

Insights From Mark

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Insights From Mark

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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Table of Contents

Introduction.....4
Mark.....7

Mark

- John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah (Mark 1:2). This means preparations were made for the Messiah before He came.
- John the Baptist preached repentance for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4).
- Many people were baptized in the Jordan river by John the Baptist (Mark 1:5). Part of the baptism process included the confession of sins.
- Being baptized with the Holy Ghost is mightier than being baptized with water (Mark 1:8).
- The Messiah baptizes people with the Holy Ghost (Mark 1:8).
- Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river (Mark 1:9).
- Although Jesus was baptized by John, the text doesn't say that Jesus confessed His sins (Mark 1:9). This is because Jesus never sinned and had no sins to confess.
- John the Baptist was in the Jordan river when he baptized Jesus (Mark 1:10). This means Jesus was fully immersed in the river, which points to immersion as the method of baptism.
- At the baptism of Jesus was an appearance of the Trinity: there was God the Son (who was baptized), God the Father (who spoke from Heaven), and God the Holy Spirit (who descended upon Jesus) (Mark 1:11).
- There are times when God speaks audibly so a crowd of people can hear Him (Mark 1:11).
- Jesus is beloved by God (Mark 1:11). God the Father is

well pleased with Him.

- John the Baptist wasn't the only person who identified Jesus as the Messiah. God Himself audibly called out from Heaven when Jesus was baptized (Mark 1:11). This means two different witnesses identified Jesus as the Messiah at the very beginning of His ministry.
- There were times when angels ministered to Jesus (Mark 1:13).
- Jesus preached repentance. He commanded people to repent (Mark 1:15).
- James, John, Simon, and Andrew were all called to follow Jesus while they were engaged in fishing-related activities at the sea of Galilee (Mark 1:20).
- The family of James and John was wealthy enough to have a ship and hired servants (Mark 1:20).
- There were times when Jesus taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath (Mark 1:21).
- There were times when demon-possessed people went to the synagogue on the Sabbath (Mark 1:23).
- Demons are unclean spirits (Mark 1:23).
- Demons are afraid of Jesus (Mark 1:24). They know that Jesus has the power to destroy them.
- Demons can possess people (Mark 1:26).
- No one was upset over the fact that Jesus cast a demonic spirit out of a man on the Sabbath, in a synagogue (Mark 1:27). Healing people on the Sabbath upset them, but casting out demons didn't.

- When people saw Jesus cast out a demon, they didn't understand how He had the authority to command demonic spirits to obey Him (Mark 1:27).
- After Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law, people started bringing those who were sick to Him (Mark 1:32).
- After Jesus cast out the demon from the man in the synagogue, people started bringing those who were demon-possessed to Him (Mark 1:32).
- The reason Jesus didn't allow demons to speak was because they knew who He was (Mark 1:34).
- There were times when Jesus got up very early and went to a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35).
- The reason Jesus wanted to go to other towns in Galilee was so He could preach there (Mark 1:38). His focus was on preaching.
- The reason the Mosaic Law commanded lepers to make an offering after they were healed was as a testimony to what God had done for them (Mark 1:44).
- Even when Jesus was in desert places, people came to Him from every quarter (Mark 1:45).
- Jesus became famous very early in His ministry (Mark 2:1).
- When large crowds gathered to Jesus, He preached to them (Mark 2:2).
- Jesus has the power to forgive sins (Mark 2:5).
- The reason Jesus healed the paralyzed man was to prove He had the power to forgive sins (Mark 2:10). Jesus wanted everyone to know that He had this power.

- Jesus didn't hide His claim to be God. He forgave people's sins, which was something only God could do (Mark 2:10).
- Jesus healed the paralyzed man by commanding him to arise. He healed him without ever touching him (Mark 2:11).
- The people who saw Jesus heal the paralyzed man said they had never seen anything like that before (Mark 2:12).
- Levi was at work when Jesus called him (just as Simon, Andrew, James, and John were also at work when Jesus called them) (Mark 2:14).
- Levi didn't seek Jesus out. instead Jesus called him when He passed by (Mark 2:14).
- Jesus came into this world to call sinners to repentance (Mark 2:17). When Jesus ate with publicans and sinners, He was calling them to repentance.
- You must repent in order to be saved (Mark 2:17).
- The disciples of John the Baptist fasted, but the disciples of Jesus didn't. This demonstrated that Jesus was greater than John the Baptist (Mark 2:19).
- It would have been wrong for the disciples of Jesus to fast while they were with Him (Mark 2:19-20). This means those who are with Jesus don't need to fast. Since Jesus isn't with us in person, it's good for us to fast.
- Jesus foretold His departure from His disciples very early in His ministry (Mark 2:20).
- Jesus believed the Old Testament was authoritative and

accurate, and the things written in it actually happened (Mark 2:25).

- The command to feed the hungry is more important than the command to not give the holy shewbread to people who aren't priests (Mark 2:26). This means the commandments to respect holy things and keep the Sabbath don't forbid us from feeding the hungry. Some commandments take precedence over others.
- The purpose of life isn't keeping the Sabbath, as if that was greater than all other duties (Mark 2:27). We must keep commandments in their proper place and not elevate them beyond what God has said.
- Jesus is greater than the Sabbath (Mark 2:28). This was another claim to be God because only God could say such a thing.
- The people who were in the synagogue wanted to accuse Jesus of something so they could destroy Him (Mark 3:2). This means Jesus had enemies from the very beginning of His ministry.
- Jesus didn't avoid a confrontation with those who were looking for a reason to accuse Him (Mark 3:3).
- When it came to healing on the Sabbath, Jesus didn't try to find a way to compromise. He also didn't follow the made-up rules of the religious leaders of His day. Instead He publicly confronted them and rebuked them for their sin (Mark 3:3).
- Jesus asked the people if it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath, but they refused to answer (Mark 3:4). The people in the synagogue were unwilling to even have a conversation about healing on the Sabbath. They just

wanted to find a reason to destroy Jesus.

