



The Gospel of Mark

Supplementary Daily Readings for
11 May to 29 May

Small Groups and Personal Use
2020

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Week of
10 May

DAILY BIBLE READING

Based on the readings for Day 11-15 of The Gospel of Mark, 10-Week Study, you have reflected on the issues of Jesus' authority over uncleanness, impurity and the need to have faith (Mark 5:1-6:56). For the next 5 days let us consider other aspects of these issues revealed in scripture.

Suppl. Day 1: 11 May

Read Romans 10:1-10

Paul writes about how the Israelites were zealous for God but sought to establish their own righteousness instead of submitting to God's righteousness. The true source of our righteousness comes from God, when we declare with our mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. Have you declared your faith in Jesus as Lord over everything (your life included)? Are you zealous for God but following in your own righteousness?

Suppl. Day 2: 12 May

Read Matthew 15:1-20

Some Pharisees and teachers of the law were unhappy about Jesus' disciples not washing their hands before they ate. The Pharisees and Jewish religious leaders were concerned about maintaining outward purity by keeping the physical law, but Jesus was concerned about something much deeper – inward purity of the heart. What is the state of your heart?

Suppl. Day 3: 13 May

Read Psalm 51

After David had been confronted about his affair with Bathsheba, his response was to turn to the Lord in repentance and humility, acknowledging his transgressions and asking for forgiveness. David cries out, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." He recognised that only God could purify his heart. As you meditate on Psalm 51, will you ask God for help to purify your heart?

Suppl. Day 4: 14 May

Read Ezekiel 36:24-32

Ezekiel was a prophet and God spoke through him to His people in Israel (who were exiled to different nations at the time). Amidst the prophecy that God will bring all the Israelites back to their own land, God said that He would cleanse them from all their impurities and give them a new heart and a new spirit. "And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees" – God cleanses our hearts through His Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit helps us in the continual process of purification. Will you allow the Holy Spirit to renew your heart every day?

Suppl. Day 5: 15 May

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-22

The Jewish leaders in Jesus' day placed a lot of emphasis on following the Mosaic law to be right with God. A look at God's words to Israel in Deuteronomy 10 shows that beyond just external conformity to a set of rules, God desired His people to love Him and serve Him with all their heart and soul. God doesn't look at the outward behaviour, He looks at the heart. Do you love and serve God with all your heart and soul?



DAILY BIBLE READING

Week of
17 May

Based on the readings for Day 6-10 of The Gospel of Mark, 10-Week Study, you have reflected on the use of parables by Jesus in Mark 3:7-4:41. We learned in “Digging Deeper” that Jesus used parables to provide a narrative world to draw the listeners to make judgements on certain characters and their actions. The response of the audience would reveal who they really are. For the next 5 days let us consider other parables (that are not in Mark) that Jesus used, let us seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance for true spiritual vision as we read and reflect.

Suppl. Day 6: 18 May

Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42

In the Parable of the Weeds, Jesus tells of the enemy who sows weeds among the wheat, and how the owner leaves the weeds until the time of the harvest, where the weeds will be burned while the wheat moves into the barns. When you think of the day of the harvest, are you comforted or are you anxious? How could you respond today that would reveal your heart to the Son of Man? How can you be assured that you have a place in His barn?

Suppl. Day 7: 19 May

Read Matthew 13:44-46

The Parables of the Hidden Treasures and the Pearl are short accounts of responses to the kingdom of heaven. What feature of these two parables catches your eye? Can you compare your own response to that of the man who discovers the hidden treasure and the merchant seeking fine pearls? What would you be willing to whole-heartedly give up or do for the kingdom of heaven?

Suppl. Day 8: 20 May

Read Matthew 18:21-35

This parable is prompted by a question from Peter and sets the context for Jesus’ teaching. What do you think was surprising for the audience listening to Jesus? How many times is Jesus advocating that we need to forgive others, is there a reasonable limit? Do you want to be forgiven by God the way you extend forgiveness to others (and with a limit)? Is there anyone you should extend forgiveness to, today (and maybe include yourself too)?

Suppl. Day 9: 21 May

Read Matthew 25:1-13

In this parable, the kingdom of heaven is likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. The context of this parable is preparation for Jesus' return. Who or what kind of people are represented by the foolish virgins? Who are those represented by the wise virgins? Which do you relate to? What might the "oil" in the flasks represent? If Jesus were to represent the bridegroom, His words upon His return to the foolish virgins appear quite harsh – why do you think He might say this to them? What can you do, what changes should you make to heed Jesus' warning to "Watch, therefore".

Suppl. Day 10: 22 May

Read Matthew 25:14-30

In this parable, we receive a description of God the master and the way He views His servants. His pleasure appears to be to give based on abilities, to favour those who risk and produce and disfavour those who do nothing. What does this parable tell you about the character of God? What do you think distinguishes the two faithful servants from the third one? What talents and resources have God given you? Would you be willing to step out in faith with your talents and resources to do what might seem risky, for God?



DAILY BIBLE READING

Week of
24 May

Based on the readings for Day 1-5 of The Gospel of Mark, 10-Week Study, you have reflected on the meaning of “gospel” in Mark 1:1-3:6. For the next 5 days let us consider other aspects of the “gospel”.

Suppl. Day 11: 25 May

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The word “Gospel” comes from the old English word “gōdspel” (*gōd* meaning “good” and *spel* meaning “news”). What are the elements of the good news set out in this passage? Does this passage bring you comfort? Would it bring comfort to someone you know?

Suppl. Day 12: 26 May

Read Luke 4:31-41

These passages, run parallel with Mark 1:21-34. An important element of the Gospel is the identity of Jesus and His authority over scripture, evil spirits and illness. Is this element of the Gospel still relevant today? How can the authority of Jesus be manifest or evident in your daily living?

Suppl. Day 13: 27 May

Read Luke 5:12-26

Jesus took authority over the forgiveness of sins. It might be said that the response of the Pharisees reveals the success of what Jesus wanted to communicate – that He is God and has authority to forgive sins. How can we communicate this to a world that needs to hear and understand this important element of the good news?

Suppl. Day 14: 28 May

Read Luke 5:27-32

The call of Levi reveals another important aspect of the Gospel (cf Mark 2:13-17). Jesus' response and association with sinners should provide comfort and encouragement as a relevant message for everyone today. Yet it should also present a sobering revelation for each of us – that although none are righteous (Romans 3:10) some might believe they are, and therefore miss the offer that the Gospel presents. How can the message that we all need Jesus and His availability to all who profess their need for Him be sensitively conveyed to a world in need?

Suppl. Day 15: 29 May

Read Luke 6:1-11

Jesus makes clear that He is Lord of the Sabbath (cf Mark 2:23-3:6) unequivocally establishing His identity as God. Over these last four days, we have had the opportunity to reflect on the Gospel and, in particular, the identity and authority of Jesus as a key element of the Gospel. If Jesus truly is God, as He has said, can the ills of the world and the challenges in our lives be solved by the Lord of all, God of all? How should you live out your life in a way that truly reflects your belief that Jesus is Lord? How can you share what you believe with those who need to hear this Good News?