

Truth In Scripture  
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Book of Mark

Gospel, that is the word Gospel comes from an Anglo-Saxon term God-spell, the Latin word evangelium and the Greek euangelion, meaning “good news” or “good telling.”

Since the late 18th century the first three Gospels have been called the Synoptic Gospels, because the texts, set side by side, show a similar historical point of view, Mark, being the oldest of the Gospels, is the one that is closer in point of time to the events that it records.

It is pretty much accepted that Mark was written between 55 and 60 AD. There is

some debate on that but we will go with that.

It is pretty apparent both Matthew and Luke used parts of Mark in their Gospel accounts. Or some debate that Mark used some writings of Matthew, but again we will go with Mark being the first.

Mark was his Greek or Latin name from Marcus, another name he had was a Hebrew name yo han an (GOD has shown grace) so he is also known as John Mark...he actually had third name colodac tylis (stubby fingers). I have noo idea why that name was applied.

Mark was the younger cousin of a man named Barnabas, who was one of the leaders of the Church in Antioch.

Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on one of their missionary journeys and went with Barnabas on another Missionary Journey.

Peter appears to have been well known to Mark, and over the course of time, Mark became very close to Peter. By the time Peter wrote his first epistle (1<sup>st</sup> Peter), Mark had become like a son to him:

**1PET 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.**

Spiritual son, it was Peter who probably led John Mark to believe in and follow Yeshua.

Mark was a companion of Peter during the time when that disciple spent his last years in the city of Rome.

Remember Mark as a young man traveled with Paul and Barnabas but along the way got homesick and went home. Exactly why he left we are not told (ACT 13:13).

Paul took a long time to get over that. But Paul did forgive Mark in the end.

**2TI 4:11, Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.**

There is powerful lesson there on forgiveness. In Heaven I imagine they never even bring in up, in fact I'm quite certain of it. But they did lose out on

earthly accomplishments they could have made together.

SO the first thing we see...

/Don't hold grudges. If we can be forgiven of our Sins, we can forgive. And here's an interesting thing, the LORD forgets about our trespasses. HE only commands us to forgive others.

**MAR 11:25, And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father Who is in heaven will also forgive you for your offenses.**

HE never says to forget. Sometimes it is a learning experience to remember, but not for vengeance sake...but there may be something to be learned from the experience.

Mary, Mark's mother is spoken of once in the book of Acts, was probably the Aunt of Barnabas.

It was to Mary's home that Peter found his way after his miraculous escape. Mary had allowed or welcomed the disciples to use her Jerusalem home to be used as a Church or meeting place.

At that time Christians were severely persecuted, yet she was self-sacrificing in time, effort and money to serve the LORD.

The name of John Mark's father is not recorded in scripture, only his mother. Peter speaks of John Mark in a fatherly way, I PET 5:13 again, and perhaps the Roman father was separated from the family by some reason, war perhaps and Peter was a surrogate father to John Mark.

So, who was this John Mark?

We know Matthew, John, and Luke, but many have no idea who Mark was. Mark is a recurring character who often sat in the shadow of others.

So, Peter mentored Mark for many years. Mark's growth in the ministry was certainly in large part due to his relationship with the Apostle Peter. As we know, Peter was rather familiar with feelings of failure and issues with emotion.

Their relationship was so close that some people have said that much of the book of Mark is directly from the accounts of what Peter told him. And that would make sense.

Mark was what we would call a #2. Now I hesitate to say that...

Mark was the personal assistant to some very important people in the Bible. One of course was Peter. One was Barnabas, one was the Apostle Paul. A pretty good list of people to be around and support right?

Mark had written down everything he heard Peter say about the LORD Yeshua.

Now we don't know for sure if John Mark ever met Yeshua. I think he did, but he would have been young. There is one strange account that many think is John Mark.

In Mark **14:51-52**, **“They laid hands on Jesus and seized him.** [So this is in the Garden of Gethsemane.] And now look: **“And a young man (nee an nee dos a young attendant) followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his**



**body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.”**

Could this have been Mark? We don't know but it would fit. We will get to it Mark 14. But if it was John Mark (or for that matter whoever it was saw and heard all the events leading up to the arrest.

Mark mentions Simon the Cyrene who carried the Cross beam of the LORD's for the LORD.



Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus. Rufus, who was a well-known member of the Roman Church. We can only imagine the impact that carrying the Cross had on Simon of Cyrene.