- There are times when Jesus is angry and grieved with people because of the hardness of their hearts (Mark 3:5).
- Jesus gave a command to the man with the withered hand, and once he obeyed his hand was made whole (Mark 3:5).
- Jesus healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath even though He knew it would anger the people who were present (Mark 3:5).
- Jesus had compassion on the man with the withered hand (Mark 3:5). The people who were in the synagogue had no compassion for him at all.
- The commandment to keep the Sabbath holy doesn't forbid people from having compassion on others, or doing good (Mark 3:5).
- The Pharisees decided to destroy Jesus because He healed someone on the Sabbath (Mark 3:6).
- The reason people came to see Jesus was because of the great things that He did (Mark 3:8).
- There were times when Jesus preached from a small ship that was in the sea. This was because of the size of the crowds that had gathered to Him (Mark 3:9).
- In those days there were many people who were possessed by demons (Mark 3:11).
- Jesus ordained His twelve disciples at the top of a mountain (Mark 3:14).
- Jesus wanted His disciples to preach. That was one of

their callings (Mark 3:14).

- Jesus gave His disciples the power to heal sicknesses and cast out demons (Mark 3:15).
- The friends of Jesus believed that He was crazy and were opposed to His ministry. They had no faith in Him, in spite of the many miracles that He did (Mark 3:21).
- The scribes from Jerusalem claimed that Jesus was demon-possessed (Mark 3:22). They said His power came from the devil and not from God. However, Jesus wasn't using the power of the devil to cast out devils. Instead He was using the power of God (because He was God) (Mark 3:24).
- When the scribes falsely accused Jesus of casting out devils by using the devil's power, Jesus defended Himself (Mark 3:26). Jesus tried to reason with those who made false accusations against Him.
- Jesus cast out demons to make His ministry possible. He was binding the strong man so He could reap a harvest of souls (Mark 3:27).
- Casting out demons wages war against the devil (Mark 3:27). It weakens him.
- People who saw Jesus *in person* perform mighty miracles, but claimed that He was doing it by the power of the devil, committed blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (Mark 3:29). This was an unforgivable sin.
- The reason the brothers of Jesus went to see Him was because they didn't believe in Him and wanted to stop Him from carrying out His ministry (Mark 3:31).
- Jesus said that His mother is *everyone* who does God's

will – not just Mary (Mark 3:34-35). This means Jesus didn't elevate Mary as the unique "Mother of God", as Catholics do. Instead He put her on the same level as everyone else who does God's will.

- The kingdom of God was a mystery (Mark 4:11). God gave the disciples of Jesus the right to understand that mystery, but He hid it from others.
- Once the parables that Jesus taught were properly interpreted, they revealed the mystery of the kingdom of God (Mark 4:11).
- There are some people who aren't part of the kingdom of God (Mark 4:11). Those who are outside His kingdom aren't given the right to understand it (Mark 4:11).
- The reason Jesus taught in parables was to *hide* the mystery of the kingdom of God, not to reveal it (Mark 4:11). He wanted to make Himself impossible to understand by those who were outside the kingdom.
- Parables make the truth harder to understand, not easier (Mark 4:11).
- The reason Jesus taught in parables was to keep those who were outside the kingdom from being saved (Mark 4:12). This means it's not God's will for everyone to be saved. There are some people that God deliberately hides the truth from so that they won't be saved.
- The interpretation of the parable of the sower provides the key to interpreting other parables (Mark 4:13).
- The devil prevents some people from being saved by taking the Word away from their heart the moment they hear it (Mark 4:15). This means the devil is an obstacle to saving some people.

- God works through His Word to save people (Mark 4:15).
- The devil is a major obstacle to evangelism (Mark 4:15).
- The only way we can endure times of suffering is if we're firmly rooted in the faith (Mark 4:17). Those who aren't firmly rooted will only endure until persecution arises and then they'll reject the faith.
- Those who reject the faith in times of affliction aren't saved (Mark 4:17). This means persecution reveals the true nature of a person's faith.
- The cares of this world can prevent people from bearing fruit (Mark 4:19).
- The riches of this world are dangerous because they can choke the Word (Mark 4:19).
- The fruit in our life comes from the Word of God (Mark 4:19).
- In order for us to bear fruit, we must uproot everything in our life that's choking the Word of God (just like a gardener uproots weeds and thorns) (Mark 4:19).
- We should give light to others (Mark 4:21).
- There are no secrets that won't be revealed (Mark 4:22).
- God will treat us the way we treat others (Mark 4:24).
- If we want to grow then we must hear what God has to say, for He will give more to those who listen to Him (Mark 4:24).
- People change over time. They either listen to God and grow, or they reject God and become more wicked because God takes away whatever truth they have (Mark

4:25).

