



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 42 "Following the Messiah: Mark's Theology of Discipleship" 5-15-22

Introduction: Discipleship Considered

1. A personal _____ with Jesus Christ is central to Christian discipleship.

Within Mark's gospel, the disciples (the twelve in particular) are the most commonly referred to characters apart from the Lord Jesus. A disciple is simply a learner and that learning process "consists in the appropriation or adoption of specific knowledge or conduct that proceeds deliberately and according to a set plan" (TDNT). Central to the concept of discipleship is the relationship between master and pupil. "There is no [disciple] without a [teacher]" (TDNT).

2. Christian discipleship should be understood as the active _____ out of one's relationship with Jesus Christ.

The term "disciple" is used over 40 times in Mark's gospel and over 250 times in the NT as a whole. It is done so, however, only in the four gospels and in Acts. While the writers of the other NT books would certainly have understood themselves as disciples, the term is used exclusively within action-oriented narratives.

Key Point: While the gospel of Mark presents Jesus to us as the Messiah, the Son of God so that we might believe in Him, it also shows us what it means to _____ Him as His disciples.

Discipleship in Mark's Gospel

- Disciples of the Lord Jesus are called by Him.

⇒ Jesus calls disciples from diverse _____.

Mark 1:16-17—¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Mark 2:13-14—¹³He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me."

⇒ Jesus' call demands a _____.

Mark 2:18-20—¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Mark 10:21-22—²¹And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

⇒ Jesus calls disciples in order that they might be _____ Him.

Mark 3:13-14a—¹³And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him...

* To learn from His _____

Mark 4:10-12—¹⁰And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹²so that "THEY MAY INDEED SEE BUT NOT PERCEIVE, AND MAY INDEED HEAR BUT NOT UNDERSTAND, LEST THEY SHOULD TURN AND BE FORGIVEN."

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Mark 2:10-12—¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." ¹²And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed

Key Point: Following Jesus means recognizing that our _____ is now bound up with His.

Mark 8:34-36—³⁴And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

- **Disciples of the Lord Jesus are *commissioned* by Him.**

⇒ **Jesus delegates His _____ to His followers.**

Mark 3:14-16a—¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve...

⇒ **Jesus sets them apart in order that they might _____ others.**

Mark 6:7, 12-13—⁷ And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits...¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Mark 6:30—The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

* **To do so with _____.**

Mark 7:32-24—³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”

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Mark 9:33-35—³³ And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

Key Point: Following Jesus involves being _____ Him and being _____ from the world.

Mark 10:42-45—⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Concluding Thoughts

1. Mark’s gospel warns us against _____ - _____.

Mark 14:29-31—²⁹ Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹ But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

1 Pet. 5:6-9—⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

2. Mark’s gospel encourages us that Jesus goes _____ us and continues to _____ us.

Mark 16:6-8—⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Heb. 12:1-2—¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



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- * To learn from His example

Mark 5:37:41—³⁷And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James...⁴¹Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Key Point: Following Jesus means recognizing that our identity is now bound up with His.

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⇒ **Jesus sets them apart in order that they might serve others.**

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Key Point: Following Jesus involves being like Him and being distinct from the world.

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