I always wondered if Yeshua spoke to Simon on that agonizing journey to Golgotha? I wonder what the LORD would say. Did Simon know Who's Cross he was carrying?

I am sure he did, however he was traveling so we don't know for sure.

As part of HIS Divine plan, GOD chose a man named Simon to encounter the LORD only hours before HE died in order to bring salvation to not only Simon, and the Romans who forced him to carry the Cross, but of course, to the whole world.

It seems Mark's intent from the HS, was to present Yeshua in a short, easy-to-understand manner. He doesn't talk about the ancestry and birth of Yeshua, rather he

focuses on what the LORD did, and the importance of service and sacrifice.

Here's one little interesting side note about the book of Mark.

It's probably true that the last twelve verses of the book were not written by John Mark, but were added on later to account for Yeshua's Resurrection. However, that doesn't mean the Holy Spirit didn't inspire it.

The Gospel of Mark begins with a brief account of the work of John the Baptist as he announces the Messiah.

Yeshua used parables to teach HIS disciples about the kingdom of GOD, and Mark related a unique parable that wasn't found in the other Gospels. This is the

Parable of the Growing seed found in MAR 4:26 - 29. Which we will see.

Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark's Gospel started when Yeshua went to John the Baptist for a Jewish immersion or baptismal ritual. Really it was an immersion ritual.

More than half of Mark's Gospel is devoted to giving an account of the miracles that Yeshua performed.

**MIRACLES OF JESUS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**

Miracle	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
1 Jesus Comes to John for Baptism in the Jordan				2:22-23
2 Jesus Heals the Official's Son (Capernaum in Galilee)				4:46-54
3 Jesus Drives Out Evil Spirits from a Man (Capernaum)				5:1-10
4 Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law's Fever	9:14-15	9:28-31	9:39-43	
5 Jesus Heals Many Sick and Oppressed in a City	9:18-19	9:30-31	9:41-43	
6 The Miraculous Catch of Fish (Lake of Gennesaret)				1:16-17
7 Jesus Cleanses Man with Leprosy	9:14	1:40-45	5:10-14	
8 Jesus Heals a Demoniac in Pnyon's Synagogue	9:18		5:16-17	
9 Jesus Heals a Paralytic, Can Walk Through Roof	9:18	2:1-12	5:24-26	
10 Jesus Heals Sick & Withered Paralytic on the Sabbath	10:1-14	3:1-4	6:9-11	
11 Jesus Heals a Blind Man from Bethsaida				9:1-19
12 Jesus Calms the Storm	8:18-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
13 Jesus Cleanses Legion of Demons from Pagan Man	8:28-33	5:1-13	8:26-33	
14 Jesus Heals a Woman in the Crowd, Touch of Blood	9:17-18	5:25-34	8:43-48	
15 Jesus Heals John's Daughter from Death	9:18-19	5:27-30	8:49-54	
16 Jesus Heals Peter's Blind Wife	9:18-19			
17 Jesus Heals Blind Man (Two Men)	9:30-34			
18 Jesus Heals an Invalid (Paralytic)				5:1-10
19 Jesus Feeds 5,000 Men, Plus Women & Children	14:13-21	6:30-56	9:10-17	6:1-15
20 Jesus Walks on Water	14:22-30	6:45-52		6:16-21
21 Jesus Heals Many Who Touch His Garments / Gown	14:34-36	6:56-62		6:18-23
22 Jesus Heals Seventh Woman's Prolapsed Clitoris	15:1-10	7:24-31		
23 Jesus Heals Blind & Deaf Man				9:1-19
24 Jesus Feeds 4,000 Men, Plus Women & Children	15:32-39	8:1-10		
25 Jesus Heals Blind Man (Samaritan)				
26 Jesus Heals with Spittle, Blind Man	15:30-31	8:1-10		9:1-12
27 Jesus Heals Boy with Swollen Feet	17:14-18	8:1-10		
28 Jesus Heals the Man with Cured Feet on the Sabbath	17:14-18			
29 Jesus Feeds Blind, Mute, Deaf Man	12:22-23		11:14-21	
30 Jesus Heals Invalid (Paralytic) on the Sabbath			13:10-17	
31 Jesus Heals Man with Dying on the Sabbath			13:14-16	
32 Jesus Cleanses 10 Lepers / Outcasts of Jerusalem				10:46-52
33 Jesus Heals Leprosy from Blind, Deaf Man				
34 Jesus Heals Blind Man in Bethsaida / Jericho	20:31-34	10:46-52	10:46-52	
35 Jesus Heals Fig Tree / Causes Withering	21:18-19	11:13-14		
36 Jesus Heals Maldeke's Son (or / Daughter) on the Sabbath				11:14-16
37 Jesus Heals Maldeke's Son (or / Daughter) on the Sabbath				11:14-16

