

## Winter 2015 The Gospel of Mark, chapters 9-12

### Introduction

The last verses, 8:31 – 9:1, that we studied a year ago, linked Jesus' first prediction of his Passion with the warning that following Jesus requires the same willingness as that of Jesus to "lose one's life." This theme will be repeated twice more in this central section of Mark that we are studying this year. The fact that, unusually, both Matthew and Luke also record Jesus repeating this saying three times over underlines its importance. For, of course, it is the very heart of the "good news" that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15), and that there could be no Gospel, no everlasting life, unless he was indeed "wounded for our transgressions ... bruised for our iniquities" (Isa. 53:5).

It is as Mark's Gospel continues in, and beyond, chap. 9 that we see more and more sadly the very sinful unbelief for which Jesus was going to die. Increasingly, Jesus' miracles, searching parables, rather than leading people to worship God and seriously inquire into his identity, instead provoked a murderous jealousy with repeated attempts to humiliate him in public with "trick" questions and theological trivia.

But God's loving purposes are not to be thwarted. Sin must be atoned for, but Resurrection will follow Crucifixion; the Son of God must take "the form of a servant" (Phil. 2:7), but glory will transcend rejection. The Church embodies these saving truths. May we, this side of the Resurrection, explain what "this rising from the dead" means (Mark 9:10).

### Schedule

- Jan. 4: Mark 9:2-13 *"This is my Son, listen to Him."* (Stefan Matzal)
- Jan. 11: Mark 9:14-29 *"I believe; help my unbelief!"* (Nathaniel Jackson)
- Jan. 18: Mark 9:30-27 *"If anyone – must be last."* SOHLS (Jeremy Jackson)
- Jan. 25: Mark 9:38-50 *"Have salt in yourselves."* (John Hartung)
- Feb. 1: Mark 10:1-16 *"From the beginning ... male/female."* (Nathaniel Jackson)
- Feb. 8: Mark 10:17-31 *"Then who can be saved?"* (Stefan Matzal)
- Feb. 15: Mark 10:32-34 *"What was to happen to him."* (Jeremy Jackson)
- Feb. 22: Mark 10:35-45 *"To give his life as a ransom."* LENT (Nathaniel Jackson)
- Mar. 1: Mark 10:46-52 *"What do you want me to do?"* (Stefan Matzal)
- Mar. 8: Mark 11:1-11 *"Blessed is the coming kingdom!"* (Jeremy Jackson)
- Mar. 15: Mark 11:12-21 *"You have made it a den of robbers."* (Nathaniel Jackson)
- Mar. 22: Mark 11:22-33 *"Who gave you this authority?"* (Stefan Matzal)
- Mar. 29: Mark 12:1-17 *"Why put me to the test?"* (Jeremy Jackson)

Apr. 5: Mark 12:18-27 *"God of ... the living!"* EASTER (Nathaniel Jackson)

*The Eldership: December 2014*