



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

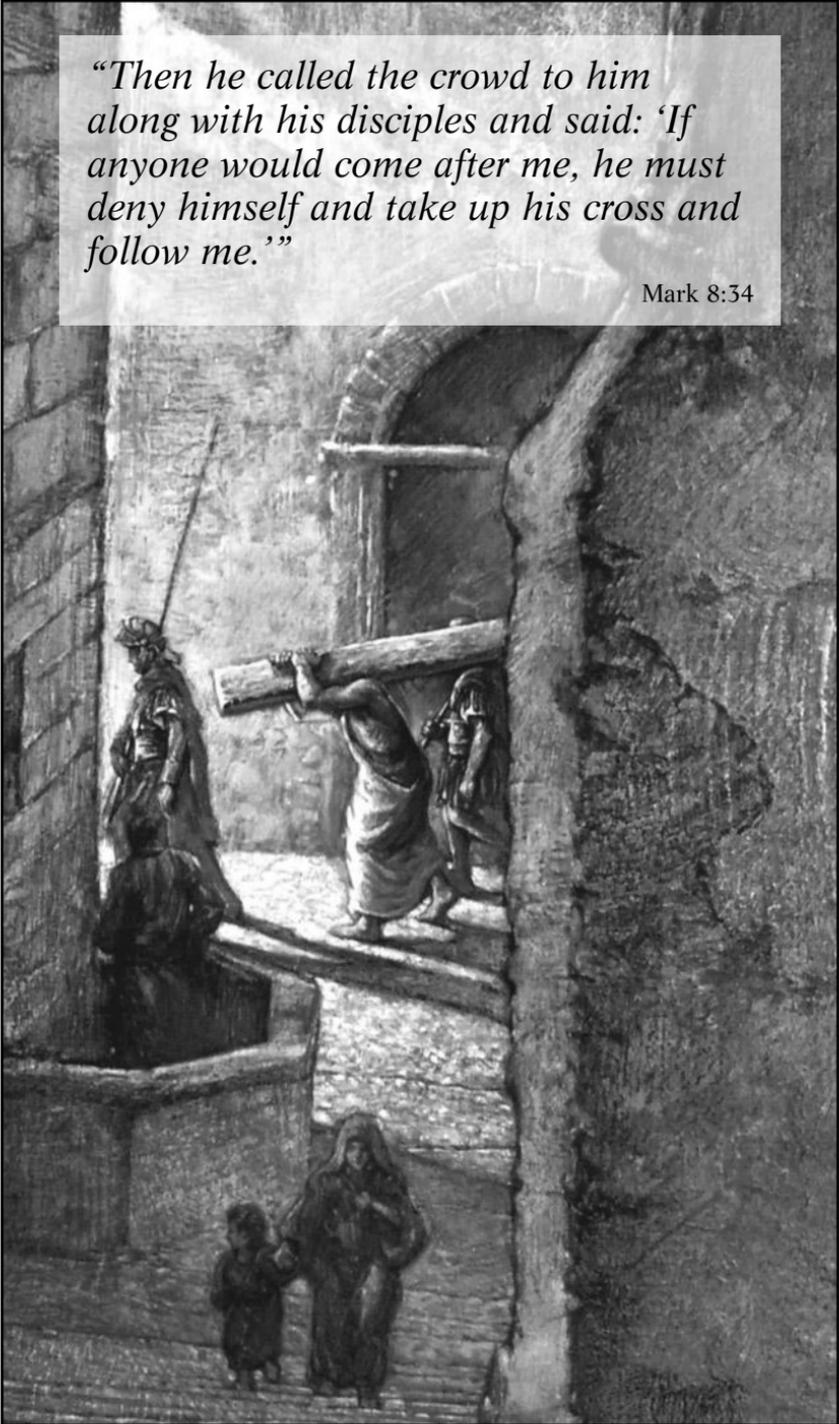
BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

MARK
Week 3

“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’”

Mark 8:34



Discipleship: To Be or Not to Be

DAY 15

Mark 8:27-9:1

How do people react to these titles? (a) your majesty, (b) your highness, (c) sir, (d) doctor, (e) captain, (f) Messiah.

1. Although Peter identifies Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, did Peter lack understanding about what the Messiah would do (8:27-32)?

2. Why did Jesus refer to Peter as “Satan” (v. 33)? Was it to show the source of Peter’s disagreement with Jesus?

3. What were the expectations of Jesus for the disciples (vs. 34-38)?

4. What would the disciples have thought when Jesus made the startling announcement that they would see the kingdom of God (9:1)?

1. How often do material things overwhelm spiritual priorities in your life? How do you know when too much concern lies in material things?

