

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!
A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK BY BRENT AMATO
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LESSON NO. 9-CHAPTER 8

- I. BEFORE WE GET GOING...
 - A. Why the study; why the title?
 1. For the seeker-Study Jesus because He is the “Gospel” (Mark 1:1, John 20:31)
 2. For the saint-Study Jesus to either fall in love with Him anew (John 21:15-17) or more deeply (Ephesians 3:14, 17-19)
 3. A “profitable pursuit” (II Timothy 3:16-17)
 4. Life is a race to be run and won (I Corinthians 9:24, Phil. 3:14)
 - B. “Go”
 1. “The Gospel of Mark has well been called a moving picture of the ministry of Jesus...The Gospel of action...Rapidity of action is its main characteristic...It gives us the works, rather than the words of Jesus.” (Earle)...While only 18 of the 70 parables of Jesus are in the Gospel of Mark, over half of the 35 recorded miracles of Jesus are in Mark’s Gospel. (Mark 16:20)
 2. Key word: “Immediately” (used 41 times; ie 1:10, 12, 18, 20, 21, 28, 29, 42, 43)-For example, “Mark seems to have been impressed by the swiftness with which the Lord’s commands were obeyed. He spoke! It was done!” (Phillips) (ie, 1:42)
 3. “I read in a book where a man called Christ went about doing good. It is very disconcerting to me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about.” (Anonymous)
 - C. Some background on the Book
 1. Its purpose-Proclaim Christ the Son of God sent to save (Mark 1:1, 11; 3:11; 5:7; 9:7; 12:1-11; 13:32; 14:61-62; 15:39) and the Servant sent to serve (Mark 10:45), whose power was manifested in His service through a series of victorious conflicts
 2. Key themes
 - a. Who?
 - (1). Who Jesus is (Mark 9:7, 15:39)
 - (2). Who we should be (Mark 16:14, 13:33-37)
 - b. What?
 - (1). What Jesus did (Mark 1:35, 6:45-51) and What we should do (Mark 10:21, 12:28-31)
 - (2). What Jesus taught (Mark 4:2-8, 13-20; 11:22-24) and What we should learn (Mark 4:9, 7:14, 16-18a)
 - c. Transformation (Ashey)
 - (1). Believe what Jesus believed (with transformed minds)
 - (2). Live the way Jesus lived (with transformed character)

- (3). Love and care the way Jesus did (with transformed relationships)
- (4). Minister the way Jesus ministered (with transformed service)
- (5). Lead the way Jesus led (with transformed influence)

D. Key (memory?) verses (Psalm 1:2)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____

E. An outline (Wiersbe)

- 1. The presentation of the Servant (1:1-13)
- 2. The Servant's ministry in Galilee (1:14-9:50)
 - a. Period of popularity (1:14-6:29)
 - b. Period of withdrawal (6:30-9:32)
 - c. Period of completion (9:33-50)
- 3. The Servant's journey to Jerusalem (10)
- 4. The Servant's ministry in Jerusalem (11-16)
 - a. Public teaching and controversy (11:1-12:44)
 - b. Private teaching and ministry (13:1-14:31)
 - c. Arrest, trial and crucifixion (14:32-15:47)
 - d. Resurrection and ascension (16)

F. Resources-See Lesson No. 1

G. What's happening in Chapter 8?

- 1. Action!-
 - a. Feeding of the four thousand (8:1-10, 14-21)
 - b. Another healing (8:22-26)
 - c. More dialogues and teaching (8:11-13, 27-38)
 - (1). The Pharisees and Sadducees (8:11-13)
 - (2). The Disciples (8:27-33)
 - (3). The multitude (8:34-38)
- 2. Geography-"As opposition to Jesus' ministry increases, it is no longer safe for Him to move openly in Galilee....Jesus traverses the regions of Decapolis (7:31-8:9), Caesarea Philippi (8:10-9:29) and Perea (10:1-52), thereby avoiding the crowds and the deadly plots of the religious leaders."

3. Ministry-“A pivotal event is Peter’s confession...That faith-inspired response triggers a new phase in both the content and the course of Jesus ministry, Up until now He has sought to validate His claims as Messiah. But now He begins to fortify His men for His soon-coming suffering and death at the hands of the religious leaders...and related journey to Jerusalem. ” (8:31-32a, 9:9-13, 30-32, 10:32-34) –“The Lord could now see Calvary clearly on the skyline.” (Phillips)-“Within six months of the Cross” (McGee)
 4. Behind the action-some important teaching (8:31-32a; Matthew 16:15-19)
- II. “FEEDING OF THE FOUR THOUSAND” (8:1-10, 14-21; Matthew 15:32-39, 16:5-12)
- A. Flashback (6:33-44, 51-52)
 - B. Note the attraction of Jesus Christ (8:2-3)
 - C. Same “stuff”
 1. The Compassionate Christ (8:2-3) (“never divorced from His teaching”-Phillips)
 2. The Dense Disciples (8:4) [an affliction of even mature saints, like Elijah (I Kings 19:4, 9-10, 13-14)-Phillips]
 3. The Giving God (8:6-7)
 4. The Satisfied Multitude (8:8) (but first group mostly Jews, this group mostly Gentiles)-[“The superlative blessings of our God” (I Chronicles 4:10)-Phillips]
 5. The Leftovers (8:8)
 - D. A blueprint for ministry (Phillips)
 1. Relying on the miraculous power of God
 2. Administration
 - a. Organization (“sit down”)
 - b. Delegation (“serve these to the people”)
 - E. “The Debriefing”
 1. The need of the hour (Ezekiel 12:2, Mark 4:11-12; Psalm 103:1-2)
 2. “Evidence That Demands A Verdict” (McDowell) (8:19-20)
 3. Witnesses that need a wake-up (6:52)
 - a. “Don’t you see?”
 - b. “Don’t you hear?”
 - c. “Don’t you remember?”
 - d. “Don’t you understand?”
 - e. “Do you have a hardened heart?”
 - F. From “bread” to “leaven”
 1. “Leaven”: a fermenting dough in bread causing the bread to “rise”
 2. “A symbol of evil and corruption” (Exodus 12:18-20, 23:18, 34:25; Leviticus 2:11, 6:17)
 - a. The “leaven” of the Pharisees-dead fundamentalism and religious hypocrisy (7:6, Luke 12:1)
 - b. The “leaven” of Herod-worldly compromise
 - c. False doctrine (Galatians 5:1-9)

- d. Unjudged sin in the church (I Corinthians 5:7)
 - 3. Emphasis by Jesus (“Truly, truly”; “Watch out!”; “Beware”) means this is a serious issue
- III. “ANOTHER HEALING” (8:22-26)
 - A. Flashbacks
 - 1. Past healings
 - 2. The site of some of His greatest miracles
 - B. Singular to the Gospel of Mark
 - C. The ministry to another (8:22)
 - 1. “Bringing him”
 - 2. “Entreating Him”
 - D. A picture of spiritual healing growth
 - 1. Methodology-Gospels record healing of at least seven blind men and Jesus used a variety of methods (Luke 7:21)
 - 2. Process (gradually, not instantly)
 - a. Blind (8:22)
 - b. Seeing but out of focus (8:24, I Corinthians 13:12)
 - c. Seeing everything clearly (8:25)
 - E. More curious instructions (8:26; perhaps a clue in Matthew 11:20-22)
- IV. “MORE DIALOGUES AND TEACHING” (8:11-13, 27-38)
 - A. The Pharisees and Sadducees (8:11-13; Matthew 16:1-4)
 - 1. Flashback (7:1-23)
 - 2. Consider the relationship (“The bloodhounds of hate are on His trail again.” McGee)
 - a. Arguing with Him
 - b. Seeking “signs” from Him
 - c. Testing Him
 - 3. “Sighing deeply in His spirit” (Luke 16:31)
 - a. “The Lord heard, in this demand for a sign, the voice of Satan...(Matthew 4:5-7).” (Phillips)
 - b. “Their desire for a sign from heaven was but another evidence of their unbelief, for faith does not ask for signs. True faith takes God at His Word and is satisfied with the inward witness of the Holy Spirit.” (Weirsbe)
 - c. “People who demand signs are rarely satisfied when they get one.” (Phillips)
 - d. “Divine impatience which He showed towards lack of faith in those who might be expected to possess it...” (Cole)
 - 4. “The difficulty lies in the will, not in the intellect, as far as acceptance of the claims of Christ is concerned (John 7:17).” (Cole)
 - B. The Disciples (8:27-33; Matthew 16:13-23)
 - 1. Identity (4:41, 14:61-52)
 - a. The purpose of the gospel of Mark (1:1, Matthew 16:16)
 - (1). Name: “Jesus” (Matthew 1:21)

- (2). Title: “Christ” (“Messiah”, a Hebrew term meaning “the Anointed One”)
- b. The encounters and the questions always get personal (8:27, 29)-“But now, as it continually comes to us, comes the rapier-thrust that transfers theology from an armchair discussion to an uncomfortable dialogue between God and us.” (Cole)
- c. “There are ‘rocks’ and then there is ‘The Rock’” or “Getting clear about Peter” (Matthew 16:17-19)
- d. One’s confession about Jesus Christ
 - (1). “A matter of life or death” (Weirsbe) (John 8:21, 24; I John 2:22-27; 4:1-3; I Corinthians 12:1-3; Romans 10:9-10)
 - (2). Everyone has an opinion; all but one are wrong!
 - (3). “The answer we give to that question [and the influence it has on our life] reveals us fully.” (Phillips)
- e. Why another “gag order”? (Weirsbe, Cole, People’s Bible Commentary)
 - (1). Disciples still learning
 - (2). Religious leaders’ minds already made up
 - (3). Common people looking for “signs”
 - (4). Political uprising not The Agenda
 - (5). A discovery each person must make for himself
- 2. Destiny
 - a. “The Lord does not reveal His person apart from His work of redemption.” (McGee)
 - b. A prior hint (2:19-20)
 - c. No uncertainty
 - (1). “Must” (8:31; John 3:14, Luke 2:49)
 - (2). “Stating the matter plainly” (8:32)
 - c. Death and resurrection (8:31) as opposed to a crown
 - d. Who’s agenda? (8:33)
 - e. How important was the agenda? (8:33)
 - f. The “zigzag” of Peter’s Christian walk (“rock” to “stumbling block”) (Matthew 16:17 versus Mark 8:33, which is the same word Jesus used to rebuke demons-1:25, 3:12)
 - g. The spiritual warfare-“Satan himself, the great enemy, had tried once before to get Christ to accept the crown without the cross (Matthew 4:8-10).” (Phillips)
- C. The multitude (8:34-38, Matthew 16:24-28)
 - 1. The paradox of Christianity (8:35-36)
 - 2. “Are you ashamed of Me?”
 - 3. “Follow Me” (“What happened to Him would happen to them.”- Weirsbe)

- a. “Deny yourself” (“Denying self is not the same as self-denial...giving up things or activities. But we deny self when we surrender ourselves to Christ and determine to obey His will.”-Weirsbe)
- b. “Take up your cross”-God’s will for you
- 4. “There is a price to pay for true discipleship” (Weirsbe)
(I Peter 4:12-16)-“So much for the ‘prosperity gospel’” (Phillips)
- 5. His return (8:38, Matthew 16:27)
- 6. The two “rewards”: “Satan promises you glory, but in the end, you receive suffering. God promises you suffering, but in the end, that suffering is transformed into glory.” (Weirsbe)
- 7. “It all boils down to this: for which world are we living? The greatest commentary on this question is the book of Ecclesiastes.” (Phillips) (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

V. SO WHAT?

- A. What did Jesus teach that you needed to learn?
- B. What type of person do you need to become?
- C. What do you need to do?

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY-SEE LESSON NO. 1