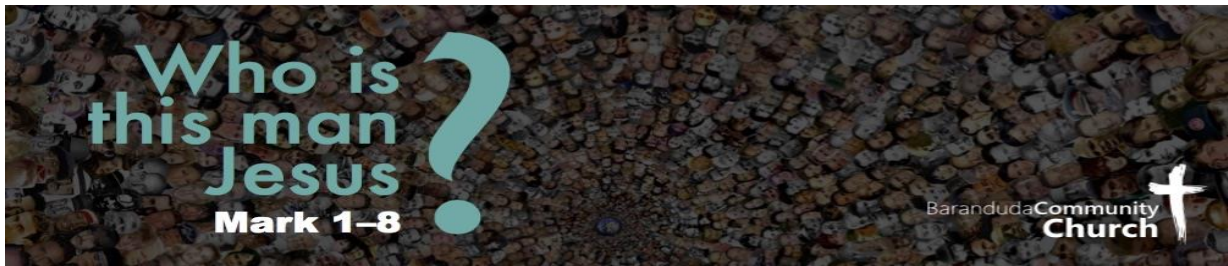


Daily Reading Notes

Mark 1-8





| Week | Passage | |
|------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Mark 1:1-13 | The King has come! |
| 2 | Mark 1:14-45 | The Works of the King |
| 3 | Mark 2:1-3:6 | The Conflict of the Kingdom |
| 4 | Mark 3:7-35 | The Kingdom that Divides |
| 5 | Mark 4:1-34 | The Mystery of the Kingdom |
| 6 | Mark 4:35-6:6 | The Kingdom Breaks In |
| 7 | Mark 6:7-56 | The King and His Future |
| 8 | Mark 7:1-37 | The Reversals of the Kingdom |
| 9 | Mark 8:1-26 | Growing Awareness |
| 10 | Mark 8:27-8:38 | Following the Suffering King |

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

How to use this book:

1. Personal Reading

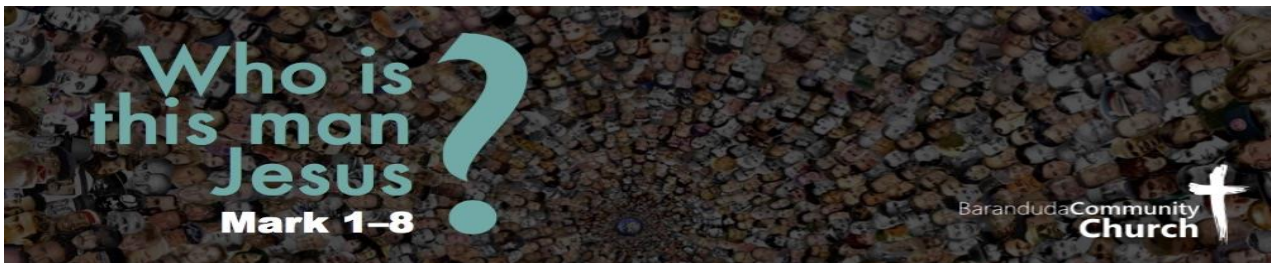
- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your growth group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.



INTRODUCTION:

MARK 1 - 8 WHO IS THIS MAN?

Early Christian tradition tells us that this gospel was written by John Mark, a citizen of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) who was later a colleague of Paul, Barnabas (Acts 12:25) and Peter (1 Peter 5:13). Papias, an historian, who wrote between 95 - 120 AD, tells us that Mark was the “interpreter” of Peter. By this he meant that Mark recorded the substance of Peter’s sermons concerning Jesus, most likely from Rome during the mid 60’s AD.

Who is this man? That’s the question with which Mark confronts his readers in these opening eight chapters. Mark puts his premise before his readers in the opening words, asserting that Jesus is not just the long-awaited Jewish Messiah, but the very Son of God. When Peter dramatically reaches this conclusion at the hinge point of the gospel in chapter 8, a new question is posed: “What will it mean to follow Him?”. In this sense, the gospel of Mark served as an evangelistic tract and handbook for those newly converted.

“Mark” is the shortest gospel and there’s good evidence that his was also the first, serving as the core document for both Matthew’s and Luke’s gospels. Mark wrote in Greek for a Gentile audience most likely in Rome, as shown by Mark’s need to explain Jewish traditions and terms, his use of Roman words and their system of time along with the testimony of early witnesses that both Peter and Mark were together in Rome during this period. Since only around 15% of the population could read, and fewer still could afford their own scroll, it is likely that Mark was designed to be read aloud, possibly in a single sitting while the church was gathered together. Mark wrote concisely yet vividly. When read aloud we can appreciate his skilful build-up and release of tension, revealing threads in the narrative that we might otherwise have missed. While he points out much of Jesus’ power as a teacher, he does not major on Jesus’ actual teaching but writes rather of eager crowds, stunning miracles and terse confrontations. Mark’s approach allows us to feel the revolutionary and often disconcerting impact Jesus had on those around Him. Questions abound in this gospel – over 100 of them.