Note: These only include miracles performed BY Jesus. Miracles mentioned in the Gospels, but not Jesus, are performed ON or AROUND Jesus. Miracles mentioned in the Gospels, but not in the Bible, are Transfiguration, Resurrection, and Ascension.

In the Gospel of Mark, Yeshua does not reveal HIS identity as the Messiah to HIS disciples until they reach Caesarea

Philippi. We will see that wonderful, incredible moment in our study.

So, I think that is enough background for now. We get a feel for things to come in this Gospel.

The Gospel of Mark is often referred to as a “busy” Gospel, they all are, however it is a busy Gospel, lots of things going on. In fact, if you add up the days of the events (not the total but just the days) it is only a matter of a few weeks. In the first few chapters Mark races through many months in a few sentences.

The Gospel at times quickly moves from one event to another. In fact, now or immediately or that quick change occurs more than 40 times in Mark. So, watch for that. You know you think of

impetuous Peter and you can see that in the book of Mark... Tso, Mark begins quick, but then it slows down to weeks, then more slowly and begin to look at days, then to hours, until finally Marks brings us to that hill outside of Jerusalem. The book leads us there to the Cross.

So, Mark's Gospel is indeed exciting. Because it is the apostle Peter and probably other first hand accounts that recount the greatest story ever told.

One more note before we begin. The Gospels record Yeshua's Ministry to 4 groups of people in the world, then and now.

The Jews who loved the Scriptures and the prophecies of GOD, would only

listen to one of their own. So, MATTHEW speaks to the deeply religious Jews. Again then and now. Matthew presents Yeshua as the King of the Jews.

LUKE was a Greek speaking to the Greeks. The Greeks loved culture, beauty and ideas. Happiness could be found in the pursuit of truth. Luke fills his book we meet an absolutely powerful GOD in human flesh who controls and rules the Universe HE created. Luke paints Yeshua as the Savior of the world.

JOHN wrote to everyone, because everyone needs to meet GOD and only Yeshua can reveal HIM. John paints Yeshua as the Son of GOD.

MARK spoke to the Romans. These were the leaders and leadership and action impressed them. They knew nothing of Scriptures but everything of power. Mark paints Yeshua as the Son of man.

HE Yeshua is of course all of those things.

So, to this group comes the action packed Gospel of the powerful ministry of Yeshua. Mark uses the Greek word for “and” 1,375 times to tie together the endless actions of Yeshua.

So, with that let’s go to Mark 1 and there are 16 Ch’s so settle back and let’s go.

MAR1



**1 The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of GOD. Iesus Christos Yeshua anointed or Messiah.**

**2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
“BEHOLD, I SEND MY  
MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU,  
WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR  
WAY;**

**3 THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN  
THE WILDERNESS,  
‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE  
LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS  
STRAIGHT.**

It is in ISA 57:14.

**4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching (proclaiming) a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. This was a Jewish**

immersion ritual which is where baptism comes from.

**5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized (baptizmo immersed, dipped) by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. (Ex hol mo logeō proclaim or confess).**

John was clothed with camel's hair and *wore* a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey (meh lee = honey).



John was the health food guy before health food guys. His diet was not for me, although honey is great.

So, notice Vs 1, **The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of GOD.** Mark starts by making it perfectly clear: Yeshua is the unique **Son of God,** Who is also **God the Son.**

So, John the Baptizer was very popular amongst the people. Not so much with the Jewish leadership.

**7 And he was preaching, and saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals.**

**“I baptized (baptism = immersed) you with water; but HE will (future**

tense) **baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**”

So, there is the scene. John the Baptizer the first prophet in 400 years since the prophet Malachi. And he is preaching about the coming of the Messiah. Think of that though...400 years of no prophet and then John the baptizer and his message is of the Messiah.

So there is John performing an immersion ceremony for the Jews in the Jordan River. And now here comes the One that he was proclaiming.

