

- WELCOME TO -  
**MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH**

...FOLLOWING GOD, LOVING OTHERS...



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**DAILY DEVOTIONALS**

WEEK OF APRIL 19-25

# SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Come Follow Me | The Gospel of Mark

"What did Jesus say (WJTS)?"

Mark 3, 7, + 9

1. J \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 3:1-6, 31-35

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2. c \_\_\_\_\_ y \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 7:1-5, 14-23

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3. s \_\_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 9:33-37

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# Sermon Doodles & Illustrations

# MONDAY, APRIL 20

## Mark 3 — *Doing the Will of God*

Welcome to our week on learning through what Jesus said. It's important for us today to hear what Jesus has to say and then understand what lesson He was teaching in those moments. We can easily read passages and scripture, but understanding it is a little more difficult because it was written in a different time and culture. So dig in with me this week and may we all learn from what Jesus said.

In the first part of the chapter we see that Jesus is trying to help the religious leaders deal with their hardened hearts. They had gotten so caught up in ritual and rule and had forgotten what God had called them to do, which was to do good. Jesus asked them if it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath. The religious leaders remained silent, Jesus healed the man, and the religious leaders complained. The next teaching we see in this passage is about who is a family member of Jesus. His family is outside the building seeking Jesus to come to them and Jesus responds that His family members are those who do the will of God. Both of these teachings today were about doing what God willed and not what we think we should do.

When you think of simply doing the will of God, what comes to mind? Maybe for some of us we feel stuck because how can someone know what God's will is? For others we may quickly do what we have always been doing because we are close to God so that means everything we do must be God's will, right? I know this teaching is hard for us today because we just want the answer, but the answer may be slightly different in each scenario. For one scenario God's will may be for you to listen and extend grace. For another situation God's will may be to hold accountable and invite to repentance. Although the responses may be different the reason is always the same, simply do the will of God.



# TUESDAY, APRIL 21

## Mark 7 — *What defiles someone?*

I have a few questions for us as we start our time together today. Do you wash your hands before eating? Do you wash your hands when you come home from the store? Do you prefer that the table, booth, and dishes you are eating on be clean at the restaurant you are at for dinner? It seems to me that each one of us would say yes to all of these questions and we do so from the perspective that we don't want to get physically sick.

Jesus calls out the religious leaders for complaining about his disciples eating with "dirty" hands.. He does not do this to defend His disciples, but to teach the religious leaders something. The religious leaders, who are not spiritually healthy, are complaining about something that isn't true. The disciples are not sinners by eating with ritually unwashed hands. Jesus goes on to share that what truly defiles someone is not the food or how it is eaten, but the sin that impacts their hearts. Jesus is trying to once again help the religious folks understand that they seem to be focused on their made up traditions instead of the truth of what God desires.

Now I believe that Jesus is not telling us to forgo hand washing. I fully trust that Jesus would promote good hygiene, but more than that, He would desire for us to make sure we have our spiritual home in order. If we didn't believe in God and also chose not to shower, I think God would desire to fix the belief in Him before fixing the shower issue. When it comes to physical health versus spiritual health, which one are you more likely to talk to someone about?



# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Mark 9:1-29 — *Just Believe*

What do you believe about God? Do you believe that God has all power and all authority? Do you believe that God knows the days of your life? Do you believe that Jesus died and rose again from the dead and that all who believe are a new creation? Do you believe that God desires all to be saved and for you to be a part of that ministry of reconciliation?

In our passage today we watch Jesus' interaction with a father who is desperately desiring healing for his little boy. His son has been possessed from birth and was unable to speak or hear. The father asks if Jesus could do anything to at least have compassion on the family and help them. The statement of "can you do anything" catches Jesus' ears and in turn Jesus says all things are possible for the one who believes. The father responds with a humble reply of I believe, help my unbelief.

Do you ever find yourself talking to God and saying if you could, if you can, maybe, or any words like that? These words sound faithless rather than filled with faith. In this passage Jesus encourages the father to just fully believe and He is inviting us to do the same today. If we truly believe all the things we talked about in the first section, then that should impact the way we live right here and right now. If you find yourself struggling in any situation and don't know where to turn, just believe that God is with you and listen for His voice to guide you.



# THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Mark 9:30-50 — *Be a servant*

How do you determine success today? If you were asked to pick the successful person between someone who is dressed in simple clothes, looks tired and is relatively quiet or someone who is dressed with professional attire with their hair just right and can speak eloquently, who would you pick? We often judge a book by its cover when we look at the people around us; what misperceptions might we put on others when we meet them?

Jesus finds that His followers are discussing who was the greatest among them. Jesus answers their questions with an invitation to look at success differently. This invitation was to look at how you can serve and help others rather than try to be better than others. Another side teaching from this passage is about comparing ourselves with other groups of believers. Jesus tells the disciples to stop worrying about other people who are doing good in the name of Jesus. They too are a part of the family of God even if they are not a part of the group of the disciples.

In our desire to be the best, we can quickly become jealous, bitter, frustrated, and mean. If instead, our mind is focused on lifting others up and helping them be their best, we find ourselves encouraging, empowering, and guiding. If we step back, can we think of a time that we were jealous of someone's status? Can we remember a time where we got angry when someone got something we wanted or thought we deserved? Jesus reminds us that a life with Him is not about status, it's not about prestige, and it is not about being the best, but that we are to cheer on others to be the best that they can be. Also, let us remember that we are not to compare or try to be better than another church. Let's praise God for what He is doing there and continue to be faithful to what God has called us to here.



# FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Mark 10 — Divorce, Children, & Possessions

Today we have three topics that Jesus talks about so let's dive right in. Jesus is confronted about the topic of divorce. Jesus starts by inviting the religious leaders to look back at the Old Testament. Abraham did give approval for a certificate of divorce, but Jesus quickly describes that was because of the hardness of heart of the people. Jesus says that God's desire is that marriage is for life and if divorce does happen that remarriage is only acceptable for a limited number of reasons such as sexual immorality or being abandoned.

Next Jesus invites us to become like children and have a childlike faith. Often children easily trust the people they are around and hold on to whatever they are being told. As we become adults we need "proof" to believe something to be true. Jesus says that we need to simply trust in Jesus to be in the kingdom of God.

Finally, Jesus addresses selfishness. The rich young man says he had kept all the religious laws from birth and so Jesus lovingly points out where he isn't following God and that is in how he lacks to help those in need. As we learned about compassion last week, this person sees a need, could meet it, but doesn't have the heart to. Jesus is inviting the young man to look outside himself to see how he could help those in need. This was too hard for the man to receive and he went away sad.



# SATURDAY, APRIL 25

## Mark 12 — Money, Love, & False Teaching

As we close out our week of looking at what Jesus said, we come to another passage with multiple teachings. Twice in this passage Jesus refers to things that involve money. First, taxes and how we need to respect the economic system we are in, but as He did this, He pointed to the kingdom of God and how we are to give in that system as well. Since we are made in the image of God we are to give our lives to serve and honor God. At the end of the chapter Jesus talks about giving and how it is not about the amount that is given, but about the heart in which it is given. The rich give out of their surplus with little reliance on God. The poor on the other hand, give in a way that causes them to trust in God for their daily necessities. In both of these stories Jesus points away from the earthly understanding to the spiritual aspect behind each question.

We also find in this passage one of the most famous teachings of Jesus about love. He instructs us that we are to love God with all that we are and if we do that we should be led to love our neighbors well. Jesus shares in this passage that it is very important how we treat others and share with them the love of Jesus.

Finally, Jesus warns against false teachers. These teachers look for the best seats in the place. They like to be honored and yet they take advantage of the poor and lowly. Jesus was talking to the lawyers of the day that valued their nice clothes and their seats of authority, yet did not care that they charged the poor a large amount of money in their proceedings.

Our passages today continue the theme of looking to the needs of others above our own and extending the love of God to everyone we meet. It's important that we don't get hung up on the earthly/temporary perspective of events in our lives. Jesus invites us to focus on how we can be a part of expanding the kingdom of God with everything we do.

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**SONG:**

["Give Me Jesus"](#) - Victory Worship

**KIDS QUESTION:**

Do you share with others? Your time? Your money? Your gifts? God has blessed you with so much. How do you bless others?

**YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:**

Share times when you have had to rely on God for what you needed?

**PRAYER:**

Lord, we confess that many of us in America have way more than we need. We rarely come to a place of need. Help us to learn humility and sacrifice even in the midst of our abundance.

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