2. Are you a disciple of Jesus? Are you a Christ-follower?

*Jesus and the disciples were in **Caesarea Philippi**, in the far north of Jesus’ travels (8:27). Huge rocks tower over fresh, cold water that emerges from its underground streams. In this setting, Jesus asked who men say he is. In Matthew 16:13-20, Matthew’s parallel account refers to Jesus’ promise to build his spirit body of followers on a rock—understood by many scholars to be referring to himself.*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

And the Glory of the Lord

Mark 9:2-29

OPENING
up to the Word

What is your favorite style of camping? (a) under the stars, (b) tent, (c) trailer, (d) bed and breakfast, (e) a motel or hotel.

DIGGING
into the Word

1. How did the prediction in Mark 9:1 build anticipation in the minds of the disciples (vs. 2-6)? How did the disciples first understand this event? (a) a vision, (b) a glimpse into heaven, (c) a resurrection story. Were they ready to set up housing for these great leaders of the kingdom?

2. Why do you think Moses and Elijah were chosen by God to appear in the transfiguration? How did each prophet point to the glory of the coming of the Son of Man (vs. 7-13)?

3. How controlling and destructive was the demon who possessed the young man since childhood (vs. 14-26)?

4. How important was his father's belief (vs. 23-25)? Why had the disciples been unable to exorcise the demon (vs. 17-19, 23, 28-29)?

LIVING
out the Word

Who are your favorite heroes from the Old Testament? How is the glory of Jesus greater for you? How is Jesus far more than a mere hero?

WINDOW
on the Word

***Elijah** was a great prophet of God who withstood the prophets of Baal. Malachi, writing about 430 B.C., had prophesied that Elijah would come before the last days to restore the hearts of the children to their fathers (Mal 4:5-6). Jesus said that this Elijah had already come (Mk 9:13), yet the people had rejected him. Jesus was speaking of John the Baptist (Mt. 11:11-14). In the vision neither Elijah nor Moses spoke to anyone other than Jesus.*



“After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.”

Mark 9:2-3

Death, Heaven and Hell

Mark 9:30-50

OPENING
up to the Word

If you knew you would die one week from now, what would you do? How would your life change?

DIGGING
into the Word

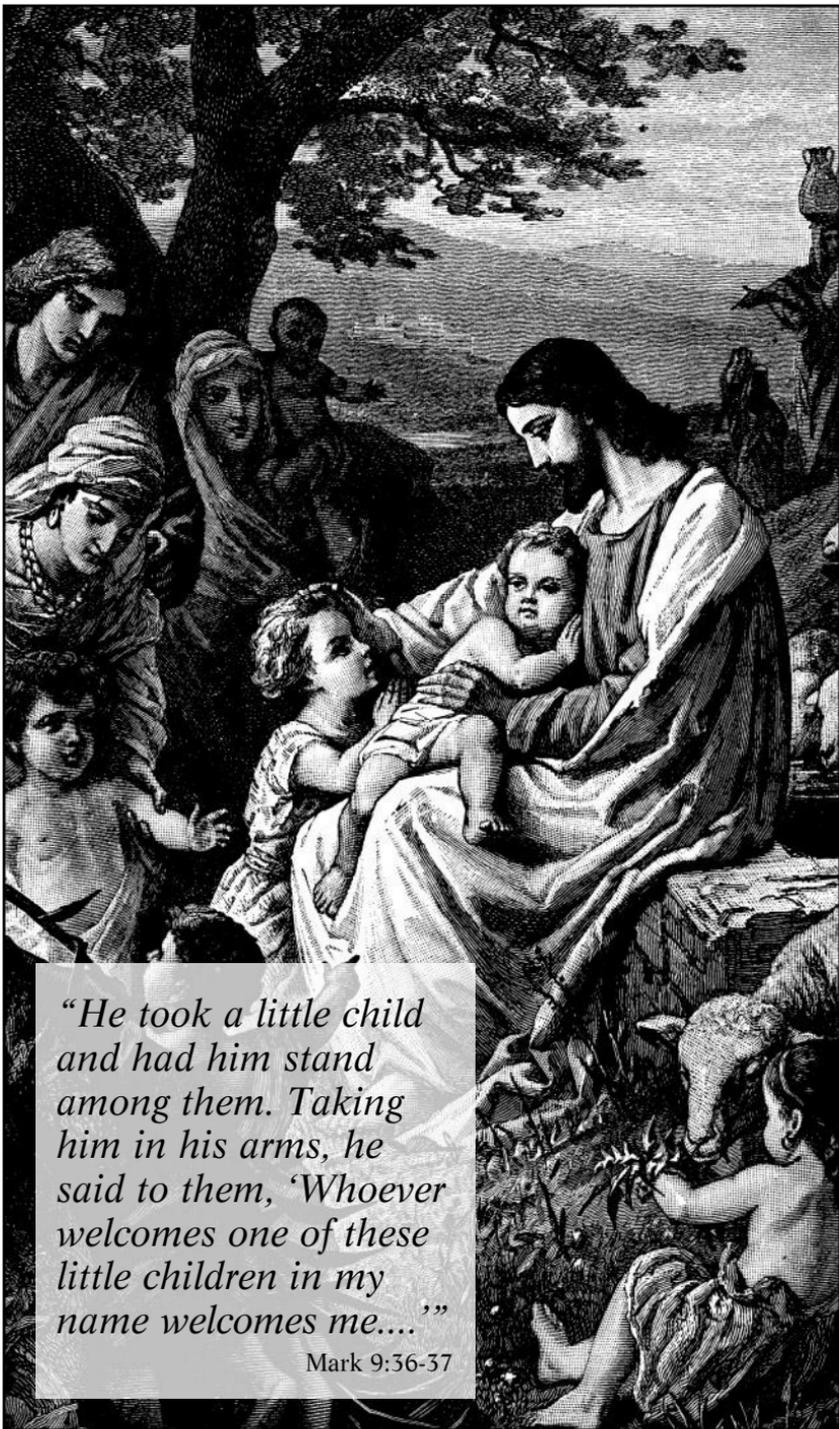
- 1.** Why did Jesus follow the preview of his glory (vs. 2-29) with a preview of his death (vs. 30-32)? Why did the disciples not understand?
- 2.** How do attitudes and actions affect one's reward with Jesus (vs. 33-41)?
- 3.** How do destructive attitudes and actions affect destiny (vs. 42-48)? What steps should be taken to rid ourselves of sin in this life (vs. 43-47)? Why did Jesus use metaphors of painful, self-inflicted wounds to make his point?
- 4.** Salt was a flavoring agent and a preservative. Why must everyone be salted with fire (vs. 49-50)? How might the use of salt for the sacrifices in the Temple give this passage meaning (Lev 2:13)?

