

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**MARK 6****Mark 6**

Today we are introduced to the Good News according to Mark. The book itself does not identify Mark as the author, but since the earliest traditions we have, the gospel has been attributed to Mark. Papias, who was the Overseer or Bishop of the church in Hierapolis, wrote as early as 140 A.D. that Mark served as the Apostle Peter's amanuensis, or scribe, to write the account of the life and ministry of Jesus as the obedient servant of the Father in heaven. The great Irenaeus affirmed that Mark indeed wrote down the early preaching of the Apostle Peter. The gospel reads as someone telling in rapid-fire succession the events and miracles in the life of the Master. The gospel emphasizes the immediate and rapid obedience of the suffering Son carrying out the will of the One who sent Him.

Although we are only looking at two chapters in Mark, they are power-packed. The gospel of Mark can be read easily at one time. This is the way it would have been read in the days of its writing. The gospel was the first gospel I was told to read when asking an early mentor, as he said, "It would show me the simplicity of the message of Jesus and speak to the common man." As I read it in the King James version in those days, I made note of how many times the word "Straightway" was used. Again, emphasizing the immediate obedience of the Savior.

Chapter six opens with Jesus in His hometown of Nazareth and His speaking in the synagogue and being utterly rejected by those that knew Him as the son of

Mary and Joseph, their fellow Nazarenes. Mark writes a commentary on the result of their unbelief in verses 4-6.

"Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household.' And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He wondered at their unbelief."

It is always a great thing when God chooses to heal anyone, then or now, but if you notice in the gospels, many things were ranked above healing. In the passage above, it clearly says that Jesus could do no miracles there, ***except that He laid hands on a few sick people and healed them. (emphasis mine)***. If you recall, this kind of language was used when the disciples had been commissioned and sent out two by two by Jesus and returned to report to Him. They were amazed that people were healed and that even the demons were subject to them in the name of Jesus. But Jesus said to them, do not rejoice for these things, but rather ***rejoice that your names are written in heaven***. This is because those great and wonderful miracles in this life are just that, ***in this life***. All physical healing is temporary in this life. If God heals you, unless you are alive when the Lord Jesus comes again, you will die of something. It is appointed for all of us to die because of the wages of sin. Real joy should come, eternal joy, realizing that for those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, they will live forever in perfection- body, soul, and spirit.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, help me to get excited about what You get excited about and to realize that in this life, there will be sickness and sorrow; but in heaven, we will be forever perfect- body, soul, and spirit. Amen.