiving the kingdom of God like a child different from acting childish?
3. How is learning to receive the kingdom like a child crucial in growing into maturity in the faith?
4. How have you had to learn to receive the kingdom like a child in order to mature?
5. When Jesus was asked in John 6:28 what the works of God were, he told them the works of God were to believe. Yet, when the rich man asked a similar question, he pointed him to the commandments and then told him to sell everything. Does Jesus have a different standard for the rich than he does for others? Why or why not?

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you’ll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

This is the third time Jesus informs his disciples what awaits him in Jerusalem, and it is the second time he realigns their understanding of what it means to be great. True greatness comes by way of the cross. Like the disciples, we need to hear the lesson repeatedly.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Show me what it means to be great.
- Make me aware of the ways I have bought into false notions of greatness.
- Show me how greatness is modeled and made possible by Jesus' work on the cross.

OBSERVE & MEDITATE: Daily Scripture Readings

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: v. 32-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: v. 35-37 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: v. 38-40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: v. 41-42 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: v. 43-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: v. 45 |

UNDERSTAND

1. Why might those who followed Jesus been amazed or afraid (v. 32)?
(look at v. 25-31 for context)

2. This is the third time Jesus has informed his disciples what will happen when he goes to Jerusalem. Peter rebukes Jesus the first time (Mark 8:32) while this time there is no record of the disciples' reaction. What might the disciples have wondered, and what questions would you have if you were in their place?

3. Do you find James and John's request to do for them whatever they ask presumptuous in light of John 15:7? Why or why not? How does Matthew 19:28 give added context?

4. What cup and baptism does Jesus mention and James and John assume they can handle?

APPLY

- 1. What lessons have you been slow to learn which God has had to repeat again and again? What accounts for your slowness to learn?

- 2. What kind of requests have you brought to God which could be viewed as seeking greatness?

- 3. Does Jesus condemn the pursuit of greatness per se? Why or why not? Contrast worldly greatness with the kind of greatness Jesus promotes.

- 4. What areas in your life would God have you pursue “greatness”?

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you’ll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

Do you believe Jesus has the ability or and the willingness to meet your greatest need? Yes? No? Sometimes we believe in one but not the other. We acknowledge Jesus can do all things but doubt he will meet our needs for various reasons. Bartimaeus believes Jesus can meet his needs and understands the basis by which to approach him—mercy.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Help us understand the word of God.
- Show us how mercy is the only basis for approaching God.
- Increase our faith.

OBSERVE

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

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|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: v. 46 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: v. 47 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: v. 48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: v. 49 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: v. 50-51 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: v. 52 |

UNDERSTAND

1. Who is the blind man? Describe his condition and what his condition would have meant for him socially, economically, spiritually, and emotionally. What does Bartimaeus cry out for in verses 47-48 and why might the crowds have rebuked him? See also Mark 10:13.
2. What title does Bartimaeus attribute to Jesus in verse 47 (see Matthew 22:42) and what does this tell you about who he believed Jesus to be? How might he have come to this belief?
3. When Jesus finally addresses him directly, he asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” Bartimaeus requests his sight. Why might Jesus have asked when the answer seems to be self-evident? After Bartimaeus verbalizes his request, what does Jesus tell him, and how does he respond?
4. Jesus tells him his faith has made him well. What is faith and what is the object of his faith? See Hebrews 11:1-3 and Romans 1:14-17.

APPLY

1. Why is approaching Jesus for mercy, as Bartimaeus did, the only way to approach God? See Luke 18:9-14.
2. Have you ever asked God for something, believed it was his desire for you, and then received it? Describe your experience. Have you ever not received your request? What was your request and how did you process disappointment?
3. How does the father’s prayer in Mark 9:24 demonstrate that it is not the strength, but the object of belief (or faith) that makes the difference?
4. In what sense has your faith begun to make you well: helped you become the person God created you to be? Be specific in your description.

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you’ll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem is highly symbolic and significant. It demonstrates Jesus' understanding of the many prophecies concerning the Messiah and the public's expectations of that Messiah. What the people expected of their Messiah and what Jesus expected as Messiah were not aligned. This week allow the Spirit to use God's word to align your heart with his.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Show us where our expectations for you are not in line with your plans.
- Align our hearts with your agenda for our lives, our church, community, and nation.
- Give us hearts willing and ready to praise you.

OBSERVE

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: v. 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: v. 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: v. 5-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: v. 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: v. 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: v. 11 |

UNDERSTAND

1. What does Jesus' knowledge about the location and description of the colt inform you about him?

2. Reading Zechariah 9:9, what is the significance of this act? Do you think this was intentional?

3. What had the crowds witnessed in Jesus' ministry that might have led them to believe he was the son of David?

4. Later in Mark 12:35-37, Jesus addresses the crowd's common assumption regarding the Messiah's relationship to David. How does this passage relate to the crowd's chant as he enters Jerusalem?

