

THE HEART OF THE KING

The Gospel of Mark 6:53 - 7:37

Bible Study Tools

Deviation from the expected:

We have a picture in our mind of who Jesus is and how he should act. The Gospel of Mark also establishes a pattern of behavior for Jesus. What happens when Jesus deviates from the expected pattern? It is shocking to the reader. Now, you must remember that Jesus was shocking to his disciples, the religious leaders and the crowd almost all of the time. This was one of the ways that he taught - by doing the unexpected. When you are shocked by Jesus' behavior, slow down and think it through. What is he teaching his disciples?

Old Testament Quotes:

Again, I remind you to trace the OT references that Jesus makes and read the larger context of the quote. The quotation of a short passage is like a title. For example, if I say, "We the people." You know that I am making reference to the Constitution of the USA and all three articles of it follow in your mind. This is the way the Jews thought about the OT.

Questions to Consider

- Read the summary statement carefully, look for words that connect it to the following stories.
- Jesus quotes the OT - find the passage in Isaiah and read the surrounding context. Do you see connections?
- Summarize Jesus argument against the Pharisees. What is the point he is making?
- The story of the Syrophenician Woman is shocking! What is Jesus doing? How does it fit with the context and surrounding teaching?

Comments & Applications

Note **the description of the traditions of the Pharisees.**

This is a major pieces of internal evidence that the original audience of the book was not Jewish, because they would not have needed such an explanation. What is the literary purpose?

Corban: The oral law, or tradition of the rabbis, created a loop hole for someone who did not want to care for their parents in their old age. They could declare an offering "Corban" and give it to the temple treasury and the temple would give to the parents and they would be free of their obligation under the Mosaic Law to honor their father and mother.

This passage is about "**ritual purity.**" How is Jesus redefining purity? What else has he redefined in the story Mark is telling?

Deaf Mute: the rabbis taught that only the Messiah could heal a deaf mute, because to cast out the demon causing the problem you had to find out its name to take authority over it. If the person was mute, you could not conduct the interview.