- Although we sow the seed of the Word of God, He is the one who uses it in people's lives to change them (Mark 4:27).
- It may take time for God's Word to work in a person's life and lead them to repentance and salvation. It might not happen immediately (Mark 4:27).
- People must mature in the faith before they can bear fruit (Mark 4:28).
- Once the kingdom of God is grown, it will be larger than all other kingdoms (Mark 4:32).
- Jesus only spoke to the multitude using parables (Mark 4:34). He explained the meaning of His parables to His disciples when they were alone.
- When Jesus and His disciples were in a ship in the sea, there was a violent wind storm that came out of nowhere (Mark 4:37). This may have been a demonic attack.
- Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea on the same day He taught the parable of the sower (Mark 4:39).
- Jesus has authority over the weather. It must obey His commands (Mark 4:39).
- Jesus cast the demons into swine the day after He taught the parable of the sower and calmed the sea (Mark 5:1).
- There are times when people who are demon-possessed have supernatural strength (Mark 5:3).
- Unclean spirits (demons) have names (Mark 5:9).
- It's possible for more than one demon to dwell inside

someone (Mark 5:9).

- It's possible for animals to be demon-possessed (Mark 5:12).
- Demons want to be inside someone, even if it's just an animal (Mark 5:12).
- Jesus has control over where demons can go (Mark 5:12).
- There are times when animals become violent after a demon enters them (Mark 5:13).
- There are times when demons kill the host they're possessing (Mark 5:13).
- The people of the Gadarenes kept a herd of swine, even though pigs were unclean under the Mosaic Law (Mark 5:14).
- When the people of the Gadarenes saw that Jesus had cast out the demon, they didn't repent or believe in Him. Instead they begged Jesus to leave (Mark 5:17).
- The woman with the issue of blood believed that if she was just able to touch the clothes of Jesus then she would be healed (Mark 5:28). She believed that Jesus didn't have to know what she was doing. All she had to do was touch His clothes.
- Although many people were crowded around Jesus, the only person who was healed was the woman who had the issue of blood (Mark 5:31).
- The woman with the issue of blood was made whole by her faith (Mark 5:34).
- The person who came from the house of Jairus didn't believe that Jesus could raise people from the dead (Mark

5:35).

- Jesus wanted Jairus to believe that He could still heal his daughter, even though she had died (Mark 5:36).
- Jesus didn't allow anyone to follow him into the house of Jairus, except for three of His disciples (Mark 5:37). This means there were times when Jesus only allowed a few of His disciples to accompany Him and made the rest stay behind.
- Peter, James, and John seem to have been the inner group of disciples (Mark 5:37).
- The people who didn't believe in Jesus weren't allowed to watch Him heal the daughter of Jairus. He removed them from the house before He healed her (Mark 5:40). The only people who were allowed to witness this miracle were Peter, James, John, and her parents.
- Jairus believed that Jesus could heal his daughter if He touched her. Jesus then healed his daughter by touching her (Mark 5:23, 41).
- There were some miracles that Jesus didn't want people to know about (Mark 5:43).
- Jesus worked as a carpenter when He lived in Nazareth (Mark 6:3).
- Jesus had four half-brothers (James, Joses, Juda, and Simon) and multiple sisters (Mark 6:3).
- Jesus couldn't do many miracles in Nazareth because the people there were offended by Him and didn't believe in Him (Mark 6:5-6). Jesus marveled at their unbelief.
- Jesus spent a lot of time teaching (Mark 6:6).

- Jesus didn't send His disciples out to preach by themselves. Instead He sent them out in groups (Mark 6:7).
- The disciples weren't allowed to take vengeance on cities that didn't receive them. They could only shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against them (Mark 6:11). God promised to judge those cities more severely than Sodom and Gomorrah.
- The ultimate judgment for Sodom and Gomorrah is in the future, not the past (Mark 6:11).
- John the Baptist rebuked the king for his sexual immorality (Mark 6:18). This means it's right and proper to rebuke the sins of those who are in positions of authority.
- Rulers don't have the right to sin (Mark 6:18).
- The reason Herodias wanted to kill John the Baptist was because he rebuked her sexual immorality (Mark 6:19). There are times when people react violently when their sin is rebuked.
- Although Herod listened to John the Baptist and greatly respected him, Herod didn't repent of his sins (Mark 6:20).
- Herod greatly enjoyed the dancing of the daughter of Herodias, a woman he was having an immoral sexual relationship with (Mark 6:22).
- When the daughter of Herodias was given an opportunity to receive anything she wanted, Herodias had her use that rare and valuable privilege to kill an innocent person (Mark 6:24).

- When Herodias told her daughter to have John the Baptist put to death, she made haste to do it (Mark 6:25).
- Herod decided it was more important to keep a promise than to avoid putting an innocent man to death (Mark 6:26).
- When John the Baptist was executed, the disciples were already being called apostles (Mark 6:30).
- There were times when the disciples were so busy they didn't have time to eat (Mark 6:31).
- There were times when Jesus and His disciples tried to get away from the crowds so they could eat and rest (Mark 6:31).
- Jesus was moved with compassion toward the people because they were like sheep that didn't have a shepherd (Mark 6:34).
- The fish and loaves were broken before they were multiplied (Mark 6:41).
- The reason the disciples were amazed when they saw Jesus walking upon the sea was because they didn't consider the meaning of the miracle of the loaves (Mark 6:52).
- Before the crucifixion of Jesus, the hearts of His disciples were hardened (Mark 6:52). That's why they didn't understand what was going on.
- People believed they could be healed by touching Jesus' garment (Mark 6:56). All those who touched His garment were made whole.
- After Jesus fed 5000 people with five loaves of bread, the

Pharisees criticized His disciples for not washing their hands before eating (Mark 7:5).