5. Assuming the Pharisees and Saducees believed the promise of Ezekiel 37:24-27, why might they have refused to proclaim Hosanna in the highest upon Jesus' entry into the city?

APPLY

1. If a person believed Jesus to be Ezekiel’s “my servant David” (Ezekiel 37:24-27) what might they expect him to do following his coronation as king? Describe the expectations you had when you first came to Jesus. Which of those expectations have been met? How do you process those which have not been met?

2. Some of those in the crowd who cried out “Hosanna” later cried out “Crucify him!” Explain what may have contributed to the drastic shift. In what way is our sinning similar to this? How is it different?

3. In verse 8, Mark records that many spread their cloaks on the ground, implying that some did not. Read Matthew 21:10-11 and describe how his detractors viewed his entrance.

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you’ll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

Fig trees were designed by God to produce fruit, and God’s people are made to be fruitful. This week Jesus encounters a fruitless tree and a fruitless people. Those challenged by Jesus’ rebuke respond by planning to take his life. How will we respond when the Spirit reveals our lives are less than fruitful and we need to change?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Help us understand the Word.
- Show us how and where we need to bear spiritual fruit.
- Increase our faith and trust in Jesus.

OBSERVE

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- ☐ Monday: v. 12-14 ☐ Tuesday: v. 15-19
- ☐ Wednesday: Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11 ☐ Thursday: v. 20-25
- ☐ Friday: v. 27-30 ☐ Saturday: v. 31-33

UNDERSTAND

1. Summarize what happens in each of the four segments to Mark 11:12-33:
 - The cursing of the fig tree (v. 12-14)
 - The cleansing of the temple (v. 15-19)
 - The lesson from the fig tree (v. 20-26)
 - The questioning of Jesus’ authority (v. 27-33)
2. How is the barren fig tree used as parables in Jeremiah 8:13 and Luke 13:6-9, and how might Jesus be using it here in Mark 11?
3. Immediately after cursing the fig tree, Jesus enters the temple. Describe what kind of ‘fruit’ he should have found in the temple? What did he find instead? In what ways are the fig tree and the temple similar? How are they different?

- 4. What lessons about fruitful prayer do you learn from verses 22-26?

- 5. How does Jesus' encounter with the temple leaders (v. 27-33) shed light on why the 'faith' of the religious leaders is utterly fruitless?

APPLY

- 1. What fruit has your relationship with Jesus produced (Galatians 5:22-25)? What factors contribute to the degree of fruitfulness or fruitlessness of your faith?

- 2. What can you do to position yourself to become more fruitful in Christ?

- 3. On a scale of 1-10 where 1 would be a den of robbers and 10 would be the ideal fruitful place of worship, how would you rate your church? What would need to change to see God move us towards a 10? How would you need to change?

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you'll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

The Jews claimed to anticipate the arrival of the Messiah until he actually showed up. When he finally appeared, many opposed him with all their might and eventually killed him. Jesus' parable of the tenants and subsequent interaction with his peers demonstrates that not all who profess to love God actually do.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Help us understand this parable and responses to their questions.
- Open our eyes to hypocritical tendencies we may share with the Sadducees and the Pharisees.
- Show us how we can be faithful as tenants.

OBSERVE

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: v. 1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: v. 6-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: v. 10-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: v. 13-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: v. 18-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: v. 24-27 |

UNDERSTAND

1. Parables are stories that communicate spiritual truth. What was Jesus' lesson for those who heard The Parable of the Tenants in Mark 12:1-12? What's the lesson for us?

2. Who or what do the vineyard, father, tenants, father's servants, and the father's son represent in Jesus' parable?

3. Read 1 Peter 2:1-8 and describe how Peter understood Jesus' parable and quotation (v. 10-11).

4. Why did the leaders perceive Jesus' parable to be about them?

5. What are the questions in verses 13-17 and 18-27 and how does Jesus respond? What do their questions reveal about their sincerity?

APPLY

1. In verses 10-11, Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23 regarding the wicked tenants. The rejection of the cornerstone is the moral responsibility of those who rejected him, yet it is also “the Lord’s doing, and marvelous in our eyes.” Read Romans 11:1-11 and describe how God used something bad (the rejection of Jesus) to lead to something marvelous.
2. The Sadducees and Pharisees demonstrate that not every question is asked to obtain knowledge. Some questions are asked to keep God at arm's length. What questions have you asked or heard others ask which are designed to keep God at arm’s length?
3. The Sadducees of Jesus’ day did not believe in miracles or a future resurrection and only believed the first five books of the Old Testament were inspired. They tended to be more secular in their thinking. In what ways can modern Christians believe and behave as the Sadducees?
4. The tenants were to be stewards of the vineyard entrusted to them. How would your life look like a fruitful vineyard if Jesus were to return today? Are there areas of your life (vineyard) you would be ashamed or embarrassed for Jesus to examine? Explain your answer. If you answered yes, what will you do to change?

