



THE MISSION OF JESUS (Mark 8:22-9:50)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Introduction: The gospel of Mark is a practical look at the life of Christ. The theme of his gospel seems to be that Jesus is the Messiah. His details surrounding Palestine, especially Jerusalem, give him depth and detail, but the swift transitions show his story as one of re-telling and not personal eyewitness testimony. Mark does an excellent job of presenting the military might of Jesus. We see his power, through the stories of him casting out demons, healing a wide range of physical ailments, calming emotional turmoil, silencing government fears, and discussing his own role in the judgment of mankind. However, Mark will also reveal Jesus' service and sacrifice. In the context (feeding the 4,000) Jesus gives His disciples a warning (**Mark 8:10-21**). Then, He shows us His mission. Will they follow Him? Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. **Seeing Jesus the Christ (8:22-26)**
 - * How is this story the turning point of the gospel?

 - * Why did Jesus do a two-fold miracle?

- II. **Confessing Jesus the Christ (8:27-30)**
 - * What was their response to Jesus' question? Explain.

 - * Why did He warn them not to reveal these things?

- III. **Following Jesus the Christ (8:31-9:1)**
 - * Why would it be so difficult for the disciples to follow Jesus?

 - * What are the requirements for a true disciple of Jesus?

IV. Knowing Jesus the Christ (9:2-13)

* Why did Jesus take the three alone for the transfiguration?

* Who appeared with Jesus? What does this symbolize?

V. Believing Jesus the Christ (9:14-32)

* What is the first thing that happens after they return?

* Who are all the characters in this story?

* What are these people doing?

VI. Serving Jesus the Christ (9:33-37)

* Why were they struggling over who was the greatest?

* How does Jesus describe true service?

VII. Helping Jesus the Christ (9:38-50)

* What did Jesus think about sectarianism and favoritism?

* Why is this passage so important for the followers of Jesus?

* How is salt a wonderful example for this concept?

Conclusion: Mark's gospel seems to be written for Roman believers, particularly Gentiles. This is why he used his Roman name (Mark) instead of his Jewish name (John). He understood Jewish customs, but he wrote in such a way that the Romans could understand. He uses ten Latin words, some of which do not occur elsewhere in the New Testament, but he balances those things by explaining Jewish customs and traditions. He chooses to omit the genealogy of Jesus and jumps right into Jesus' ministry. He ignores the long narratives (i.e. Sermon on the Mount, Sermon on the Plain). He also rarely quotes from the Old Testament. However, when he does it is used to fit his theme, that Jesus is the Messiah. Why? He wanted the Romans to see Jesus! Specifically, in the context of what we have studied today... He wanted them to see the mission of Jesus. Will you follow Jesus?