Many are directed at Jesus, but even more are asked by Him, including the crucial one: “Who do people say I am?” It is likely that Mark wrote to invoke a response to that most important of questions.

His persuasive, provocative writing style and dramatic portrayal of Jesus leaves little room for the reader to miss his point. His Gentile audience in Rome would no doubt have been drawn into the story and forced to draw a conclusion. If they agreed with their countryman who declared at the foot of the cross, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” (15:39), they would then need to determine what to do with Him. The same challenge remains for all who read Mark today.

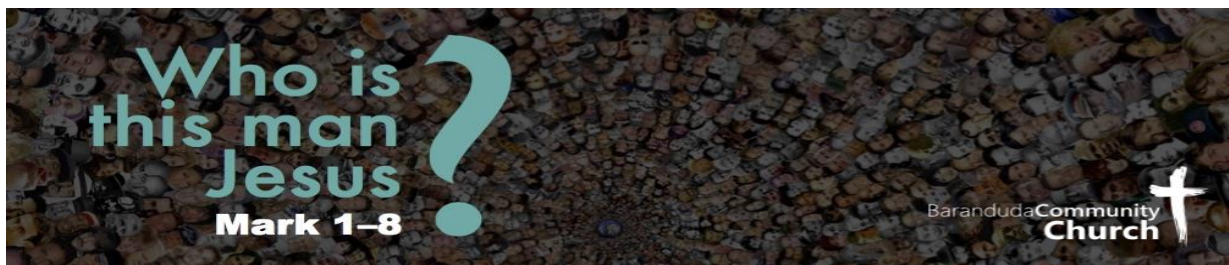
SUGGESTED READING

***“God’s Big Picture”* by Vaughan Roberts**

Sixty-six books written by forty people over nearly 2,000 years in two languages and several different genres. A worldwide best-seller published in countless sizes and bindings, translations and languages. Sworn by in court, fought over by religious people, quoted in arguments. The Bible is clearly no ordinary book. How can you begin to read and understand it as a whole? In this excellent overview, Vaughan Roberts gives you the big picture - showing how the different parts of the Bible fit together under the theme of the kingdom of God. He provides both the encouragement and the tools to help you read the Bible with confidence and understanding. And he points you to the Bible’s supreme subject, Jesus Christ, and the salvation God offers through him.

***“Goldsworthy Trilogy”* by Graeme Goldsworthy**

Combining three books in one, ‘The Goldsworthy Trilogy’ offers a comprehensive guide to understanding the gospel throughout the whole of Scripture. Hugely popular, this collection is being released in this special format and will be an essential guide to be used again and again for those who seek to understand the Bible in the light of who Jesus is. Straightforward in his approach, Goldsworthy looks at how the Bible can only be understood through the eyes of the gospel. He studies the Old Testament and its application for today, Israel’s wisdom literature and its role in the Christian life, and the purpose and contemporary relevance of the book of Revelation. This trilogy follows the Bible chronologically to give the reader a complete overview of evangelical biblical interpretation forming an essential one-stop reference that will last a lifetime.



WEEK 1 - MARK 1:1-13

Mark introduces his book as a “gospel”. This word, which meant “joyful news”, was not unique to Christianity. The birthdays and ascension to power of the Roman emperor were celebrated as “gospel” events.

DAY 1

Read Mark 1:1-3

1. The “gospel” of Jesus concerns His identity and work. What titles does Mark attribute to Jesus in this section?

2. Jesus is not the only one in the scriptures known as the “son of God.” He fulfils a role in which others before Him have failed. Who else in the scriptures is known as the “son of God”?

Prayer: We are called “sons of God” because we share Jesus’ status by adoption into God’s family. What a stunning blessing! Give thanks to God for His kindness to us.

DAY 2

Read Mark 1:1-11

As the first prophet to emerge in Israel after hundreds of years of prophetic silence, John is a famous figure in Jewish history.

1. What do you learn about John in verses 1-8? What is the significance of his dress and strange diet? (See 2 Kings 1:8 and compare to Malachi 4:5)

2. Verse 4 links John to the quotation from Isaiah in verse 2 and 3. What does this link suggest about John and about Jesus?

Prayer: John is an outstanding example of humble service. He played his part in preparing for the coming king. Pray that we, as a church, and you, as an individual, can emulate his example.

DAY 3

Read Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah, who wrote around 730 B.C., looks ahead prophetically to the year 538 B.C. when Israel, who've been punished by God and exiled in Babylon, will be pardoned and allowed to return home.

1. What four great truths does God announce to His people?

2. “The glory of the Lord will be revealed and all the people will see it together.” How is this fulfilled in the events of the New Testament?

