

THE REVELATION OF THE KING

The Gospel of Mark 8:1 - 9:1

Bible Study Tools

Juxtaposition: Mark, like all the gospel writers, is an editor. He takes three years of Jesus' action packed ministry and boils it down to 16 chapters. What he includes and how he arranges the stories is very important. Why might Mark place a particular miracle story next to a teaching passage? Especially if there is something that seems out of place or causes questions to arise, Mark is probably drawing your attention to it for a purpose.

Look for change in Theme: You have come to a major transition point in this Gospel. Most readers miss it because they are not paying attention to the purpose and broader teaching that the author is conveying. But as one looks at the text more intently, it becomes clear when these transitions occur.

Basic Bible Study Tools: You have been using some basic techniques to understanding the Scriptures. They apply to the Gospel of Mark but they can be used throughout the Scriptures. Never stop observing and asking questions.

Questions to Consider

- compare and contrast the feeding of the 4,000 with the feeding of the 5,000. How are they similar and different - what meaning comes from this analysis?
- What is so ironic about the discussion of the disciples in the boat about the loaf of bread?
- What is different about the healing of the blind man than all the other miracles recorded in Mark? Why might this be important?
- Peter's confession was a long-time-coming! How does Jesus lead up to it? What can we learn from his technique?

Comments & Applications

Yeast is a metaphor for sin used throughout the bible. Remember the Israelites left Egypt and were commanded to make bread without yeast to symbolize leaving behind the sinful culture of Egypt. Look for other references to yeast in the OT

Numbers are important not for mystical reason but because they are related to events in the history of God's people. Where are the numbers 12 and 7 used in the OT. What might they symbolized that relates to what Jesus is teaching the disciples?

Caesarea Philippi is a town at the northern most border of the holy land. It was a gentile area at the time of Jesus and had a shrine there at the mouth of a cave from which the Jordan River begins. It was considered the gateway to the underworld - called the "Gates of Hades."

Prediction of His death: Jesus waits until now to tell his disciples this. Why? Because they finally understood his identity now they need to understand his mission. This theme now will dominate the remainder of the book.

