



Confession & Clarity

June 12

INTRODUCTION: We arrive at the central hinge of the book of Mark. Someone finally answers the questions, ‘Who is Jesus.’ From here we enter section two of Mark.

Introduction, Mk 1a		
Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
Mk 1b–8a	Mk 8b–10	
<i>Who is Jesus?</i>	<i>Why Jesus came?</i>	
Galilean ministry in Jewish and then non-Jewish areas	Journey toward Jerusalem; authority in suffering	

REVIEW: The Bible Project, Mark (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: question, confession, clarification, discipleship

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Feeding the 4000, Mk 8:1–10)

- Why another feeding miracle? Are they the same?
- Why do we often need multiple reminders?
- Why is this likely a Gentile crowd (5000=Jewish crowd)?
- How is Jesus the bread of life who alone satisfies?
- How must we 1) know we’re hungry, 2) not seek food elsewhere, and 3) ask Him for food. What does He promise?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Spiritually Blind, Mk 8:11–26)

- After the 4000, did the disciples understand who Jesus was?
- How did the Pharisees, in seeking a sign, fail to understand?
- In the boat reflecting, how did the Disciples fail to understand what Jesus was speaking about?
- How was the blind man a teaching point on spiritual blindness? (Are we ever blind?)
- Spiritually dead, what miracle is needed to see Jesus (Mt 16:17, Jn 6:44)?

READ: Mark 8:27–9:1

QUESTIONS:

1. *A chapter of blindness prepares us for Peter’s confession. Peter’s Confession (vv. 27–30)*
 2. *Caesarea Philippi was a city at the foot of Mt. Hermon and the floodwater of the Jordan. It was also the site of a temple to the god PAN (i.e. God of all things, eventually pantheism) and also to Caesar. It was a site of religious pluralism.*
 3. **What idle conversations do people love, instead of meaningful ones?**
 4. How popular had Jesus become through His ministry?
 5. *A hot topic was who people thought He was. **Who did people say that Jesus was?*** (Add to this demonic and insane). How did these answers fall short?
 6. **Who do people say Jesus is today?**
 7. *The question cannot remain impersonal. Jesus asks the most important question of Mark (and one the disciples, of all people, should have been able to answer), “Who do you say that I am?”*
 8. Given popular Jewish notions about the Messiah, and what follows, what did Peter get right and wrong?
 9. *Peter finally arrives at answering Mk 1:1.*
 10. **How is this the most important question? What is at stake?**
 11. What is our response?
 12. **How is this passage ‘at the heart of Mark’?**
 13. Why did Jesus not want anyone to divulge His identity?
- A Suffering Messiah (vv. 31–33)*
14. *‘Began’- Jesus hasn’t spoken like this before. He clarifies what type of Messiah (Hebrew)/Christ (Greek)—‘anointed one’—He would be.*
 15. **Jesus’ teaching about God’s plan plainly centred around 4 things, what are they?** Where do we see these foretold in the OT?
 16. **Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus for talking like this?**
 17. *Jesus then rebukes Peter for his dangerous sentiments (perhaps a spiritual temptation) but more so that he dares to tell Jesus what to do. Peter’s place is behind Jesus, to follow Him. **How can we try to tell Jesus what should be done?***

Discipleship (vv. 34–9:1)¹

18. Do we advertise Christianity the way Jesus did or do we mislead?
19. *Being behind (or following Jesus) is now what Jesus speaks of, and it is in the same path of humility and obedience His followers must walk.*
20. **V. 34- What is necessary if we want to follow Jesus?**
21. **Why can there be no spectators? (faith=following)**
22. *Self-will (pride) must become self-denial (humility) so that we might follow God's will (obedience).*
23. **Why must we be free to follow?**
24. **V. 35- Understanding the word play on 'life,' what are the options? (hint, losing and gaining are business terms).**
25. **Vv. 36–7- Similarly, if our soul—the depth of who we are—is eternal, why should its eternal state matter to us?**
26. *V. 38- Claiming divinity (Dan 7:13-14) and the role of Judge, Jesus speaks of what will happen after His death and resurrection when He returns. **What does it mean to be ashamed of someone? What would this look like?***

27. *Based upon 2 Peter 1:16–18 and context Mark 9:1 probably refers to the Transfiguration. God's Kingdom is bound up with the person of Jesus.*

NEXT WEEK: June 19- Misc Teachings, Mk 9:30–50

¹ This is a precious passage to me. It was preached upon the day I accepted the Lord's call to ministry.