- It's not enough to honor God with our words. Our heart must belong to Him as well (Mark 7:6-7). Those who honor God with their words but not their heart worship Him in vain.
- It's wrong to teach that the traditions of religious leaders are binding, as if they were from God (Mark 7:7).
- It's wrong to replace God's commandments with the traditions of men (Mark 7:8).
- Under the Mosaic Law, those who cursed their father or mother were put to death (Mark 7:10).
- It's wrong to teach people not to obey God's commandments (Mark 7:11).
- Part of honoring our parents is taking care of them and meeting their needs (Mark 7:11).
- The Pharisees taught that their traditions were greater than God's Word (Mark 7:13). Jesus *strongly* condemned them for this.
- Jesus didn't give any support to the traditions of the Pharisees, or say that they had a point. Instead He firmly rebuked them for replacing God's commandments with the traditions of men (Mark 7:13).
- We can't be defiled by eating food (Mark 7:15). This is because whatever a person eats goes into his belly and then comes out again. It doesn't go into his heart and corrupt him (Mark 7:19). The things that go into our heart are what can defile us.

- Adultery is wrong (Mark 7:21).
- Fornication is wrong (Mark 7:21).
- Murder is wrong (Mark 7:21).
- Sin comes from the heart. It's a heart problem (Mark 7:21). If we want to overcome sin then we must deal with our wicked heart.
- People are defiled by sin (Mark 7:21, 23). Adultery, fornication, and murder all defile people.
- People are defiled by being deceitful (Mark 7:22).
- People are defiled by oppressing others (Mark 7:22).
- People are defiled by being blasphemous (Mark 7:22).
- People are defiled by being proud (Mark 7:22).
- People are defiled by being foolish (Mark 7:22).
- It's possible for children to be demon-possessed (Mark 7:25).
- There were times when Gentiles went to Jesus for help (Mark 7:26).
- Demons are unclean (Mark 7:26).
- Demons are spirits (Mark 7:26).
- Jesus didn't tell the Gentile woman with the demon-possessed daughter that He wouldn't take care of her. Instead He told her to wait until He had healed the Jews. His message was that the Jews came first (Mark 7:27).
- Children are more important than dogs (Mark 7:27).
- Jesus was able to cast the demon out of the woman's

daughter without ever seeing the child (Mark 7:29).

- Jesus didn't feed the multitude until they had gone without food for three days (Mark 8:2).
- The Pharisees ignored the many signs that Jesus gave and demanded more. They ignored all of His healings, miracles, teachings, and power. They also ignored all the fulfilled Messianic prophecies. They demanded yet another sign, as if Jesus hadn't done anything at all (Mark 8:11).
- The disciples watched Jesus provide food in the wilderness for a multitude, but they didn't understand that meant He could provide for them as well (Mark 8:18). The disciples thought they had to provide for their own needs and worried when they only had a single loaf of bread left (Mark 8:14). On two separate occasions the disciples watched Jesus feed multitudes with a small amount of food, and yet they didn't understand the miracle or take it to heart (Mark 8:21).
- There were times when Jesus told those He healed to not tell anyone else (Mark 8:26). However, Jesus *never* told anyone to not spread His teachings.
- Jesus commanded His disciples to not tell anyone that He was the Messiah (Mark 8:30). He gave this command after people had already rejected Him and condemned Him as being demon-possessed, which was an unforgivable sin.
- Jesus told His disciples in advance that He would be killed and rise from the dead on the third day (Mark 8:31).
- Peter didn't believe that Jesus would be rejected, killed, and resurrected (Mark 8:32). He rebuked Jesus for

teaching those things (but all of them came true).

- When Peter tried to stop Jesus from going to the cross, he was on the same side as the devil. By trying to stop God's plan he became the adversary of Jesus (Mark 8:33). The reason he did this was because he wanted the things of men, not the things of God.
- We must accept whatever suffering results from following Jesus (Mark 8:34).
- Those who lose their life for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ will save it, and gain everlasting life (Mark 8:35).
- Those who deny the Lord Jesus Christ to save their life will lose their life (Mark 8:35). By rejecting Him they will end up in Hell.
- A person's soul is worth more than the whole world (Mark 8:36). It's better to lose the world and save your soul, than gain the world and lose your soul. We must be willing to sacrifice *everything in this world* (if need be) to save our soul.
- There's nothing a person can give in exchange for their soul (Mark 8:37). Our is exceedingly precious.
- When Jesus returns He will be ashamed of those who are ashamed of Him or His words (Mark 8:38).
- Shortly after Jesus said that some of His disciples wouldn't die before they saw the kingdom of God come with power, three of His the disciples saw Him transfigured. It seems that the transfiguration was the fulfillment of that promise (Mark 9:2).
- The transfiguration of Jesus took place *after* Jesus told His disciples that He was going to be rejected, then executed,

then resurrected (Mark 9:2).

- Only Peter, James, and John were with Jesus when He was transfigured (Mark 9:2).
- There was a time when Peter, James, and John saw Moses and Elijah (Mark 9:4).
- Jesus didn't treat all of His disciples the same. There were experiences that He gave to some but not to others (Mark 9:9).
- Judas (the disciple who betrayed Jesus) didn't witness the transfiguration of Jesus and never learned about it (Mark 9:9-10).
- Before Jesus died and was resurrected, His disciples didn't understand the gospel. They didn't understand that Jesus came to die as a sacrifice for sin and was then going to rise from the dead. They had no understanding of what Jesus was doing, in spite of the fact they were the innermost group of disciples (Mark 9:10).
- Even though Jesus spoke plainly to His disciples and told them exactly what was going to happen, they still didn't understand what He was saying (Mark 9:10). They were looking for hidden spiritual meanings instead of listening to what Jesus was actually telling them.
- Not being able to speak can be an effect of demonic possession (Mark 9:17).
- The disciples of Jesus were able to cast some demons out of people, but not all of them (Mark 9:18). Some demons are harder to cast out than others.
- People can be demon-possessed for years (Mark 9:21).