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you’ll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

How can two people who read the same Bible, hear the same teaching, and are from the same culture hear the words of Jesus and be so far apart? Some hear and are close to entering the kingdom. Others hear and move farther away from entering the kingdom. Jesus' interaction with a certain scribe and observation of the widow and her offering show us the characteristics of the kind of person who will enter his kingdom.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Give us ears to hear and eyes to see.
- We have biases, agendas, and wills which may not align with yours.
- Align our hearts with yours.
- Change our hearts to enter your kingdom how you intend.

OBSERVE

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- ☐ Monday: v. 28-31
- ☐ Tuesday: v. 32-34
- ☐ Wednesday: v. 35-37
- ☐ Thursday: v. 38-40
- ☐ Friday: v. 41-42
- ☐ Saturday: v. 43-44

UNDERSTAND

1. What are the similarities and differences in the scribe's question and response to Jesus in verses 28-34 compared to the Pharisees' and Saducee's interactions in verses 13-27?

2. Jesus declares that the scribe is "not far from the kingdom of God." (v. 34). What makes him different from the Pharisees and Sadducees in v. 13-27?

3. There was a common belief that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David (see Mark 10:47, 11:10; Romans 1:3). After fielding some questions, Jesus asks a question of his own: Quoting Psalm 110:1, Jesus asks how the Messiah could be David's Lord and son simultaneously. Read the Psalm for context. What have they overlooked that Jesus' question is forcing them to consider?

4. Compare and contrast the religious leaders with the widow in verses 41-44. How does her giving demonstrate her faith in contrast to the unbelief of the religious leaders? What do verses 38-44 say about their motives?

APPLY

1. How does an understanding of the purpose of God’s law given by Jesus in verses 29-31 protect a person from legalism (the tendency of the Pharisees) and licentiousness (the tendency of the Sadducees)?

2. The Pharisees' understanding of the Messiah to be the son of David did not allow for the Messiah to also be David's creator and Lord. They were both confident in their understanding while ignorant of the Scriptures’ true meaning concerning the Messiah. Describe a time you discovered you were wrong about what you thought the Bible meant in a particular area.

3. The scribes' pride prevented them from being humble enough to consider they were wrong about Jesus. How can Jesus’ warning to them (v. 38-40) serve as a warning to us?

4. The widow's gift was all she had in contrast to a gift given from abundance. Would you characterize your gifts as being sacrificial or out of abundance? What holds you or others back from having the kind of faith the widow possessed?

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write down the name of someone you’ll share these thoughts with this week.

INTRODUCTION

Assumptions tend to lead to misunderstanding. The disciples ask, “When will these things occur?” after hearing Jesus tell them the temple will be destroyed. The problem is they assume the temple’s destruction will coincide with the end of all things—a world where evil is allowed to coexist alongside good. Jesus answers their one question with two answers and ultimately tells them (and us), our focus should be on obedience in the moment and not the events surrounding the day when faith will become sight.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- The world is in chaos.
- Grant us faith and endurance to remain faithful.
- Give us courage and strength to stand firm until the very end.

OBSERVE

Write and pray through the selected verses each day, meditating on what God wants to show you through the Holy Spirit.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: v. 1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: v. 7-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: v. 14-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: v. 21-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: v. 28-31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: v. 32-37 |

UNDERSTAND

1. Read Mark 13:1-5 and comment on what the disciples heard Jesus describe which caused them to ask “when.”

2. In the answer that follows (v. 14-37), Jesus described two events the disciples (and Jewish culture) assumed was one. The Jews believe the Son of Man, or Christ (Mark 13:26 and Daniel 7:13-27) will come and judge the world and evil will be eradicated. They assume the temple’s destruction would happen at the end of the world, which is described as “these things” in verse 4. How does Jesus’ answer tell a different story?

3. What does Jesus mean by “those days” in verse 19 and 26? Are those days one and the same with the day the temple falls? Explain why or why not?

4. What does Jesus say is the one thing (v. 10) that must happen before the end of all things?

APPLY

1. It is natural to be curious about when Jesus will bring his kingdom to consummation. Describe your views of the end times. What influences your views (Bible, church tradition, culture, books, TV, movies)?

2. In your observation of Christian culture’s discussion of end times, does the focus tend to be on figuring out the timing of his return or ensuring that the gospel has gone out to all nations? Would Jesus praise or rebuke the church for its attitude?

3. What are two things you can do this week to prepare your heart, hands, and feet to be about your master’s business as you wait for his return?

OBEY

What do you feel the Lord is calling you to do in response to this study?

SHARE

Write the name of someone you’ll share these thoughts with this week.

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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