

Key Terms: St Mark's Gospel: Source of Truth



The Kingdom of God

- Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-9, 14-20):** Highlights different responses to God's word and the importance of faith.
- Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29):** Emphasises the mystery and inevitability of God's Kingdom growing.
- Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32):** Demonstrates how God's Kingdom starts small but grows significantly.
- Jesus and the Children (Mark 10:13-16):** Teaches humility and openness as qualities needed to enter God's Kingdom.
- The Rich Man (Mark 10:17-27):** Warns about the dangers of wealth in obstructing one's relationship with God.
- The Greatest Commandment (Mark 12:28-34):** Summarises love for God and neighbour as central to God's Kingdom.
- Understanding the Kingdom of God:** Interpreted as a present reality, a future hope, a personal state, or a community.



Jesus' Relationships with the Disregarded

- The Man with Leprosy (Mark 1:40-45):** Jesus heals an outcast, showing compassion and breaking societal taboos.
- The Call of Levi (Mark 2:13-17):** Jesus calls a tax collector, demonstrating inclusion and forgiveness.
- The Syro-Phoenician Woman (Mark 7:24-30):** Jesus heals the woman's daughter, highlighting his ministry's expansion beyond Jews.
- The Epileptic Boy (Mark 9:14-29):** Jesus heals the boy, teaching the power of faith and prayer.
- The Widow at the Treasury (Mark 12:41-44):** Praises the widow's small offering as greater than larger donations due to her sacrifice.
- The Anointing at Bethany (Mark 14:1-9):** A woman anoints Jesus, symbolising honour and preparation for his burial.
- Jesus' Attitudes to the Disregarded:** Reflects God's love for all, challenging societal norms and promoting equality.



Faith and Discipleship

- Call of the First Disciples (Mark 1:16-20):** Jesus calls fishermen to follow him, symbolising immediate and total commitment.
- The Woman with a Haemorrhage (Mark 5:24b-34):** Demonstrates faith's role in healing and Jesus' compassion for the marginalised.
- The Mission of the Twelve (Mark 6:7-13):** Jesus sends his disciples to preach, heal, and depend on God's provision.
- Cost and Rewards of Discipleship (Mark 8:34-38; 10:28-31):** Followers must deny themselves, but eternal rewards await.
- Peter's Denials (Mark 14:27-31, 66-72):** Highlights human weakness and the importance of repentance and forgiveness.
- Commission and Ascension (Mark 16:14-20):** Jesus commands disciples to spread the Gospel and ascends to heaven.
- Significance of Discipleship:** Seen as a call to sacrifice, faith, and spreading God's message, relevant for 1st century disciples and 21st century Christians.



Key Themes and Teachings

- Significance of Jesus' Life:** Events like his healing, teachings, and resurrection have religious, moral, and spiritual importance.
- Faith in St Mark's Gospel:** Depicted as trust in God, vital for healing, salvation, and entering God's Kingdom.
- Authority of Jesus' Teaching:** Viewed as divine and transformative; debated in light of secular challenges.
- Challenges to Authority:** Secular perspectives question the reliability of St Mark's accounts but faith communities uphold their spiritual truth.
- Love and Compassion:** Central themes in Jesus' teaching, demonstrated in his actions and parables.