It is probable that John the Baptizer knew Yeshua as they were growing up. They were related. Hippolytus huh paa luh tuhs of Rome (around 200 AD) wrote that Mary's mother and Elizabeth's mother

were sisters. So I guess that would Make Yeshua and John 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins.

However, it is unlikely they grow up together. John was in the wilderness for a large part of his life.

So, when they were at the Jordan River, Yeshua was 30 and John 6 months or so older.

**LUK 3:16, When HE began HIS ministry, Jesus HIMself was about 30 years old...**That was the age that the Levitical priests would take their sons to the Temple and make that proclamation this is my son in whom I am well pleased. **LUK 3:21-22, Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized, and while HE was praying, heaven was opened, and the**

**Holy Spirit descended upon HIM in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven: “You are MY beloved Son, in You I am well pleased.”**

Isaiah taught this about 700 years before Yeshua came. Around 400 years before Yeshua came, Malachi, the very last prophet of the OT, said that, when HE the Messiah came, there would be a messenger.

John the Baptizer was that messenger. He was one of those great men who was a number 2. He was a humble man and he was the fulfilment of prophecy. But more than that, John was also revival of prophecy. Do you realize what it must be like to wait for four centuries before GOD speaks to you? The people of Israel

had been waiting that long for a man to say just four words: Thus says the LORD. After all the prophets, from Moses to Malachi, this was a terrible loss.

There is a gap of four hundred years between Malachi and John the Baptizer, no prophet from GOD. No wonder the people went out from all Judea and Jerusalem to see John, they had waited so long and they knew Isaiah!

Prophecy was revived again. Once again there was a man who could say: this is what GOD is saying to you now.

Then they noticed that he was wearing the same type of clothing as Elijah the prophet. The crowds got the message.

GOD was speaking again. What then was John's mission? Well he came preaching.

to wait for four centuries before God speaks to you? The people of Israel had been waiting that long for a man to say just four words: Thus says the Lord.

After all the prophets, from Moses to Malachi, this was a terrible loss. In our Bibles there is a gap of four hundred years between Malachi and Matthew, because nobody spoke from God. No wonder the people went out from all Judea and Jerusalem to see John — they had waited so long! Prophecy was revived again. Once again there was a man who could say: this is what God is saying to you now — and they dashed out to hear. Then they noticed that he was wearing the same type of clothing as



Elijah. The crowds got the message. God was speaking again. What then was John's mission? He came preaching. I have been at conferences where it has been suggested that the church should stop preaching. It has been said that preaching is a waste of time and it is just talk, that we must feed the hungry and clothe the naked and care for the immigrants, and this is mission and this is what God is telling us to do. There is a place for these things, and they ought to be done. But what is the first thing we are told to do? I can put

**MAR 1:9 In those days Yeshua came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized (baptizmo = immersed passive voice meaning Yeshua received the action) by John in the Jordan.**

**Immediately coming up out of the water, HE saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon HIM;**

**and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”**

This is also recorded in MAT 4 and LUK 4.

**12 Immediately the Spirit impelled HIM *to go* out into the wilderness.**

**And HE was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and HE was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to HIM.**

**solitary, lonely, desolate, uninhabited**

Luke tells us that Jesus was 30 years old when this occurred. This was the age when Levitical priest would take their son to the people.

And declare that they were ready to assume their role as Priest. And they would say this is my son and I am well pleased or I am sure he is ready.

The LORD Jesus Christ didn't need to be cleansed this was ceremony was to identify HIM to the people.

Mark doesn't go into detail about the forty days in the wilderness. But we know 40 is an important number in scripture.

More than a 140 times in Scripture, the number 40 symbolizes a period of testing, or trial of some sort.

Moses lived 40 years in Egypt and forty years in the desert. He was also on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights, receiving GOD's laws twice actually).

The spies were investigating the Promise Land for 40 days.

Jonah warned Nineveh, for forty days, and of course it rained 40 days during the flood. Many others of course.

**14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God,**

**and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”**

**16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon (Peter) and**

**Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.**

**And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.**

Fishing was the business of the day. And it was hard work for minimal reward. The equipment was expensive, the work hard. And here come Jesus and says leave all that and follow ME.

**18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.**

**Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.**

It's interesting that at least James and John were probably pretty successful in their fishing business.

And the LORD calls them not a scholarly position of great money and little work. But rather a task, an unknown for them with apparently no offer of financial reward.