Prayer: Although Israel returned from exile in 538 B.C., spiritually they were still in prison. Pray that God will bring many of our friends in Baranduda/Wodonga/Yackandandah out of their spiritual exile.

DAY 4

Read Mark 1:8-13

1. Having been identified as the “Son of God”, Jesus is sent or “driven” into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. Judging by verses 12 and 13, what is the purpose behind the Spirit’s action?

2. Why is it important for us that Jesus experienced temptation in all kinds of ways? (See Hebrews 2:18 and 4:16)

Prayer: We have in Jesus a perfectly-suited high priest. Are there concerns you need to bring to Him? He will willingly hear and provide the grace you need.

DAY 5

Read Mark 1:1-13

The “wilderness” (or the place of desolation) dominates these opening verses.

1. The word “wilderness” or “desert” occurs four times in these verses. What takes place in the “wilderness”?

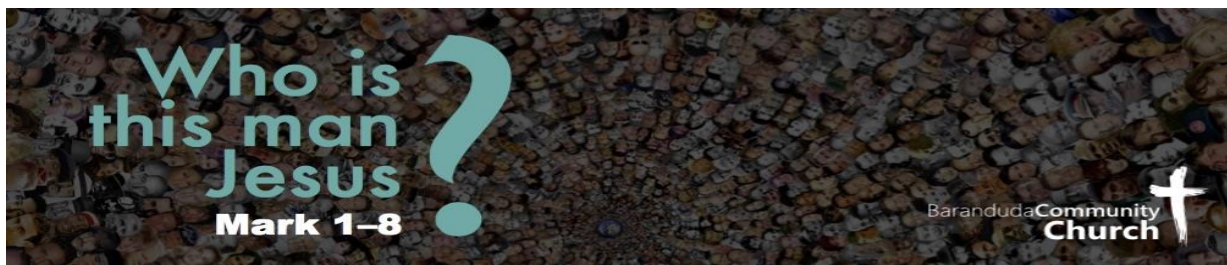
2. What is the significance of the wilderness in the Old Testament? Consider the following:
 - a. Deuteronomy 8:2, and 15,16

b. Exodus 3:1-4

c. Hosea 2:14,15

Prayer: Pray for Australia and for the western world in general as it steadily turns its back on Jesus. Plead with God that the experience of desolation that comes with His absence might be the means by which He brings revival.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



WEEK 2 - MARK 1:14-45

DAY 1

Read Mark 1:14-15

Today we see the first expression of the good news that Jesus came to bring. The “kingdom of God” is perhaps the overarching theme of the Bible. This is surely the conclusion to be drawn from Jesus’ words.

1. “The time has come...The kingdom of God has come near”. What does this statement imply?

2. What is the kingdom of God and why does He say that it has “come near” rather than that it “has arrived”?

Prayer: Christian life is the daily practice of repentance and faith. Pray that you will be quick to exercise both.

DAY 2

Read Mark 1:16-20

It is clear from both Luke and John that this is not the first time Jesus met Simon or Andrew, James or John, but that’s not the point Mark is making.

1. Note Jesus' call in verse 17. What does it imply about both His mission and the nature of normal Christian life?

2. It is always God who initiates relationship with us. How do the disciples typify the ideal response? What is the cost to them?

Prayer: Jesus calls disciples to be “fishers of men”. Pray for the church in Australia to take this commission to heart. Pray also for the countries in which our mission partners are working.

DAY 3

Read Mark 1:21-28

Jesus filled people with awe, amazement and fear. His authority is implied in the previous encounter. Today it is illustrated again.

1. Jesus confronts his enemies and defeats them effortlessly. How would you summarise the knowledge Jesus and the spirits have of each other?

2. How is Jesus' teaching described in this episode? In what way(s) do you think it was new?

Prayer: While we cannot compare with Jesus in His gospel proclamation, pray that the news we bring to friends and family will be powerful, radical and refreshingly new.

DAY 4

Read Mark 1:29-34

While we may have questions about evil spirits, the gospel writers clearly distinguished between illness and demonic activity.

1. Jesus said that in Him the kingdom has "come near". What insight do the events of this passage give about what the kingdom of God will be like when it comes in fullness?

2. Jesus did not let the demons speak because they knew who He was. Why was this a reason to silence them?

Prayer: When we pray that God’s kingdom will come soon, do you find yourself anxious for those who haven’t yet responded to its news? Now is a good time to pray for both.

