



MARKS'S PORTRAIT: When we fail to understand Jesus fully, he shows us what it looks like to be faithful. That's good news. **Mark 1:1-3; 4:21-25, 8:27-38; 16:1-8**

Mark's good news about Jesus, the Messiah

Mark 1:1-3 ~ Which Jesus though?

Failing to Understand

A Mysterious Messiah

- ◆ The crowds failed to understand him. **Mark 6:3; 7:14**

- ◆ His disciples struggled to understand him. **Mark 6:52, 8:21; 9:32**

- ◆ The religious leaders failed to understand. **Mark 8:11-13; 11:27-33**

- ◆ Jesus makes it clear. **Mark 10:32-34; 15-16**

- ◆ The Roman Soldier understands. **Mark 15:39**

Grace for those trying to understand

Mark 4:21-25 ~ "The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given."

If we will listen...

- ◆ The women at the empty tomb. **Mark 16:1-8**

- ◆ Do you understand? **Mark 8:21; 9:32; 16:8**

- ◆ It's a beautiful story to tell when you do understand.

"Mark's Gospel is arguably the most influential book ever written. If Matthew and Luke both used Mark as a source (as is likely), then Mark contributed immeasurably to the development of Christianity, and thus also to the course of history in the Western world and increasingly in the rest of the world as well."

— Timothy Geddert, Mark



reflection questions

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WARMING UP:

1. What do you enjoy about reading mystery novels? What makes them enticing?
2. What is it about Jesus that remains mysterious to you? Is he still mysterious to you? Explain.

LEARNING AND DISCUSSING:

3. Read Mark 6:45-52. What is Mark describing in this event? What makes this event mysterious? Mark mentions that Jesus "intended to go past them," vs. 48. This is puzzling. To make more sense of this whole event, turn to Job 9 to read about how Job describes God. Read from vs. 1-11, paying attention to vs. 8-11.
4. After reading Job 9, how does this add to your understanding of what Jesus was doing in Mark 6, out on the water? What statement was Jesus making to the disciples by walking on the water?
5. Read Mark 4:26-32. Jesus tells two stories about the kingdom of God. What are these stories communicating about the Kingdom of God? Don't forget about "mystery."

MAKING IT REAL:

6. In Mark 16:7-8, the women are told to go and tell the disciples, but they run away and don't tell anyone. They didn't understand. In what ways do you wish you could have more understanding?
7. What does it mean for you to "pay close attention to what you hear" from Jesus, 4:24? What will it take for you to listen to Jesus and have more understanding?

Give it a try! choose one of the following

1. Read through Mark's gospel this week, a little each day. Take note of what stands out to you. Write down questions that arise. Try to research the answers.
2. Watch this video from The Bible Project. It's an overview of Mark.
→ <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/mark>



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