LIVING
out the Word

- 1.** How willing are you to ask questions when you don't understand something? Or are you afraid to show your ignorance (Mk 9:32)?
- 2.** When did you last argue with someone close to you? Were you being selfish? Consider Jesus' response to the disciples (vs. 35, 37).
- 3.** How have you had "salt in yourself" (v. 50)? Are you at peace with your family, your friends, and your neighbors?

WINDOW
on the Word

*In these passages **Jesus contrasts this life with the next.** Death, inevitable for all humans, for Jesus would be at the hands of murderers (v. 31). Yet he would live again. The disciples would live again, too, and they were to take this life seriously because it would have eternal consequences (vs. 41, 43, 45, 47). The alternative to life in the kingdom of God is not pleasant (vs. 47-48). The best ancient manuscripts **omit verses 44 and 46.** Some modern translations, including the NIV, omit these verses. Since they are identical to verse 48, it seems they were added in some texts for emphasis. In verses 43, 45, 47, the Greek word for "hell" is **Gehenna**, which metaphorically refers to the area southwest of Jerusalem where refuse was dumped and burned.*



“He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me....’”

Mark 9:36-37

Marriage, Divorce and Eternal Life

Mark 10:1-31

OPENING
up to the Word

If you could eliminate one common element in society, what would you choose? (a) war, (b) divorce, (c) child abuse, (d) corruption, (e) adultery, (f) terrorism.

DIGGING
into the Word

1. The context of this passage is a debate over the law of Moses. How does the dialogue of the Pharisees with Jesus demonstrate their obsession with Moses and their rejection of Jesus (vs. 1-12)? What was God's purpose for marriage?

2. Why did refusal to consider the needs of children lead to Jesus' indignation (vs. 13-16)?

3. How did the wealthy man show his perception of the law (vs. 17-31)?

4. Why did Jesus say that being saved was "impossible with man" (v. 27)?

LIVING
out the Word

1. Does Jesus make allowance for human frailty and sin (See Mt. 5:32; 19:9)? What is his desire for marriage?

2. How important is money and wealth to you? Would you be willing to give it all away? Although you are not in this disciple's sandals, to sell all, do you at least help the poor? How can you best give to the poor?