In verses 21-28 **They** (four Disciples and the LORD) **went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and *began* to teach.**

**They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.**

**Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,**

**saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth?**

**And look at what the Demons say, these are fallen Angels.**

**/Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”**

**And here is the start of what Jesus would say through much of HIS Ministry to those HE healed. Don't tell anybody.**

**We will revisit the thought, but the LORD wanted people to hear HIS**

message of the Kingdom of GOD and the message of Salvation. Not to simply seek HIM out as a mystic healer of which there were many in those days.

**And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”**

**Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him.**

**They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”**

**Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.**



The Greek word for be quiet is fem eh oh and means put a muzzle on it...Same word used later when HE calms the storm.

So, it shows HE of course has authority over the Spiritual world as well as the natural world.

**29 And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.**

**Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her.**

**31 And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.**

**When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed.**

**And the whole city had gathered at the door.**

**And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.**

A couple of things about this miracle. One it was Peter's mother in law, so it had a personal meaning for Peter.

Second the Talmud (kind of a collection of Rabbinical commentaries) speak of this fever being prevalent in that area.

And there is or was a kinda mystical formula and procedure that the Jews would go through for a cure and it took several days.

The LORD simply takes her by the hand and the fever is gone. So, it showed the no doubt large crowd around that HE was in authority. And then she served HIM showing gratitude.

And of course the whole town comes over bringing their sick and lame at sunset, because that was a Sabbath Miracle.

**35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.**

**Simon (Peter) and his companions searched for Him; they found Him, and said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.”**

**He said to them, “Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.”**

At this point all the people were more interested in the healings.

**39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.**

**And a leper came to Jesus, begging Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”**

**Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed.”**

**42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.**

**And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away,**

**and He said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”**

**But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas;**

**and they were coming to Him from everywhere.**

Couple of points here, Jesus A person with Leprosy was in a bad bad state. First it was usually a death sentence. There was no anti biotics at the time, there was some treatment if it was in the early stages. But left untreated parts of the body would actually die and fall off.

So, the person with it was regarded as highly contagious. So, they were kicked out of the city or town usually living at the local dump. And they would have to tell everyone that approached them as unclean unclean.

So, notice the LORD could have just said your healed, but HE here HE actually touched HIM.

And this was a message. Because something unclean cannot become clean by touching. But rather something clean touched unclean they both become unclean. But of course the LORD can make them clean and us as well.

Also, the LORD didn't want the advertisement, HE wanted the man to go the procedure laid out in the OT Law.

But the man started proclaiming his healing as he was probably known in the area and so everyone wanted a miracle.

So, the LORD had to leave to another city. Probably can't blame the guy.

## CH2

**When He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home.**

**And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them.**

**And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men.**

**Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying.**

**And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”**



Makes you wonder about having friends like that for one thing. And how about this: Are you that kind of friend? Makes you wonder.

**6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,**

**“Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?”**

**Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, “Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?”**

They were thinking this, HE knew it, and imagine what they were thinking when HE pointed that out.

Also I wonder at that moment if the friends on the roof were saying: Hey forget the sins, we want him to walk.

They went to a lot of trouble to see their friend healed of his paralysis, and now the teacher only wants to *forgive his sins*.

Jesus knew the man's *real* need and *greatest* need. What good was it if the man could walk, but walked right into hell with them.

Whenever there is a problem, almost always, *sin* is the real problem. Jesus got right to the problem.

And our LORD was not saying that his paralysis was directly caused by sin. HE addressed the man's greatest need – man's sinful condition.

/Consider this: Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that that our LORD ever performs.

It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results.”

So, next the LORD responds to everybody, the men on the roof the Scribes, the man himself and the crowd.

**9 “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’; or to say, ‘Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk’?**

**“But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic,**

**“I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home.”**

**And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”**

**13 And He went out again by the seashore; and all the people were coming to Him, and He was teaching them.**

**As He passed by, He saw Levi the *son* of Alphaeus sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him.**

**This is Matthew,**

**15 And it happened that He was reclining *at the table* in his house (Levi's house), and many tax collectors and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him.**

**16 the scribes of the Pharisees said to His disciples, "Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?"**

**17 And hearing *this*, Jesus said to them, "*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

We have seen the Pharisees before: The name *Pharisee* meant "separated ones." They separated themselves from

everything THEY thought was unholy, and THEY thought everyone except THEMselves was separated from the love of GOD.