DAY 5

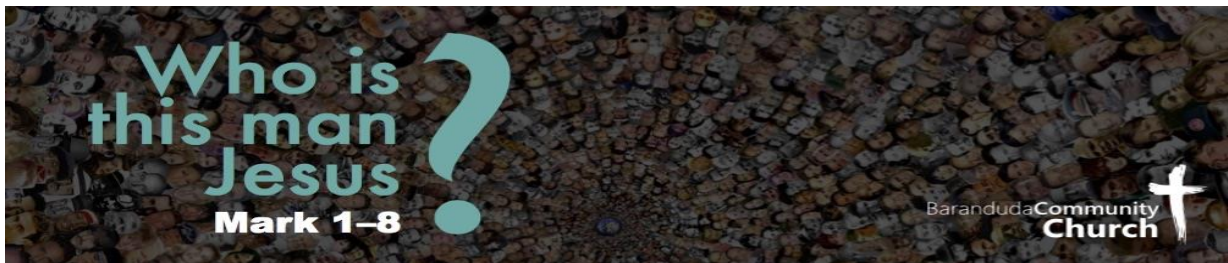
Read Mark 1:35-45

1. What do you learn about Jesus’ priorities in this passage?

2. If Jesus chooses preaching over healing, how do you explain His response to the leper in verse 41? He cannot be angry with the leper so why might He be “indignant”?

Prayer: While others may be content to waste their time in life, it is essential that the Christian be clear minded about the things that matter. Ask God to give you such a mind.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



WEEK 3 - MARK 2:1-3:6

This week's readings include five episodes in which Jesus' actions or words reveal something of who He is and what His mission involves. In each instance, this revelation evokes a reaction culminating with a dramatic statement of opposition in 3:6.

DAY 1

Read Mark 2:1-12

1. True faith is a valuable gift. What evidences of faith are seen in this episode? What surprising reward does Jesus grant in response to the faith shown here?
2. What does Jesus reveal about Himself and/or His mission in this episode? Who is the "Son of Man"? (see Daniel 7:13, 14)

Prayer: The great miracle offered by God is forgiveness. Pray that He will perform many such miracles among our friends and in the work of our Mission Partners.

DAY 2

Read Mark 2:13-17

1. Of all the disciples He might have enlisted, Jesus chooses a tax collector! What does He reveal about Himself and/or His mission in this episode?

2. Jesus' opponents had decided that some activities were harmful to spiritual health. Jesus drew a line in another place. What are the pros and cons for us in attending a party like this one?

Prayer: We're called to walk a fine line. Pray that we'll be people who seek to engage with the world without being shaped by it.

DAY 3

Read Mark 2:18-22

In this episode, there are two sayings by Jesus that require considerable thought.

1. What does Jesus teach about Himself and His future in verses 20 and 21? If the bridegroom is always present with us, how should we respond?

2. In verses 21 and 22, what is Jesus saying about Himself (see Hosea 2:19)? What's the new thing Jesus has brought and what might the "old wine skins" be?

Prayer: It's easy for accepted practices or traditions to constrain the growth of the kingdom. Pray that as you get older, clarity about the gospel will keep you from this pitfall.

DAY 4

Read Mark 2:23-27

Jesus' activity on the Sabbath day was a matter for great controversy and there is good evidence that on occasions He intentionally and lovingly provoked it!

1. In the illustration of verses 25 and 26, Jesus is not condoning high handed breaking of the law. Instead, what principles is He inviting His opponents to choose between?

2. What dramatic claim(s) does Jesus make in His conclusion to this episode?

Prayer: At times in the Christian life we'll need to weigh the value of two or more truths, each of which may suggest diametrically opposite actions. Pray that God will make you a good student of the Word so you can be wise.

DAY 5

Read Mark 3:1-6

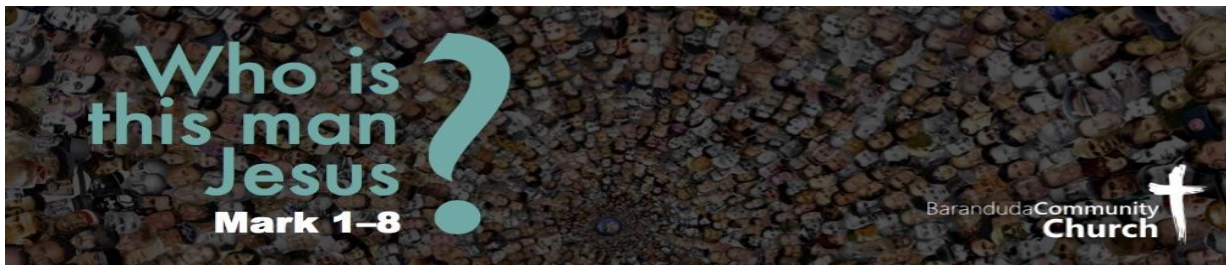
To appreciate the seriousness of Mark 3:6 we need some background. The Herodians were sympathetic to Roman rule; the Pharisees were not. These two parties were bitter enemies.

1. What ingredients in this account add to the tension? What observations suggest that opposition to Jesus is growing?

2. Jesus' anger in verse 5 is highly significant for all who wish to please God. Judging by verse what is the cause of His anger?

