

# **THE SERVANT** KING

STUDIES IN MARK 9-11

The first half of Mark's gospel announces the staggering news that Jesus is the Christ, God's chosen king. A king of breathtaking power, authority and goodness.

Mark 9-11 describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the rejection, death and resurrection which he knows awaits him there. Along the way Jesus will begin clarifying what sort of Christ he has come to be and what sort of kingdom he has to come to establish. We will discover that the lifelong adventure of following King Jesus is even more wonderfully radical than we thought.

As with any Bible study, these are best done in advance when doing them in a group context.

## Mark 9:2-29

### Read Mark 9:2-8

- 1) What happened "six days" ago (v1)? How might this be related to what now happens in these verses?
  
- 2) Imagine being there with Peter, James, and John on the mountain top. What do they see? What do they hear? How would you be feeling?
  
- 3) The Old Testament is full of great and important people. Why do you think Moses and Elijah are the ones who appear with Jesus?
  
- 4) Compare God's declaration in verse 9 to what God said back in Mark 1:11. How are they different? How are they similar?

### Read Mark 9:9-13

- 5) Why do you think Jesus wants the disciples "not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead"? (v9)
  
- 6) In what sense must Elijah "come first"? (Malachi 4:5-6)
  
- 7) What is Jesus' point in the latter part of verse 12?
  
- 8) In what sense has Elijah already come? (Mark 1:6-9)

**Read Mark 9:14-29**

9) Why do you think Jesus responds the way he does in verse 19? In what way is this similar to other occasions (cf 8:11-12)

10) What do we learn about Jesus from this healing?

11) What do we learn about human nature from this healing?

**Think it over**

- What do we learn about Jesus as you can from this passage. How should these encourage us to "listen to him."
- How can we listen to the words of Jesus now?
- What practical things can we be doing to help ourselves (and each other) stay focussed on what Jesus says? What will you commit to doing this week?
- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?

## Mark 9:30-10:12

### Read Mark 9:30-37

- 1) What don't the disciples understand about Jesus ? Why do you think they're afraid to ask him about it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What don't the disciples understand about Jesus' kingdom? How does this show in what they were arguing about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) How does the example of welcoming a little child illustrate Jesus' lesson?

### Read Mark 9:38-41

- 4) In what way have the disciples failed Jesus' lesson in v37?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) What key lesson does Jesus seem to be stressing here?

### Read Mark 9:42-50

- 6) What is the connection between this teaching and Jesus' teaching in the previous verses (ie v35-37)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What key lesson does Jesus seem to be stressing here?

**Read Mark 10:1-12**

*The presenting issue in this section is divorce. It's a section which can therefore evoke a lot of sadness, hurt and emotion. It will be especially important to be loving in the way we discuss this section within our groups. It's important to realise that Jesus' aim is not to give a comprehensive teaching on everything to do with divorce. Jesus is responding to a specific question regarding the Old Testament law within the broader context of humility and seeking to serve others first.*

- 8) How seriously does Jesus take marriage? How does this compare to the world's attitude?
- 9) What is the connection between this teaching, being a "servant of all" and the welcoming of a little child?
- 10) What key lesson does Jesus seem to be stressing here?

**Think it over**

- In what ways do we try and 'be first' in a wrong way?
- What are some of the subtle ways in which we exclude brother and sisters in Christ? How can we help each other avoid this?
- How can we take Jesus' warnings about sin more seriously? Try and be specific in your suggestions.

## Mark 10:13-52

### Read MARK 10:13-16

1) What do the disciples still not understand from Jesus' earlier teaching (cf Mark 9:36-37)

2) What lesson does Jesus take the opportunity to teach?

3) What do you think it means to "receive the kingdom of God like a little child"?

### Read Mark 10:17-31

4) In what way does this particular rich man NOT exemplify receiving the kingdom of God like a little child?

5) What things do we discover about human nature in this section?

6) How do we see the promise of Jesus in v29-30 being fulfilled now?

### Read Mark 10:32-45

8) What do the disciples still not understand about Jesus and His kingdom?

9) What new things does this section teach us about Jesus' death?

10) What do you think Jesus is referring to in v38?

**Read Mark 10:46-52**

11) What does Bartimaeus get right that the rich man didn't?

**Think it over**

- What is the most comforting thing you've discovered about Jesus in this section?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is the most challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus' kingdom in this section?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can your life better conform to Jesus' view of greatness? What are some present opportunities to do this?



## Mark 11:1-26

### Read MARK 11:1-11

1) Why do you think there's so much detail about Jesus riding a colt into Jerusalem? (cf Zechariah 9:9-3)

2) How does the crowd react to Jesus entering Jerusalem? What emotions does this build in the text?

3) How does Jesus react after entering Jerusalem? What emotions does this build in the text?

### Read MARK 11:12-21

*Jesus enters Jerusalem a second time however the emphasis now changes from his journey into the city to what he does when he gets there.*

4) Why is Jesus so angry in the temple?

5) Read Jeremiah 7:1-11. How does this passage clarify Jesus' actions?

6) What emotions are building in the text??

7) Why do you think Mark has sandwiched the account of Jesus clearing out the temple within Jesus' cursing of the fig tree?

**Read MARK 11:22-25**

8) Mark has already mentioned faith several times (eg 2:5, 4:40, 5:34,36, 9:23, 10:52). What new lessons about faith does Jesus now teach?

9) Jesus is quite specific about "this" mountain. He is likely referring to the Mount of Olives (cf v1). Read Zechariah 14:1-5. How does this passage clarify Jesus' words?

10) If praying to move mountains is praying for the day of God's judgement, why is it important to pray with the attitude Jesus describes in verse 25?

11) After eleven chapters, Jesus has now finally reached Jerusalem. Imagine you are reading Mark for the very first time. Given everything that has lead up to this moment plus everything that has happened in this passage, what are you expecting to happen in the remainder of Mark's gospel.

**Think it over**

• *"Cursing fig trees and overturning furniture. I think Jesus just woke up in a bad mood!"* How would you respond to a comment like that?

• What has this section taught you about Jesus? How does this clarify or challenge our view of him?

• What is the most important thing about Jesus that you've personally discovered (or been reminded of) throughout Mark 9-11?