WINDOW
on the Word

*One of the essential themes in Mark's Gospel centers on the **conflict between the religious leaders and Jesus**. The Pharisees had a way of quoting Moses that assumed him to be the final legal authority on all important matters. The Jews, however, were split over interpretation: the school of Shammai was conservative, allowing divorce only for a wife's infidelity; the school of Hillel was more liberal, allowing divorce for almost any reason. Here Jesus goes back to creation, before Moses, to show God's original intent for marriage.*

Jesus Lights the Way

DAY 19

Mark 10:32-52

Ever hear this country tune? *Nobody wants to play backup, everybody wants to be the lead singer in the band!*

1. Compare Jesus' third prediction of his death with the other two (8:31; 9:31). Why didn't the disciples understand it?
2. Note how James and John tried to set Jesus up (10:35). How did their request (v. 37) reflect back to the transfiguration (9:2-29) and to Jesus' teachings on eternal life (9:41, 43, 45, 47; 10:23, 25, 30)?
3. Were the other disciples right to respond with indignation (v. 41)? Had they gotten the point (vs. 42-45)?
4. How does the story of blind Bartimaeus (vs. 46-52) contrast and conclude these stories of disciples who didn't learn and Pharisees who couldn't see? Note the phrase "along the road," which could indicate a spiritual journey, not simply getting from point A to point B. (v. 52).
5. Why did Jesus heal Bartimaeus?

1. How do you partake of the cup and baptism of Jesus (vs. 38-40)? (a) by suffering, (b) by Jesus living in you, (c) through communion service, (d) through baptism of the Holy Spirit, (e) all of the above.
2. Consider your roles in life. For whom do you have some leadership responsibility? A mate? Family? Co-workers? Employees? Students? Community? Ask yourself this deep question—are you being a servant to help them, even as Jesus died to serve you?

*Jesus was teaching the disciples about **leadership**. The model in that society was hierarchal and dictatorial, as exemplified by the Roman and Herodian rule over the Jews. Jesus calls for leaders to motivate others by being servants who care for people. These disciples were soon to have great responsibility as stewards of Christ's church.*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

“On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves....”

Mark 11:15



Entry Into His Father's House

DAY 20

Mark 11:1-19

What form of transportation do you use most?

(a) walking, (b) scooter (c) bicycle, (d) motorcycle,
(e) subway, (f) taxi, (g) bus, (h) train, (i) car.

1. Jesus had started his final trek to Jerusalem (v. 1). How unusual was the request by Jesus (vs. 2-7)? Did this represent the request of a king?

2. Compare the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (vs. 7-9) to Zechariah 9:9. How does it match?

3. How did the chanting of the crowd hail the entrance of the true king (Mk 11:9)? Of the true kingdom (vs. 10-11)? How much did this crowd really understand?

4. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree (vs. 12-14)? Though he speaks to the tree, who is his intended audience? Consider Luke 13:6-9.

5. What right did Jesus have to drive out the commercial activity in the Temple area (Mk 11:15-17)? What was the purpose of the Temple? Is Jesus reforming Judaism or starting a new religion?

1. How much respect do you give the Lord? Would you permit him to use your transportation? Your time? Your talent? Your treasure?

2. How much has consumerism taken control of your life? Has the commercial pushed out the spiritual?

Hosanna means "save now," and is quoted from Psalm 118:25. This song was typically sung by pilgrims at Passover time as a greeting or blessing. This event is often called the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Jesus is hailed with hosannas of praise. However, the typical triumphal entry of a king or prominent person would have been met with welcome by the local secular and religious leaders and the gift of the keys to the city. Where were these hosts?

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

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on the Word

Lessons on Authority

Mark 11:20-33

OPENING
up to the Word

If you were given the power to do one miracle, which would you select? (a) curse a fig tree, (b) toss a mountain into the sea, (c) heal a close friend, (d) convert your worst enemy.

DIGGING
into the Word

1. What happened to the fig tree (vs. 20-21)? Why was Peter surprised? Was he faithful or faithless?

2. What meaning did this episode have for Jesus' teaching (vs. 22-25)? How might the withering of the tree correlate to forgiving one another (v. 25)?

3. Consider Jesus walking in the Temple (vs. 27-28). What past experiences must have flooded his mind?

4. Why did Jesus refuse to identify his authority at this time (vs. 29-33)? And why were the Temple authorities asking?

LIVING
out the Word

1. Describe faith (see Heb 11:1). How does faith inspire your prayer life?

2. How does prayer create the opportunity for greater relationships, both with God and his creation?

WINDOW
on the Word

***Fig trees** typically bore leaves and fruit at the same time. Although this tree had sprouted leaves, it was barren of fruit. Fig trees were plentiful in Israel, and were often planted in vineyards. In the Old Testament fig trees were a metaphor representing Israel (Hos 9:10). In verse 23, Jesus referred to "this mountain" as he stood on the Temple Mount. In Mark 13 he later prophesied about what would happen on this mountain.*