Prayer: In all His interactions, the wisdom of Jesus is breathtaking. But do not miss the reason. It is because He knows the Scriptures and the God who stands behind them. Pray that God will make us more like Jesus.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



WEEK 4 - MARK 3:7-35

DAY 1

Read Mark 3:6-8

1. Breaking a gospel down into tiny bites can obscure the point. Why do you think Jesus withdrew from ministry in the learned synagogues of Galilee, and what seems to have been the upside of this move?

2. What principles for our own evangelism can we learn from Jesus' strategic withdrawal?

Prayer: In 18th century England, when the pulpits of the Anglican Church were refused to them, George Whitfield and John Wesley preached in the fields instead. While we persevere with unbelieving friends and family, pray that we and our Mission Partners will also cast our nets wide.

DAY 2

Read Mark 3:7-12

1. The religious authorities are blind to Jesus' true identity. What then is the irony in the episode related here?
2. On several occasions you'll notice that Jesus forbids both people and spirits to speak about who He is (see 1:34; 1:43; and 7:36). Why might this be?

Prayer: While in His earthly ministry, Jesus deliberately went only to the "lost sheep of Israel" yet his intention was for the world. Pray that we at Baranduda Community Church will be "world minded" Christians.

DAY 3

Read Mark 3:13-19

1. The word "disciple" means one who follows and learns. An apostle is one "sent on a mission." The twelve are first termed "disciples" and later "apostles". Is there any necessary reason for this order?

2. All Christians are disciples, and all, in a lesser sense, are apostles.
 - a. How would you evaluate your current progress in learning the ways of Jesus?

 - b. How would you evaluate your engagement in Jesus' mission?

Prayer: Pray for your own progress in the above and also for those in your Growth Group.

DAY 4

Read Mark 3:20-35

The opposition to Jesus existed at all levels, even within His family (see John 7:5). In our reading of this passage today we'll concentrate on them.

1. What discouragement and opposition to Jesus is apparent in this passage? Psychologically, why might those close to Him have distanced themselves from Him?

2. Consider Jesus' words in verses 33-35. What is implied by these words about His natural family? What is implied about all Christians?

Prayer: Humanly speaking, there are often particular obstacles to us reaching our families with the gospel. However, these are no problem for God. Pray for your family and their relationship with God.

DAY 5

Read Mark 3:20-35

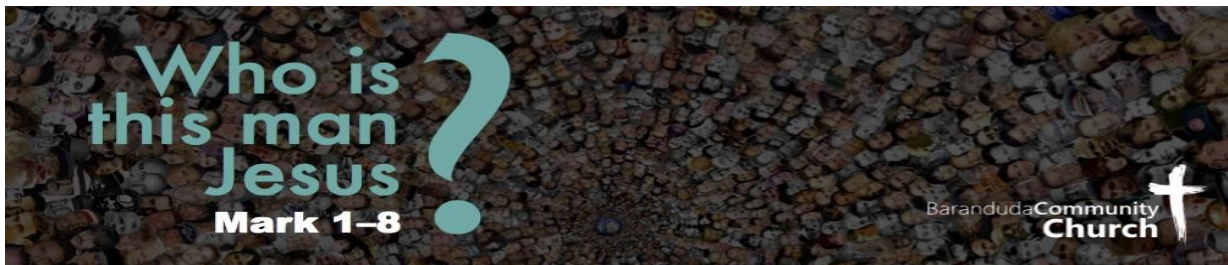
To understand this passage properly, we need to understand the context in which it was written. Despite the powerful testimony of the Spirit to Jesus, given through His miracles, His unbelieving opponents have attributed these miracles to the power of Satan. The term "Beelzebub" in verse 22 effectively means "Satan".

1. In verse 27, who is the "strongman" and who is the one who "plunders his house"? Summarise the answer Jesus brings to His opponents' charge.

2. In verse 29, Jesus implies that His opponents may be guilty of an unforgivable sin. What kind of sin could possibly be too much for Jesus to forgive? How might a person commit such a sin today?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that because of Jesus, Satan's house is being plundered. Pray that this happens increasingly among us and that God might use us increasingly in this work.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



WEEK 5 - MARK 4:1-34

DAY 1

Read Mark 4:1-12

It is often thought that Jesus told parables to make it easier for His listeners to understand. While this is true of some parables, it is not true for all.

1. If you had only heard what the crowds heard in verses 3-9, what would you have concluded and what would you have done?

2. What do you think the “secret of the kingdom” is? What surprising answer do verses 10-12 give as to why Jesus spoke in parables?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that in the Scriptures, illuminated by His Spirit, He has spoken a clear and understandable word to us so that we can know salvation.

DAY 3

Read Mark 4:21-25

1. What are the hidden things that are meant to be disclosed? Consider your answer then check how verse 11 might have a bearing.