- Even though Jesus cast out many demons, the father of the demon-possessed son didn't believe He could help. Jesus called his generation faithless because they lacked faith in Him in spite of the *overwhelming* evidence (Mark 9:19, 22).
- All things are possible for those who believe in Jesus (Mark 9:23).
- Not being able to hear can be an effect of demonic possession (Mark 9:25).
- Some demons can only be cast out by prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29). This means prayer and fasting can be powerful tools to cast out demons.
- After Jesus told His disciples that He was going to be killed, they started arguing about which of them would be the greatest in His kingdom (Mark 9:34). They didn't believe Jesus when He told them He was going to die.
- Those who desire to be first in the kingdom of God are actually desiring to be a servant and serve others (Mark 9:35).
- Whoever receives a child in Christ's name receives Him (Mark 9:37).
- The only way to God the Father is through Jesus (Mark 9:37).
- Casting out demons is a miracle (Mark 9:39).
- No one can do a miracle in the name of Jesus and lightly speak evil of Him (Mark 9:39).
- It's not wrong to use the name of Jesus to cast out demons (Mark 9:39).

- Those who give people a cup of water to drink in the name of Jesus, because those people belong to Him, will receive a reward (Mark 9:41).
- It's possible for little children to believe in Jesus (Mark 9:42). This is something Jesus desires.
- Those who oppress little children who believe in Jesus will be severely punished (Mark 9:42).
- We must remove *everything* from our life that causes us to sin (Mark 9:43).
- Hell is real (Mark 9:43).
- The fires of Hell are never quenched (Mark 9:43).
- Hell is a place of intense suffering (Mark 9:43).
- Those who don't repent of their sins will be cast into Hell (Mark 9:43).
- Those who do repent of their sins will be given everlasting life (Mark 9:43).
- We must do whatever it takes to avoid Hell (Mark 9:43). Avoiding Hell is worth any cost. Nothing is worth going to Hell over.
- There are worms in Hell that never die (Mark 9:44).
- Those who are in Hell are being both burned alive and eaten alive, and the pain never stops (Mark 9:44).
- There's no hope for those who are in Hell (Mark 9:44).
- It's *far* better to suffer in this life for the sake of Jesus than to suffer in Hell (Mark 9:49).
- If we give our lives to God then we can expect to suffer at

some point (Mark 9:49). It's unavoidable.

- We must seek to be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50).
- The Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with questions (Mark 10:2).
- The reason the Pharisees asked Jesus if divorce was lawful was to trap Him. It wasn't an honest question (Mark 10:2).
- The reason the Mosaic Law allowed divorce was because people's hearts were hardened (Mark 10:5). That provision in the Law was a sign that people were sinful and unwilling to keep their covenants.
- When a man is married he must cleave to his wife (Mark 10:7).
- When a man is married, he and his wife become one person. They're no longer two separate people but are instead to be a single person (Mark 10:8).
- People are joined in marriage by God, not by the state or the church or the pastor (Mark 10:9).
- Since people are joined together by God, it's wrong for people to get a divorce and break what God has joined together (Mark 10:9). Divorce separates two people who have been joined together into one person by God, and destroys something that He has created.
- There were things Jesus taught privately to His disciples that He didn't teach publicly (Mark 10:10).
- A husband who divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her (Mark 10:11). This

means divorcing your wife and marrying someone else is an act of adultery.

- A wife who divorces her husband and marries someone else commits adultery (Mark 10:12).
- People wanted Jesus to bless their children (Mark 10:13).
- Jesus was very displeased when His disciples rebuked people for bringing their children to Him (Mark 10:14). Jesus wanted people to bring their children to Him.
- We must receive the kingdom of God as a little child does. We must believe God and have faith, as little children believe (Mark 10:15). Those who don't have faith in God and don't believe what He says won't enter into His kingdom.
- Jesus loved the person who asked Him what he had to do to live forever, even though he didn't believe in Him (Mark 10:21).
- One way we can obtain treasure in Heaven is by giving to the poor (Mark 10:21).
- When a rich young man asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life, Jesus told him to sell his possessions and follow Him (Mark 10:21). The only way we can live forever is by giving our lives to Jesus. If we try to keep them then we will be lost.
- Jesus told the rich young man to give his money to the *poor*, not to Him or to the temple (Mark 10:21).
- The rich young man valued his possessions more than everlasting life (Mark 10:22). He foolishly believed that the cost of immortality was too high because he thought the things of this world were more valuable than living

forever.

- Wealth can be an obstacle to salvation (Mark 10:23). It's very difficult for the rich to enter into the kingdom of God (Mark 10:25).
- We're saved by the power of God (Mark 10:27). With God all things are possible – including salvation and everlasting life.
- The rich young man was unwilling to sacrifice his possessions for Jesus, but the disciples sacrificed everything. They did what the rich young man was unwilling to do (Mark 10:28).
- We must be willing to give up our house for God (Mark 10:29). The Lord Jesus Christ is more important than *any* of our possessions.
- We must be willing to give up our children for God (Mark 10:29). The Lord Jesus Christ is more important than our family.
- Those who sacrifice their possessions for God will receive a hundredfold in this life, and eternal life in the world to come (Mark 10:30).
- If we receive a reward in this life, it will be accompanied by persecution (Mark 10:30).
- Many who are first in this life will be last in the world to come (Mark 10:31).
- Many who are last in this life will be first in the world to come (Mark 10:31).
- There were times when the disciples of Jesus were afraid, even though they were with Jesus (Mark 10:32).

