

Teen Bible Study Notes: Friday, March 8, 2019
Presented by: Sheldon Monson
The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ – Lecture #29
Book and Chapter – Mark Chapters 3 & 4

MARK 2

Controversy over Sabbath-Work

V23 Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain.

Plucking the heads of grain – from another’s field for sustenance was permitted under Mosaic Law (**Deuteronomy 23:25**). This was not stealing, or theft.

Deuteronomy 23:25 “When you come into your neighbor’s standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle on your neighbor’s standing grain.”

V24 And the Pharisees said to Him, “Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”

However, the Pharisees were not condemning the disciples for theft – but rather for breaking the Sabbath by performing work on it.

The law of God stated nothing about this being “unlawful.” This was one of the don’ts added by the Jewish religious leaders. To those who thought themselves more righteous than Jesus Christ, plucking heads of grain on the Sabbath was work! Therefore, they determined that it was unlawful!

Jesus pointed out that the act of plucking heads of grain to eat with your hand should not be confused with Sabbath work condemned in the law.

V25 But He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him:

V26 How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?”

Part of Jesus’ defense was to recall the story of David’s eating of the *showbread* from the tabernacle. Since that bread was intended for the priests, it was *not lawful* for others to eat. But here an exception was made in order to provide food for David and his men who were in need.

So, rather than argue the technicalities of the law with them. Jesus gave in reply this example from the life of King David, a man after God’s own heart.

Here Christ was pointing out that the law was not meant to be a burdensome, rigid, inflexible thing. It was not to be violated wholesale or the meaning of the law would have been lost. But God did not intend that there should be food available in the Temple yet the king and his men starving.

Christ Himself is Lord, Master and Giver of the Sabbath. It is His right – not man’s – to instruct us on just how that law is to be observed. Man has no right to go beyond the revealed will of God, or to add to the Word of God, in the manner of the keeping of the Sabbath as did the religious leaders of Christ’s day.

V27 And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

Jesus said – *“the Sabbath was made for man.”* It was made to serve and benefit man – if they would keep it as God intended.

The word “Sabbath” means *rest* in Hebrew. Physical rest and mental relaxation after a busy week are obvious reasons for keeping the Sabbath. It is also a day for holy convocation and fellowship with other Christians, and with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, the Sabbath is a “sign.” It is a badge, symbol or token of identity. God commanded His people to keep His Sabbath as a sign (**Exodus 31:12-17**) to identify who is their God. God gave man the Sabbath for the purpose of keeping mankind in the true knowledge and true worship of the true God. The Sabbath points back to the creation of the present physical world (**Exodus 20:11; Exodus 31:17**), and creation is proof of God’s existence.

The Sabbath was also given to identify who are the people of God. The special Sabbath covenant also reveals that the Sabbath is a sign that the Eternal sanctifies His obedient people – sets them apart from other people – for His holy purpose (**Exodus 31:13**).

The Jews, steeped in physical rituals, could not understand the spiritual application of the Sabbath commandment. By the time of Christ, the religious Jews had added a large number of dos and don’ts to the keeping of the fourth commandment. These additions were not inspired by God and actually went far beyond the spirit and intent of God’s Law. By adding their own traditions and interpretations, they made the Sabbath a burden to keep.

Christ taught balance, wisdom and having the right attitude in Sabbath observance.

V28 Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

Jesus Christ is the member of the God Family through whom God created all things (**Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:1-2**). Christ is *Lord of the Sabbath* and kept it as a human.

MARK 3

Healing on the Sabbath

V1 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.

V2 And they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

These people had no problem pulling an ox out of a ditch on the Sabbath – yet accused Christ of breaking the Sabbath by working on it to heal a crippled man!

God intended that no servile or remunerative work be done on the Sabbath. But that did not mean that a person could not expend any physical effort at all on that day!

By the time of Christ's earthly ministry, the custom of keeping the Sabbath in the manner of the scribes and Pharisees had become deeply entrenched among devout Jews. They had many very stringent stipulations about what they could and could not do on the Sabbath day. The scribes and Pharisees acted as "spiritual policemen" and attempted to enforce these rigid rules of Sabbath-keeping. After all, they did sit in *Moses seat* (**Matthew 23:2**).

The scribes and Pharisees personified a common human problem – power corrupts. They did NOT have the right to determine – beyond the revealed Word of God – just what people could and could not do on the seventh day – but they did anyway (**Deuteronomy 4:2; Deuteronomy 12:32**).

Deuteronomy 4:2 "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take *anything* from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

These religious hypocrites added some sixty-five dos and don'ts to the keeping of the Sabbath day which God had not commanded. They believed they were protecting people from straying too close to the edge of the cliff and from becoming "permissive" in the keeping of the weekly Sabbath.