2. “Consider carefully ... whoever has will be given more”. More of what? Consider verse 20. How does this help you answer Question 1 above?

Prayer: Pray that as we listen to God’s Word week by week, we’ll hold it fast, adding to our knowledge of God and so grow in Him.

DAY 4

Read Mark 4:26-29

1. Remembering that the seed is the word of God, what is being taught about the growth of the Word in verses 27-29?

2. Notice the way Jesus introduces this parable in verse 26. What action could you take if you are to be more effective in growing the kingdom?

Prayer: In 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul urges Timothy to do his best to be a “worker” who rightly handles the word of truth. Pray that God will enable you to develop in this so that you can play your part in growing the kingdom.

DAY 5

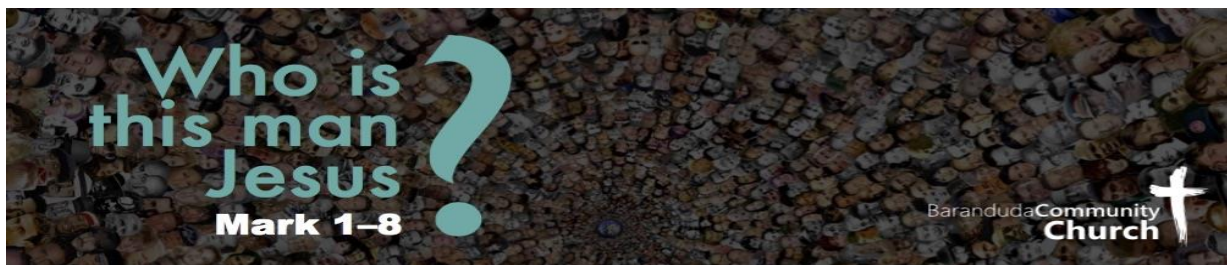
Read Mark 4:30-34

1. Notice the comment in verse 30. What does this parable teach about the nature of the kingdom of God? How does this truth encourage you?

2. Jesus addressed the crowds in parables but spoke plainly to His disciples. What response do you think He was seeking from those outsiders? What does this suggest about a key mark of spiritual receptivity?

Prayer: Pray that God will grant His people a reverent love for His Word, a desire to grow in their knowledge of it and in their willingness to serve others in it.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



WEEK 6 - MARK 4:35-6:6

DAY 1

Read Mark 4:35-41

1. Jesus is both God and man. How does this episode lend support to this truth?
2. He silenced the waves with the same simple command with which He rebuked the spirits in Mark 1:25. Why should this episode provoke questions for the disciples about His true identity? (See Psalm 107:23-31)

Prayer: Genuine faith shows itself best in practical situations that reveal the source of our true confidence. Pray that the circumstances God appoints for you will be used to grow your faith.

2. The woman's faith in Jesus was real but slightly superstitious. How does Jesus ultimately help her in forcing her to come into the open?

Prayer: True faith requires understanding. Consider one friend you have whose faith in Jesus needs deeper understanding. Pray for them now.

DAY 4

Read Mark 5:21-43

1. It's a mark of His gentleness that Jesus encourages Jairus' faith at the point that it might waver (verse 36). Notice whom Jesus takes with Him (verse 37) and whom He excludes (verse 40). Why do you think He does this?

2. All of Jesus' miracles teach something about the coming kingdom. What does this miracle teach?

Prayer: Is there a Christian friend or family member whose faith in Jesus needs strengthening? Consider how you might encourage them and pray for them now.

DAY 5

Read Mark 6:1-6

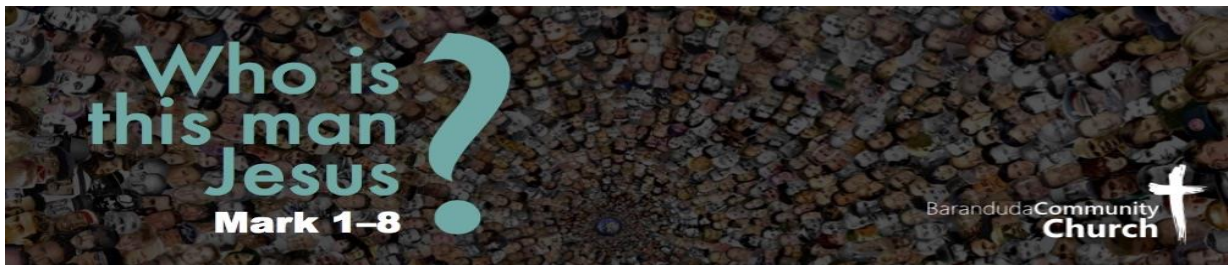
This is Jesus' home town, but there is no evidence that He ever returned.

1. How do you account for the cold reaction in Nazareth? What does this tell us about faith and its obstacles?

2. Mark says that Jesus "could not do any miracles there." This statement begs a question: was Jesus unable to do so, or did He choose not to? How would you justify your answer?

