

# A Servant of Christ

Lesson 13: Mark 9:30-10:12

March 28, 2021

# Mark Outline – Geographic

- 1:1-13 Introduction
- 1:14-7:23 Galilean ministry
- 7:24-8:26 Northern journey
- 8:27-10:52 Journey to Jerusalem
- 11:1-13:37 Jerusalem ministry
- 14:1-15:47 The Passion
- 16:1-20 The resurrection

# Mark Outline – Good News

- 1:1-13      The beginning of the Good News
- 1:14-8:21    The Good News about Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God
- 8:22-10:52   The Good News about Jesus' teaching on discipleship
- 11:1-15:47   The Good News about Jesus' death
- 16:1-8      Conclusion: The Good News about the empty tomb

# Mark Outline

- 1:1-13 Introduction
- 1:14-13:37 Jesus' ministry
  - 1:14-10:52 Main years of ministry
  - 11:1-13:37 Concluding ministry in Jerusalem
- 14:1-15:47 Jesus' sacrifice
- 16:1-8 Jesus' resurrection

# Lesson Outline

- 9:30-32 Prediction of death
- 9:33-37 The greatest in the kingdom of heaven
- 9:38-50 Causing stumbling
- 10:1-12 Divorce

## Prediction of death Mark 9:30-32

<sup>30</sup>From there they went out and *began* to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *about it*. <sup>31</sup>For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, “The Son of **Man** is to be delivered into the hands of **men**, and they will **kill** Him; and when He has been **killed**, He will rise three days later.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand *this* statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.

- Certain teaching is only for disciples
- Three predictions of Jesus’ death
  1. Suffer, be rejected, be killed, rise
  2. Delivered, killed, rise
  3. Delivered, condemn to death, hand over to the Gentiles, mock, kill, rise
- Jesus taught even when not understood

# The greatest in the kingdom of heaven

## Mark 9:33-37

<sup>33</sup>They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He *began* to question them, “What were you discussing on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which *of them was* the greatest. <sup>35</sup>Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to **be** first, he shall **be** last of **all** and servant of **all**.” <sup>36</sup>Taking a **child**, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, <sup>37</sup>“**Whoever receives** one **child** like this in My name **receives** Me; and **whoever receives** Me does not **receive** Me, but Him who sent Me.”

- The world has inverted what true greatness is
- In order to be first
  - Be last of all
  - Be a servant of all
- Receiving chain
  - Child -> Jesus -> God
- Pride keeps us from accepting others

## Causing stumbling Mark 9:38-42

<sup>38</sup>John said to Him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your **name**, and we tried to **prevent** him because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not **hinder** him, for there is no one **who** will perform a miracle in My **name**, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. <sup>40</sup>For he **who** is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For **whoever** gives you a cup of water to drink because of your **name** as *followers* of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward. <sup>42</sup>“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.

- Misapplied zeal will even try to stop others from serving the Lord
- We should not hinder someone who is truly serving in the Lord’s name
- No one can take a neutral position towards Christ
- Actions and results
  - Kindness – blessing
  - Stumbling – judgment

## Causing stumbling Mark 9:43-48

<sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to **stumble**, **cut it off**; it is **better** for you to **enter** life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into **hell**, into the unquenchable fire, <sup>44</sup>[where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]

<sup>45</sup>If your foot causes you to **stumble**, **cut it off**; it is **better** for you to **enter** life lame, than, having your two feet, to be **cast** into **hell**, <sup>46</sup>[where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] <sup>47</sup>If your eye causes you to **stumble**, throw it out; it is **better** for you to **enter** the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be **cast** into **hell**, <sup>48</sup>where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.

- Harsh treatment of the body in order to enter life is better than going to hell at ease
- The kingdom of God is life
- Causing stumbling
  - To someone else
    - Better to drown
  - To ourselves
    - Better to cut off a hand
    - Better to cut off a foot
    - Better to remove an eye

## Causing stumbling Mark 9:49-50

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>**Salt** is good; but if the **salt** becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty *again*? Have **salt** in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

- Uses of salt
  - Part of sacrifices
  - Seasoning for food
  - Preservative
  - Fertilizer
- Peace is to be an attribute of disciples

# Divorce

## Mark 10:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Getting up, He went from there to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan; crowds gathered around Him **again**, and, according to His custom, He **once more** *began* to teach them.

<sup>2</sup>*Some* Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and *began* to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to **divorce** a wife. <sup>3</sup>And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses permitted *a man* TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND **SEND her AWAY.**”

- Those hostile to Jesus were always trying to trap Him
- This was the region of the Herod who had killed John the Baptist
- Jesus seems to be constantly teaching
- Jewish ideas on divorce
  - only for unfaithfulness
  - for almost any reason

# The purpose of law

- To provide knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20, Romans 7:7)
- To show us our own inability (Romans 7:9)
- To show the minimum God requires (Romans 13:10)
- To lead us to love (Romans 13:8, 10)
- To show us our hard hearts (Mark 10:5)

# Divorce

## Mark 10:5-12

<sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, *God* MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. <sup>7</sup>FOR THIS REASON A **MAN** SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, <sup>8</sup>AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>What therefore God has joined together, let no **man** separate.”

<sup>10</sup>In the house the disciples *began* questioning Him about this again. <sup>11</sup>And He said to them, “Whoever **divorces** his wife and **marries another** woman **commits adultery** against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she herself **divorces** her husband and **marries another** man, she is **committing adultery**.”

- It is important to know laws, but also why they are put in place
- Hard hearts are exposed by laws
- Laws do not invalidate God’s original plans
- If God joins, humans are not to separate

# Summary

- How well do we understand Jesus' teaching?
- In what ways are we trying to be superior to others?
- How can we keep fellow believers and ourselves from stumbling?
- How serious do we consider sin to be?
- We are commanded to be at peace with one another.
- Laws show us our hard hearts and lack of love.
- We need to be careful of justifying our own position from laws.
- We need to seek the purpose God has in things.