The real problem, of course, was that they were self-righteous. They were not satisfied with the law as God had given it. They had to embellish it, add to it, improve upon it.

Time after time, they tried to trap Jesus in alleged violations of the "law" of the Sabbath. What they did not realize was that Christ Himself is Lord. Master and giver of the Sabbath. It is His right – not man's – to instruct us on just how that law is to be observed.

People with God's Spirit should have the wisdom needed in making judgments about what is right and what is not on the Sabbath – based on God's clear instructions. Christ came to teach us the spirit of the law. The problem was they did not have God's Spirit.

If you can set God apart in your mind on the seventh day – think of Him, learn of Him in His Word, pray more to Him and reflect on your own need to overcome and develop the mind of Christ, then you will be keeping the spirit of the Sabbath day. If your mind is primarily on God and the things of God, then the Sabbath is serving you as Christ intended. It will be a day of rest for spiritual and physical rejuvenation.

If your mind is mainly on your own thoughts, dreams, business, entertainment, etc., etc. – then you will be missing the mark in keeping the Sabbath.

V3 Then He said to the man who had the withered hand, “Step forward.”

V4 And He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill? But they kept silent.

These religious leaders would have no problem working on the Sabbath to pull one of their animals out of the pit on the Sabbath and save its’ life, but they took exception with Jesus healing someone on the Sabbath. How ridiculous!

Luke 14:5 “...Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?”

They kept silent – The Pharisees did not respond, for they knew that they would condemn themselves.

V5 So when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched *it* out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

V6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.

Isn’t it pathetic that they cared more about accusing Christ of breaking one of ***their Sabbath laws*** than they did about the healing of a man who had a withered hand?

Incredible! Because Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath – their conclusion was we must destroy Him!

A Great Multitude Follows Jesus

V7 But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee [*from the north*] followed Him, and from Judea [*from the south*]

Because of the plot against His life Jesus withdrew with the disciples from the area. Still crowds flocked to see Him from everywhere!

V8 And Jerusalem and Idumea [*south of Judea*] and beyond the Jordan [*refers to cities on the east side of the Jordan River*]; and those from Tyre and Sidon [*both on the Lebanese coast*], a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him.

V9 And he told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him.

V10 For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him.

V11 And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, “You are the Son of God.”

V12 But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known.

The Twelve Apostles

V13 And He went up on the mountain and called *to Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him.

V14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,

V15 And to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:

Christ gave **power** or authority to these 12 disciples – who became apostles. **Apostle** – means “one sent forth.”

V16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter;

V17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, “Sons of Thunder”;

V18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the *son* of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite;

V19 And Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.

A House Divided Cannot Stand

V20 And the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

V21 But when His own people heard *about this*, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.”

Opposition to Jesus came not only from His enemies. Jesus’ **own people**, no doubt close friends and even relatives heard of His teaching and assumed that He was **out of His mind**.

We may also have friends and family who think we are “out of our minds” for what we believe and stand for too.

Christ said, “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world” (**John 17:14**).

V22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebub,” and, “By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.”

They accused Him of being possessed by *Beelzebub* – literally “Lord of the Flies” – another name for Satan.

V23 So He called them to *Him* and said to them in parables: “How can Satan cast out Satan?

V24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

V25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

V26 And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end.

V27 No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

The Unpardonable Sin

V28 Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;

V29 But he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation” –

V30 Because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Question: What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

Answer: Only *three places* in the Bible mention “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.” **1) Matthew 12:22-32; Mark 3:20-30 and Luke 12:10.**

The Greek word in these verses means “to speak abusively, defame, or vilify.” Certain people of Jesus’ day blasphemed the Spirit by attributing the power and works of God to the devil – by saying Jesus cast out demons by an unclean spirit.

Blasphemy against the Spirit of God is not pardonable. The reason is this: We can come to repentance only when the Holy Spirit convicts us that our ways have been wrong and that God’s ways are right. If we reject, by not repenting, the Holy Spirit and the works it does, we are rejecting the only channel through which we could qualify for God’s gift of grace. The unpardonable sin is one unrepented of.

The words and works of Christ were spoken and performed by the power of the Holy Spirit. To attribute them to Satan is to call the work of God a work of Satan.

Falling away after once having the Holy Spirit is also unpardonable (**Hebrews 6:4-6**). Falling away means turning from God's way of life after sincerely embracing it, or rejecting Christ's sacrifice, which makes it possible for humans to receive God's Spirit after repentance and baptism (**Acts 2:38**). It is possible, as **I Thessalonians 5:19** shows, to quench the Spirit in us.