Prayer: Ask that God would expand our view of Jesus so that we will revere Him more deeply and serve Him more fervently.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



WEEK 7 - MARK 6:7-56

DAY 1

Read Mark 6:7-13

1. Jesus' disciples are sent out to represent Him in continuing His ministry. Among the instructions given to them, which apply to us and which don't? How could you determine this?

2. It's astonishing that ordinary disciples of Jesus were able to do just what He did. What reason does Mark seem to give for this?

Prayer: Those who preach the gospel do so with the authority of Jesus. Pray that we will trust Him in carrying out the work given to us.

DAY 2

Read Mark 6:14-16

John has been out of the picture since chapter 1. Now we know why – he's been in prison. It makes us wonder why Mark now brings him back into the story.

1. Herod's guilty conscience makes him think that Jesus is actually John returned from the dead. What similarities do John and Jesus share?

2. Why might people have thought that Jesus was Elijah? (See Malachi 4:5,6)

Prayer: John's tragic end is an ominous warning about the future of all who desire to lead a godly life. Pray that you will have sufficient courage to stand fast for the truth despite pressure to conform.

DAY 3

Read Mark 6:17-29

1. Some personal portraits serve as vivid warnings about the nature of sin. What mixed qualities can you find in Herod?

2. What warnings does a character like Herod have for us? Are there situations in life where you are tempted in a similar way?

Prayer: This side of heaven, righteousness frequently suffers at the hands of evil. Pray that you will not be unsettled by this and that you'll not compromise by pursuing a comfortable life.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

DAY 2

Read Mark 7:1-13

The “Corban” law was apparently a way of dedicating something to God while allowing the owner to continue somehow to benefit from it. Jesus was incensed!

1. Consider some common Christian traditions. In what way(s) are they a help or a hindrance?

Tithing

The quiet time

Dedication plaques on church pews

Set numbers of songs during services

Any others?

2. Hopefully none of the above serve to set aside the commands of God. Consider the command in verse 10. Is there anything that has caused you to set this command aside?

Prayer: Both churches and families can develop traditions that are unhelpful. Ask God to help you evaluate your family traditions and change them if necessary.

DAY 3

Read Mark 7:14-23

1. Consider the view of "defilement" or sin that existed in 1st century Judaism. What would you suggest was wrong with it?

2. Jesus says that the real source of human sin is the human heart (verse 21). What does He mean by the "heart"? In what general ways will a person go wrong if they don't understand this truth?

Prayer: Are there areas of Christian life in which you need a heart/attitude change? Pray that God will perform this miracle in you!

DAY 4

Read Mark 7:24-30 and Matthew 15:21-28

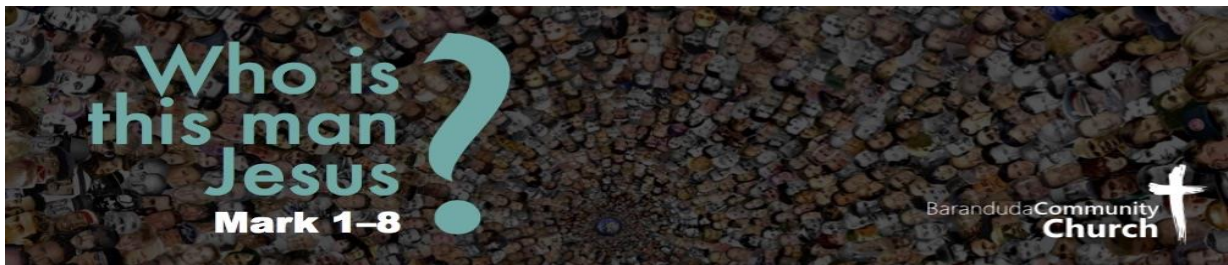
Jesus travels to Gentile territory, near to where he found Legion in Mark 5. Last time he was not welcomed but perhaps Legion's story had now become known!

1. Judging by Matthew's account, why does Jesus initially refuse the woman's request in verse 27? What does this tell you about His mission as opposed to that which He would later give His disciples?

2. Jesus subsequently seems to "change his mind". What is it about the woman's response that causes Him to do this? What does this suggest about the apparent harshness of Jesus' words in verse 27?

Prayer: Are you someone who perseveres in prayer? Consider one area where you need to do so and pray about it now.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



WEEK 9 - MARK 8:1-26

DAY 1

Read Mark 8:1-4

1. Sometimes Jesus says the same thing, or performs the same miracle in more than one context. How many times does He perform a feeding miracle? (See Mark 6:30.)

2. The disciples still don't get it. Do you think you would have (see Mark 6:52)? What's the warning for us in their example?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that a day will come when our hard hearts will be done away with and we'll not only see Him as He is but praise Him as He deserves. Ask God to bring on that day soon!