- Jesus deliberately chose to go to Jerusalem even though He knew that's where He would be betrayed and killed (Mark 10:32). Jesus didn't try to avoid the cross.
- When Jesus told James and John that He was about to be put to death, they ignored Him and instead thought about their own greatness (Mark 10:37).
- The disciples of Jesus kept looking for ways to elevate themselves above others (Mark 10:37). They wanted to rule over one another, and tried to take the best positions for themselves at the expense of the other disciples.
- Sitting at the right and left hand of Jesus in His kingdom comes at an enormous price of terrible suffering and pain (Mark 10:38). In order to sit at His side in His kingdom you must suffer the way He suffered.
- Not everyone is able to endure the suffering that's needed to reach the highest levels of greatness in the kingdom of God (Mark 10:38).
- James and John didn't understand that when they asked to sit at the left and right hand of Jesus, they were asking to be tortured and killed (Mark 10:38-39). Jesus tried to tell them that they didn't know what they were asking for but they ignored Him.
- Jesus didn't have the authority to decide who would sit at His right and left hand (Mark 10:40). Those positions weren't His to grant.
- We're called to *serve* others, not rule over them (Mark 10:43).
- Those who are great in the kingdom of God will serve others. The highest positions in the kingdom are positions

of service (Mark 10:43).

- Jesus didn't come into this world so that other people could serve Him. Instead He came to serve others and lay down His life for them (Mark 10:45).
- Everything that Jesus said came to pass, exactly as He said it would (Mark 11:6).
- There were times when Jesus was hungry (Mark 11:12).
- The reason Jesus cursed the fig tree was because it didn't have any fruit (Mark 11:14).
- God's temple was intended to be a house of prayer for all nations (Mark 11:17).
- The Jews turned God's temple into a den of thieves (Mark 11:17). This made Jesus angry.
- The chief priests were angry that Jesus cleansed the temple of thieves (Mark 11:18). They were on the side of the thieves, not on the side of God.
- God wants us to pray with faith, not with doubt (Mark 11:23).
- It's not wrong to pray for enormous things (Mark 11:23). God can grant enormous prayers.
- Jesus told His disciples that they should pray for whatever they desired (Mark 11:24).
- When we pray we must forgive those who have sinned against us (Mark 11:25-26). If we forgive them then God will forgive us. However, if we don't forgive others then God won't forgive our sins either.
- The chief priests, scribes, and elders rejected John the

Baptist (Mark 11:32). They wanted people to think that they supported him, but in reality they didn't.

- In the parable of the vineyard, the people who were leasing the vineyard had no intention of giving its owner what he was owed (Mark 12:3).
- In the parable of the vineyard, the owner of the vineyard kept giving the murderers who leased his vineyard a chance to repent, even though it cost the life of his faithful servants to give that opportunity (Mark 12:5).
- In the parable of the vineyard, after the murderers who leased the vineyard killed the owner's servants, the owner sent someone greater than all those who came before: he sent his beloved son (Mark 12:6).
- In the parable of the vineyard, the reason the murderers who leased the vineyard decided to kill the owner's son is because *they knew who he was*. They killed him because he was the heir and they wanted to steal the vineyard from him (Mark 12:7). In response to the death of the son, owner was going to destroy those wicked murderers and give his vineyard to others (Mark 12:9).
- Jesus believed that the Old Testament was authoritative, trustworthy, and prophetic (Mark 12:10).
- The parable of the vineyard was a graphic illustration of the Old Testament passage which taught that the stone the builders rejected became the head of the corner. It illustrated Israel's rejection of the Messiah and the terrible consequences of that rejection (Mark 12:10).
- When the builders rejected the stone, it wasn't cast away. Instead the stone became the head of the corner, in spite of the will of the builders (Mark 12:10-11). The Lord

didn't allow their rejection to stand.

- The religious leaders knew the parable of the vineyard was about them (Mark 12:12). Yet they still immediately tried to arrest and kill Jesus, which is exactly what the parable foretold.
- Jesus warned the religious leadership of His day what the consequences would be for rejecting and killing Him, and yet they did it anyway (Mark 12:12).
- The chief priests, scribes, and elders believed they could outwit Jesus (Mark 12:13). They were wrong.
- It's possible to tempt someone by asking them a trick question (Mark 12:15).
- We must give to the government the things that belong to it (Mark 12:17).
- We must give to God the things that belong to Him (Mark 12:17).
- Under the Mosaic Law, there were times when a man was required to marry his brother's widow, even if he was already married. This means he would be required to take a second wife (Mark 12:19).
- God believed it was a serious matter if a married man died without having children. It was so important that if this happened, his widow had to marry the dead man's brother and have children with him, which would be counted as children of the dead man (Mark 12:19).
- Those who don't know the Scriptures will err (Mark 12:24).
- The resurrection rests on the power of God (Mark 12:24).

- Jesus expected people to know and believe the Scriptures (Mark 12:24). He rebuked people for not knowing them.
- Jesus rebuked people for not believing in the resurrection (Mark 12:24). He rebuked people for getting this doctrine wrong.
- Jesus rebuked people for not believing in the power of God (Mark 12:24).
- When people are resurrected they won't marry one another (Mark 12:25). Marriage is for this life only.
- The angels in Heaven don't marry one another (Mark 12:25).
- The Sadducees should have known from the Scriptures that there was a resurrection of the dead (Mark 12:25). They also should have known that those who rise from the dead don't marry.
- Jesus believed that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible (Mark 12:26). They weren't written by someone else.
- Jesus believed that the story of the burning bush really happened (Mark 12:26). It's not a myth or a fairy tale.
- God didn't tell Moses that He *was* the God of Abraham. Instead He said that "I am" the God of Abraham. He used present tense, not past tense, meaning that He was *still* the God of Abraham! This means Abraham was still alive (Mark 12:26).
- When the Sadducees quoted Moses in their question about the resurrection, Jesus quoted Moses back to them to defend the resurrection (Mark 12:26).