Many have worried needlessly about this question. No one who has blasphemed the Spirit of God wants to do the works of God. He hates them! But as long as one is truly repentant, wants to live God's way of life and strives to overcome, he or she has not committed the unpardonable sin.

Jesus' Mother and Brothers Send for Him

V31 Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him.

V32 And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You."

V33 But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?"

V34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!"

V35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

I John 2:17 "...the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

God is planning to expand His Family! Those who will be born into it are those who have his Spirit (**Romans 8:11**). It is the Spirit that binds us together as Family.

MARK 4

V1 And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat *in it* on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.

V2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:

V3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

V4 And it happened, as he sowed, *that* some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.

V5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.

V6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

V7 And some *seed* fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

V8 But other *seed* fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

V9 And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Jesus describes a scene very familiar to His audience. A sower went out to sow grain in his field. The seed falls on four different types of ground: 1) the wayside, 2) stony ground, 3) among thorns, 4) good ground. Each represents a different category of person who hears the Word of God at some point in his life. Each responds differently.

We are not told who the sower is, but it is explained that “The sower sows the word” (**verse 14**). We must assume that whoever disseminates God’s Word (God or one of His human instruments) is the sower. The seed in the parable, then, represents the gospel message and all that it includes.

Each person who hears it reacts differently. Not everyone responds with equal enthusiasm. Nor does the Word of God bear the same fruit in each individual.

The Purpose of Parables

V10 But when he was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.

V11 And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,

Young people – *it has been given to you to know!* God extending a calling to you. How will you respond?

V12 So that ‘*Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them.*’”

Question: Why did Jesus speak in parables?

Answer: The popularly held concept is that in His day Jesus tried to save everyone and that He instructed His Church to do the same. It is widely assumed that whenever Jesus spoke in parables He did so to make His teachings more understandable to the multitudes who heard Him.

However, Jesus gave no such reason. When His disciples asked Him about one of His parables, He said, “...To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside [*the unconverted masses*], all things come in parables” (**verse 11**).

Why? To make what He said easier to comprehend? No, just the opposite! He often used parables so that “...*Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them*” (**verse 12**).

Often, when He employed parables, Jesus intentionally left the masses in their deception. He spoke in parables to cloud His message, not to make it easily understood. He Himself said so.

Certainly, He told His Church to carry His message to all nations, but only as a witness (**Matthew 24:14**). Nowhere did He say that His true ministers are to try to convert the nations.

Paul wrote to the Greeks in Corinth – “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*” (**I Corinthians 1:26**).

Simply put, everyone on earth is not now able to come to God to be converted. Jesus declared: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...” (**John 6:44**).

The Father of whom Jesus spoke has not been drawing the majority of people. This is obvious from the condition the world is in. Jesus pointed out that the majority of humanity is walking in the way of destruction and that now only a few are finding the way to eternal life (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

Matthew 7:13-14: V13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

V14 Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Although God is not calling every person now, by the time His plan is finished, everyone who has ever lived will have had the opportunity to understand and to accept or reject eternal life.

Personal Correspondence Letter – L222 – Worldwide Church of God.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

V13 And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?

V14 The sower sows the word.

V15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. And when they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

These people hear the Gospel message, but they are immediately dissuaded from doing anything about it. God’s truth is never allowed to take root in their lives. They are easy prey for the devil, who subtly convinces them to disbelieve what they hear.

V16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

V17 And they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.

Persons in this particular grouping advance somewhat further than those in the first category. Their initial reaction to the Word of God is enthusiastic. They are happy to hear the truth preached. They welcome it and may even become baptized (**Acts 2:41**).

But these “babes in Christ” never allow their spiritual roots to go down quite deeply enough to draw on the pure, nourishing water of God’s spiritual power (**John 7:38-39; Acts 1:8**).

When persecution comes, they are not strong enough to withstand it. They no persevering power in the face of ridicule and derision of those who do not share their beliefs. They are willing to compromise the Word of God rather than suffer for it.

V18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word,

V19 And the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

The third type of person in this parable progresses somewhat further. He too begins to bear fruit and live a life of obedience to Christ. His life changes as he yields to the Word of God. But at some point in his Christian life, “the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful” (**verse 19**).

In order to become unfruitful, he must have at one time *been* fruitful. So, here, is someone who has made spiritual progress. He may have been in the Church for some time.

V20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

This category describes people who are converted and who make continual growth and progress in the faith. They bear the good fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

But not all bear the same amount of fruit. Some are much more productive than others. Many do not realize their maximum potential as Christians. Yet it is Christ’s will that we bear *much* fruit! Those who are closest to Christ bear the most fruit. Which category are you in?

Light Under a Basket

V21 And He said to them, “Is a lamp bought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?

V22 For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.

V23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Jesus’ lesson of the *lamp* – a small clay vessel that burned a wick set in olive oil – had an especially significant meaning for the disciples – *as it does for us today!*

Jesus had told his disciples earlier: “Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops” (**Matthew 10:26-27**).

The gospel message is the light that shines in a dark place. Christ was the Light of the world (**John 1:9**). Christians are to light the world with their example and with their message (**Matthew 5:14-16**). It is the work – the duty – of God’s Church to proclaim the mysteries of the Kingdom of God to all the world.

Christ illustrated this important point by showing that if a person bought a candle it would be ridiculous to hide it (or snuff out its light) beneath a bushel basket! So it is with the message of the Kingdom. It is a message that must be proclaimed. As Paul said, “...woe is me if I do not preach the gospel” (**I Corinthians 9:16**)!

God has revealed to His Church truths that were kept secret from the beginning of time. Even the mighty prophets of old were not granted the same insight into the plan of salvation that all of us in God’s Church may have today.

Even angels desire to look into some to the things we may readily know (**I Peter 1:10-12**).

I Corinthians 2:9-10: V9 “But as it is written: *‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’*

V10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

Can we hide such truth and light under a “bushel”? GOD FORBID!

V24 And He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.

II Corinthians 9:6 “But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

V25 For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

The more we respond to God’s calling by changing our lives, the more truth God reveals to us.

II Corinthians 3:18 “But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

If we act on the knowledge God is revealing to us, He will communicate more understanding. The more we act, the more he reveals. Christianity is not just about learning. It's about living – putting into practice what we learn.

James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

James 1:25 “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

The Parable of the Growing Seed

V26 And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,

V27 And should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.

V28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

V29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

It is amazing! Plants develop in a complex, intricate process that humans still do not fully understand even two thousand years after Jesus spoke these words. Yet seeds grow and produce grain for the harvest just the same. As the farmer does not know how explain exactly how this happens – we do not understand the precise mechanism by which the Word of God produces fruit in human lives. But we certainly can plainly see that it does!

God's ministers are very much like those who plant seed and then care for it while it comes to fruition. Paul made such an analogy when he referred to himself and Apollos: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase” (**I Corinthians 3:6-7**).

God causes each member of the Church to grow in grace and knowledge and in character. This growth is brought about by God's Holy Spirit working in each individual life. It is also God who adds to His Church as a whole.

Those who are called in this age are the “firstfruits” of that great harvest of lives (**James 1:18**). And it is God who will reap His own harvest in the end of the age of growth.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

V30 And He said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?”

V31 *It is* like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth;

V32 But when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”

This parable shows that the preparation for the Kingdom of God has the smallest of beginnings. Yet it will ultimately fill all the earth! God is not calling the vast majority of people alive and walking the earth today! But He has called us! How incredible!

Of all garden seeds, its seeds were indeed the smallest, and of all garden annuals, the grown mustard plant was the largest. It is an annual herb that grows up rapidly each spring from a tiny seed and can reach a height of 10 to 15 feet.

Daniel 2:44 “...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

Daniel 7:14 “Then to Him [Jesus Christ] was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed.”

The saints will inherit this Kingdom with Christ: “But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever” (**Daniel 7:18**).

Revelation 21:7 “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”

What a magnificent destiny! This is the future of all true Christians – to inherit all things as part of the universe-filling Kingdom of God.

But look how small it all began!

How appropriate is the parable of the tiny mustard seed that grows into a large shrub or bush in which the birds of heaven find shelter. That tiny seed produces a plant many thousands of times its own size – and so it will be in the Kingdom of God. The point is the comparatively large result from such a humble and insignificant beginning. God’s Kingdom will grow and eventually encompass the entire world during the Millennium – and beyond that – the entire universe!

Jesus Use of Parables

V33 And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear *it*.

V34 But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.

Wind and Wave Obey Jesus

V35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.”

The Sea of Galilee is eight miles wide – which doesn’t seem difficult at first glance. Yet the geography produces a greatly varying climate. The lake is seven hundred feet below sea level and is surrounded by mountains that rise three to four thousand feet above the sea.

It is not unusual even today for a sudden ***great wind storm*** to appear on the Sea of Galilee during the evening hours. The warm tropical air from the lake’s surface rises and meets the colder air from the nearby hills. The resulting turbulence stirs up great ***waves*** which make boating extremely treacherous!

It is amazing how violent storms can be in even relatively small bodies of water – and, this was a boat buster!

V36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

V37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

V38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

V39 Then he arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

V40 But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How *is it* that you have no faith?”

V41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

Mark uses the disciples question “***Who can this be?***” to evoke a similar response in the minds of his readers. Mark relates the works and words of the one he calls “***Jesus Christ, the Son of God***” (Mark 1:1).