DAY 2

Read Mark 8:1-10

1. Why does Mark record the same kind of miracle twice. It is surely not that he is short of material. The clue is in the location. (See Mark 7:24 and 27-29.)

2. While this miracle looks back to the Exodus, to what does it look forward? (Luke 12:35-37)

Prayer: The mission of Jesus is for the world. He will not be content with less. Ask God to give you a commitment to His vision for the gospel.

DAY 3

Read Mark 8:11-13

1. In the Old Testament, Moses was given signs to perform to authenticate his authority. Jesus' opponents want such a sign. Notice Jesus' reaction to their question. Why do you think He refuses them?

2. Although He had performed many great wonders in this region, there is no indication after this event that He ever returned. What is the warning for us and our friends? (See Luke 12:48.)

Prayer: Our generation and nation have been entrusted with a lot. Pray that we will respond appropriately. Pray too that Australia, in time, will bear fruit consistent with the many blessings it has received.

DAY 4

Read Mark 8:14-21

1. What is it that Jesus' disciples have still failed to understand? Are they blameworthy?

2. In the Bible yeast was a symbol for a pervasive influence – sometimes good, but usually bad (1 Corinthians 5:6-9). What is the “yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod” (verse 15 compared to Mark 3:6)?

Prayer: Bad teaching always has a corrosive impact. Pray for those who teach among us (Growth Group leaders, Creche/Kids Church and Youth leaders, preachers and parents). Pray that they’ll be diligent to develop in the role entrusted to them.

DAY 5

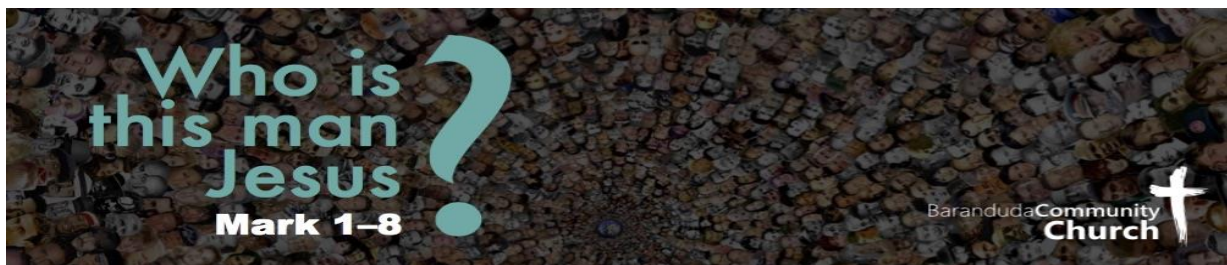
Read Mark 8:22-26

1. A two-part miracle! Did Jesus get it wrong? No. Consider the passage from yesterday (verses 17 and 18). How does the healing experience of this blind man illustrate the situation of the disciples?

2. Sin leaves its blinding and deadening mark in the heart of every disciple of Christ. In what ways have you become aware of this mark in your own life? Is there a lesson that you need to learn?

Prayer: Thank God for his gentle patience and mercy with us! Pray that we will be willing to repent and be ready to extend similar patience towards others.

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



WEEK 10 - MARK 8:27-38

DAY 1

Read Mark 8:27-30

1. Caesarea Philippi is the most northerly point of Jesus' journeys. He had taken His disciples far away to instruct them. What do His questions suggest about the most important truth for any disciples to get clear?

2. Three answers are given, which we've seen before (see 6:14-15). What do they all have in common, and why is this assessment insufficient?

Prayer: Again Jesus warns His disciples to keep the “Messianic secret”. Clear understanding of what it means for Him to be the Christ is essential to following Jesus. Pray that your group will have this clear and growing understanding.

DAY 2

Read Mark 8:31-32

1. The “suffering servant” and the “Son of man” are two mysterious characters from the Old Testament, both fulfilled by Jesus. What two things can you learn about each from:
 - a. Isaiah 52:13-53:12?

 - b. Daniel 7:13,14?

2. A god-like figure, yet one who suffers on behalf of the people for their salvation. What do you find so attractive about God’s gospel plan to restore His world?

Prayer: Our God is both glorious and humble. Give thanks to Him for His breathtaking goodness!

DAY 4

Read Mark 8:31-38

There was a subtle point in verse 33. Did you notice that it was when “Jesus turned and looked at His disciples...” that He rebuked Peter?

1. Why was/is it so important for disciples of Jesus to understand His suffering? What does the nature of His messiahship mean for us?

2. Verse 35 requires some thought:

a. What does Jesus mean, “Whoever wants to save their life...”?

b. What does Jesus mean, “Whoever loses their life for me...”?

Prayer: Your answers to Question 2 above may provide areas where you need to take action to repent. Ask God to empower you to do this today.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES