



M A R K

The Gift of God





Introduction to The Kingdom

Mark 8:31-9:29

Structure of Mark



1:1—8:26

To the Big
Question ->

8:27-30

8:31—16:20

To the
Cross ->

Mark 8:31-9:29



1. Kingdom Priorities (8:31-38)
2. Kingdom Power (9:1-29)
 - The Foretaste (1-13)
 - The Failure (14-29)

Kingdom Priorities



- Jesus began to teach them (8:31)
 - He must (*inevitable, unavoidable*):
 - Suffer many things
 - Be rejected by the Sanhedrin
 - Be killed
 - Rise again on the third day

Kingdom Priorities



- Peter didn't like His teachings (32)
 - Didn't fit his beliefs / agenda (*political*)
 - Peter took the lead
 - He took Jesus aside
 - He began to rebuke Jesus
- Remember the blind man? (22-26)

Kingdom Priorities



- Jesus rebuked Peter (and the others) (33)
 - “Get behind me, Satan” (cf. Matt. 4:10)
 - *After, at one’s back*
 - “You are not thinking the things of God but the things of man”
 - Verse 31 was God’s plan (Acts 2:23)

Kingdom Priorities



- Jesus taught the crowd (34)
 - “If someone desires to follow behind Me”
 - Deny himself – his agenda/desires
 - Take up his cross – as one condemned
 - Follow Me – relationship; learn and imitate

Kingdom Priorities



- Four “For”s:

1. For whoever wishes to save...lose...

- Those unwilling to give up their self-interests will lose everything

- Those willing to give up their interests for Christ’s will find real life

Kingdom Priorities



- Four “For”s:

2. For what does it profit...

- To gain all you desire *now* but end up with nothing *later*?

3. For what will a man give in exchange...

- What is more valuable than himself?

Kingdom Priorities



- Four “For”s:

4. For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words...

- Ashamed – not willing to identify / deny / die / follow

- Words – love/intimacy (John 14:23-24)

Kingdom Priorities



- God's plan for Jesus included suffering, rejection, and death (cf. Acts 2:23; 4:27-28)
- Jesus is saying that anyone who wants to be His disciple must expect and accept these, too (see 1 Peter)
 - Those who refuse will lose all

Kingdom Priorities

- The Bottom Line:



 "Death" -> *LIFE*

 "Life" -> *DEATH*



Kingdom Power: The Foretaste

- Jesus: Some would see the kingdom (9:1)
 - Peter, James, John (see 3:16-17; 5:37)
 - Mt. Hermon near Caesarea Philippi(?)
 - He was transfigured before them
 - *Change in form* (see Rom. 12:2)
 - Unveiled deity or glorified humanity?



Kingdom Power: The Foretaste

- Elijah appeared along with Moses (4)
 - Talking with Jesus (about His *departure* - Luke 9:31)
- Disciples were terrified (6)
 - Peter: “Let’s keep this going!” (5)
 - A glimpse of the Messiah they desired



Kingdom Power: The Foretaste

- Then a cloud formed (7)
 - The *Shekinah* glory of God (see Ex. 24:15-18; 33:9-10; 40:34; etc.)
- The Father spoke (see 1:11; 2 Pet. 1:16-18)
 - “This is My Son” (see Ps. 2:7)
 - “Listen to Him” (see Deut. 18:15)



Kingdom Power: The Foretaste

- Disciples: “Scribes say Elijah comes first?”
- Jesus: “They’re right” (Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6)
 - “But what about the Son of Man?”
 - John the Baptist was a *type* of Elijah
 - Cf. Matt. 11:14; John 1:21
 - Elijah will come later



Kingdom Power: The Failure

- The remaining disciples could not cast out a demon (17-18)
 - But they had authority! (see 3:14-15; 6:7)
- The scribes were mocking them (14)
 - And the crowd was watching (perhaps even participating)



Kingdom Power: The Failure

- “O unbelieving generation” (19)
 - Most likely directed to everyone involved
- “How long shall I be with you?”
 - *How much longer...?*
- “How long shall I put up with you?”
 - *To bear with others’ errors or weaknesses*



Kingdom Power: The Failure

- Why doesn't Jesus heal him right away?
 - Draw out his faith: *realize* and *verbalize*
- Dad: "If You can do anything..." (22)
- Jesus: "'If You can?'" (23)
- Contrast with the leper: "If you are *willing*, you can make me clean." (1:40)



Kingdom Power: The Failure

- Jesus: “All things are possible to him who believes” (23)
 - NOT a blank check, genie’s lamp, etc.
 - Faith/believing is a response (cf. Heb. 11)
 - Context: deny / die / follow (8:34-38; cf. Luke 22:42)



Kingdom Power: The Failure

- Dad: “I do believe; help my unbelief.” (24)
 - His faith was small and weak, and he knew it and asked for help to increase it
- Jesus cast out the demon (25)
 - Trying to avoid a public spectacle



Kingdom Power: The Failure

- Disciples: “Why could *we* not drive it out?”
 - Lack of prayer (29)
 - “Because of the littleness of your faith” (Matt. 17:20)
 - They *believed* in their authority & past experience but did not *depend* on God

So What?



- Am I truly following God's agenda?
 - How can I know for sure?
 - Am I *surrendering* or *fighting* for my self-interests?
 - Am I following, or trying to lead?

So What?



- Do I have *faith*, or do I have *faith in God*?
- Am I depending on God's promises, or on the God who keeps His promises?
 - Is that demonstrated by my prayer life?
- Is my faith focused by God's agenda?