**18 John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they came and said to Him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?"**

**19 And Jesus said to them, "While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom cannot fast, can they?"**

**"But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.**

GOD is not against fasting; HE is *for* fasting. But fasting has its time and place in the Christian life.

Jesus used a vivid picture to tell the Pharisees why HIS disciples did not fast.

After a Jewish wedding there was no honeymoon. For a week or so there was a wedding feast.

To that week of happiness were invited the closest friends of the bride and the bridegroom. Jesus likened HIS Disciples to chosen guests at a wedding feast.

There was actually a rabbinic ruling which said, "All in attendance on the bridegroom are relieved of all religious observances." The wedding guests were actually exempt from all fasting.

**21 “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; otherwise the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear results.**

**“No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and the skins *as well*; but *one puts* new wine into fresh wineskins.”**

Our LORD came with a new dispensation. A new way of Life. The CWL.

**23 And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads *of grain*.**



**24 The Pharisees were saying to Him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”**

Picking the grain was legal DEU 23, but the Pharisees had added the day you did it on would make illegal. They added at 39 rules to the Sabbath command which was to remember the rest day and keep it Holy.

**And He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry;**

**26 how he entered the house of God in the time of Abi ah thar *the* high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for *anyone* to eat except**

**the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?”**

Here is a great point, of course it is the LORD made it:

**Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.**

**“So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”**

Our LORD did 7 miracles on the sabbath. Many believe that was a sign that HE was the Sabbath.

We are to rest in HIM. It is not that the Sabbath idea is wrong today. But it will not make you any more Holy than the believer who does not do it.

It will only make one holier in their own mind.

## CH 3

**1 He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered.**

**They were watching Him *to see* if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.**

This is an amazing verse, they had faith that HE could heal that wasn't the issue, they just wanted HIM to do it on the Sabbath so they could accuse HIM of a violation.

**He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!"**

**4 And He said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?”**

**But they kept silent.**

**After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.**

**6 The Pharisees went out and immediately *began* conspiring with the Herodians against Him, *as to* how they might destroy Him.**

**Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed.**

You notice HE did nothing except heal. The man only put forth his hand now healed.

According to their Sabbath traditions, if you cut your finger, you could stop the bleeding – but you could not put ointment on the cut. You could stop it from getting worse, but you weren't allowed to make it better.

In VS 13-19 the LORD chooses the 12 or finalizes the 12 and it says the HE gave them authority to cast out the demons.

Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), and James, and John sons of Zebedee “Sons of Thunder”);

Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James

the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot,

**20 And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal.**

**When His own people heard *of this*, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.”**

**The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”**

**And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan?**

**“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.**

**“If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.**

**27 “But no one can enter the strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.**

**“Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter;**

**Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him.**

**A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Behold, Your**

**mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.”**

**Answering them, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?”**

**Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers!**

**“For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”**

**CH 4**

**1 He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.**



**And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,**

**“Listen *to this!* Behold, the sower went out to sow;**

**as he was sowing, some *seed* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.**

**“Other *seed* fell on the rocky *ground* where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil.**

**“And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.**

**“Other *seed* fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.**

**8 “Other *seeds* fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”**

**And He was saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”**

**As soon as He was alone, [fn]His followers, along with the twelve, *began* asking Him *about* the parables.**

**11 And He was saying to them, “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables,**

**so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN.”**

Jesus taught about 50 50 Miracles and Parables.

13 And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?”

“The sower sows the word.

“These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

“In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky *places*, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;

17 and they have no *firm* root in themselves, but are *only* temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

“And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear

the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

And He was saying to them, “A lamp is not brought to be put under a [fn]basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not *brought* to be put on the lampstand?

22 “For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has *anything* been secret, but that it would come to light.

“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

And He was saying to them, “Take care what you listen to. [fn]By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides.

“For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given; and whoever does not have, even

what he has shall be taken away from him.”

**And He was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;**

**27 and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know.**

**“The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.**

**29 “But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”**

**And He said, “How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it?**

**31 “*It is* like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil,**

**yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that **THE BIRDS OF THE AIR** can **NEST UNDER ITS SHADE.**”**

**33 With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it;**

**and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining**

**everything privately to His own disciples.**

**On that day, when evening came, He \*said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.”**

**Leaving the crowd, they \*took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him.**

**37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.**

**Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they \*woke Him and \*said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”**



**39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.**

**And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”**

**41 They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”**

We will look at these next time.