- Jesus didn't believe the Old Testament had been corrupted (Mark 12:26). Instead he believed that even the tenses of its words were authoritative and could be trusted.
- God is the God of the living, not the dead (Mark 12:27).
- The Bible teaches that there's only one God (not three) (Mark 12:29).
- Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is the greatest command (Mark 12:30). There's nothing greater or more important than loving God.
- The most important thing is to love God. The second most important thing is to love others. Everything else falls below that (Mark 12:31).
- Some commandments are greater than others (Mark 12:31).
- It's better to love God than to give Him any number of gifts (Mark 12:33).
- Our love for God must include our understanding (our mind) (Mark 12:33).
- Our love for God must be passionate. We must love Him with all of our strength (Mark 12:33).
- After the religious leaders tried to trap Jesus with trick questions, and He answered them well, no one else dared to ask Him any questions (Mark 12:34-35). When no one else asked Jesus any questions, He started asking His own questions.
- There were times when Jesus taught by asking questions (Mark 12:35).

- David wrote, through the Holy Spirit, that the Messiah was going to be greater than him (Mark 12:36).
- The common people were more willing to hear Jesus than the religious leaders (Mark 12:37).
- We must not pray out of pretense (Mark 12:40). Our prayers must be sincere.
- Since the rich gave large sums that didn't matter to them, they didn't matter to God either (Mark 12:44). Since the poor widow gave all the money she had, she gave more in the sight of God than everyone else.
- When God looks at a person's gift, He looks at what they had available to give, not the actual amount they gave (Mark 12:44). It's possible for a poor person to give more than the rich, if he gives out of his poverty while the rich give sums that don't matter to them. What matters to God is that we give what we have, not that we give a certain amount.
- Even though the poor widow gave a very small amount, God noticed it (Mark 12:44).
- The Olivet discourse happened shortly after Jesus saw the poor widow cast her money into the temple treasury (Mark 13:1).
- Jesus said that one day every single stone of the second temple would be cast down, and none would remain standing (Mark 13:2). This means the Wailing Wall of Jerusalem couldn't have been part of the second temple, because no stones of that temple were left standing.
- Jesus prophesied about the destruction of the second temple decades before it happened (Mark 13:2).

- The only disciples who wanted to know more about the destruction of the second temple were Peter, James, John, and Andrew (Mark 13:3).
- There were times when some disciples spoke privately to Jesus without anyone else around (Mark 13:3).
- When Jesus told His disciples that He was going to be killed, they didn't believe Him. However, they did believe Him when He said that the second temple would be destroyed (Mark 13:4).
- Jesus wanted His disciples to pay attention to prophecy and understand it (Mark 13:5).
- One of the reasons Jesus wanted His disciples to understand prophecy was so no one would deceive them (Mark 13:5).
- Jesus told His disciples they were going to be persecuted (Mark 13:9).
- Before the end comes, the gospel will be published among all nations (Mark 13:10).
- In the future, people wouldn't be able to trust their family. This is because their brothers, fathers, and children would conspire to execute them for the sake of Jesus (Mark 13:12).
- In the future there will be an intense hatred of those who believe in Jesus (Mark 13:12).
- The followers of Jesus must endure persecution and hatred (Mark 13:13). Those who endure to the end will be saved.
- The abomination of desolation that Daniel spoke of will

happen in the future. It's not a historical event (Mark 13:14). When Jesus spoke to His disciples it hadn't happened yet.

- The abomination of desolation is a sign that those who are in Judea need to flee the area immediately (Mark 13:14).
- Jesus believed the book of Daniel was written by Daniel, not by someone else (Mark 13:14).
- The time when the abomination of desolation appears will be the worst period of affliction in all of history. Nothing worse ever happened before it, and nothing worse will ever happen after it (Mark 13:19). If the Lord didn't shorten that time then *no living thing would survive*. Everything in the entire world would die (Mark 13:20).
- It's possible for false prophets to perform miracles (Mark 13:22). However, we must not believe false prophets even if they can do miraculous things. They're still false prophets.
- Jesus commanded us to listen to the things He told us about end-times prophecy (Mark 13:23). He didn't believe that prophecy was a distraction from more important things. Instead it's something we *must* understand and pay attention to. Those who ignore prophecy are disobeying Jesus because He specifically commanded us to take heed to what He said.
- There are times when God uses the sun and the moon as signs (Mark 13:24).
- There are numerous signs that will be given before Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation (Mark 13:26).

- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, He won't return in secret. Instead He will return openly (Mark 13:26).
- There are *two* gatherings of the elect. There's a gathering of the elect at the rapture, in which the angels aren't involved (1 Corinthians 15:51-53). There's another gathering when Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, in which the angels are involved (Mark 13:27).
- The parable of the fig tree is this: just as you can tell that summer is near when a fig tree puts forth leaves, you can tell that the end is near when the signs that Jesus spoke of came to pass (Mark 13:29).
- Jesus didn't tell His disciples the exact date when He would return. Instead He gave them signs to watch for and commanded them to *watch*. The signs would tell them when the end was near (Mark 13:29).
- All of the prophetic signs and events that Jesus spoke of would come to pass within the lifetime of a single generation (Mark 13:30).
- This universe isn't eternal (Mark 13:31). One day it will pass away, and be gone.
- The words of Jesus are eternal. They will never pass away (Mark 13:31).
- The only one who knows when Jesus will return is God the Father (Mark 13:32). This means there are things that God the Father knows that God the Son doesn't know.
- There are things the angels in Heaven don't know (Mark 13:32).
- Since we don't know when Jesus will return, we must

watch and pray (Mark 13:33).

- Jesus hasn't told us exactly when He will return. Instead He commanded us to watch (Mark 13:34).
- Jesus hasn't given us the option of ignoring end-times prophecy (Mark 13:35).
- Jesus hasn't given us the option of ignoring the signs that point to His return (Mark 13:35).
- When Jesus returns, He will return suddenly (Mark 13:36).
- When Jesus returns, He doesn't want His return to catch us by surprise. He also doesn't want to find that we aren't ready (Mark 13:36). When Jesus returns, we must be ready to receive Him.
- When people spoke against the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive ointment, Jesus said she had done a good work (Mark 14:6-7). The Jews could help poor people whenever they wanted, but they had a limited opportunity to help to Jesus. It was therefore better to give gifts to Jesus than to the poor.
- When people spoke against the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive ointment, Jesus said she had anointed His body for burial (Mark 14:8). This was another public statement that He was about to die.
- Jesus wanted the good deed of the woman who poured expensive ointment on His head to be remembered (Mark 14:9).
- It seems that Judas decided to betray Jesus immediately after the woman poured ointment on the head of Jesus (Mark 14:10). Apparently watching someone honor Jesus

greatly offended him (John 12:4-6).

- When Judas decided to betray Jesus he went to the chief priests (Mark 14:10). It seems that Judas knew that the chief priests wanted to kill Jesus, and he wanted to help them do it.
- Jesus told His disciples in advance that one of them would betray Him (Mark 14:18).
- Judas ate the Passover with Jesus even though he was already planning on betraying Him to the chief priests (Mark 14:18).
- When Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him, the disciples were afraid that He was talking about them. None of them realized He was talking about Judas (Mark 14:19). This means Judas successfully hid his evil nature from the rest of the disciples for *three years*.
- The reason Jesus would agree to go with His betrayer was to fulfill a Messianic prophecy (Mark 14:21). This means Jesus sought to fulfill Messianic prophecies.
- Jesus warned Judas that there would be terrible consequences for betraying Him, but Judas did it anyway (Mark 14:21).
- The blood of Jesus was the blood of the new testament, which was shed for many people (Mark 14:24).
- Jesus said that He wouldn't drink of the fruit of the vine again until He drank it new in the kingdom of God (Mark 14:25). It seems that resurrected bodies are capable of both eating (Luke 24:42-43) and drinking – and will do both of those things.
- After Jesus and His disciples celebrated communion, they

sang a hymn (Mark 14:26).

- Jesus told His disciples that after He was resurrected they could find Him in Galilee (Mark 14:28).
- Peter didn't believe what the Old Testament prophesied about the disciples fleeing from Jesus (Mark 14:29). When Jesus told him that he was going to flee, he strongly disagreed (but Jesus wasn't wrong). In fact, none of the disciples believed that they were going to flee from Jesus that night (but they did) (Mark 14:31).
- Before Jesus was betrayed, He prayed in the garden. Jesus included Peter in this time of prayer, even though Peter was going to deny Jesus three times that night (Mark 14:33).
- When Jesus went to pray, His soul was sorrowful to the point of death (Mark 14:34). The upcoming crucifixion filled Jesus with enormous sorrow and pain.
- Jesus paid an enormous price to save us from our sins. Even the hours before His arrest were filled with sorrow and agony (Mark 14:34).
- Jesus prayed multiple times that, if it were possible, He might avoid the crucifixion (Mark 14:35, 39). This means there was a time when Jesus prayed for something but His prayer wasn't granted.
- Jesus prayed that the Father's will, not the Son's will, would be done (Mark 14:36). Although the Son wanted to avoid the crucifixion, the Son submitted His will to the Father.
- When Jesus was in agony and fell to the ground, His disciples slept (Mark 14:37).

- There are times when the only way to avoid temptation is to watch and pray (Mark 14:38).
- If the flesh is weak then we may not be able to do the things we want to do (Mark 14:38). The way to strengthen our flesh is to watch and pray.
- Even though Jesus rebuked His disciples for sleeping through His agony and His prayers, when Jesus went to pray they fell asleep yet again (Mark 14:40). The reason they fell asleep was because they were tired.
- When Jesus knew He was about to be betrayed, He didn't try to hide or flee (Mark 14:41).
- When Judas came to betray Jesus, he didn't take Jesus by surprise (Mark 14:41).
- The religious leaders believed it would take a very large, heavily armed group to arrest Jesus (Mark 14:43).
- The multitude who came to arrest Jesus needed Judas to point out which person was Jesus (Mark 14:44). It seems they didn't know Him well enough to recognize Him.
- Judas arranged for Jesus to be arrested at night, in the dark, when no one was around (Mark 14:45).
- The reason Jesus was arrested by a large crowd at night, instead of in the temple as He taught, was to fulfill the Scriptures (Mark 14:48). This means the arrest of Jesus at night was the fulfillment of a Messianic prophecy.
- The prophecies of the Bible *must* be fulfilled. All of them will surely come to pass (Mark 14:48).
- The heavily armed multitude tried to arrest the other people who were with Jesus (Mark 14:51). They did not

succeed.

- The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders heard Jesus testify that He was the Messiah (Mark 14:62).
- When Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven, the high priest will see Him (even though the high priest has been dead for a long time) (Mark 14:62). This means that when Jesus returns, even the dead will see Him. His return will not be kept a secret.
- The council sentenced Jesus to death for telling them that He was the Messiah (even though He really was the Messiah) (Mark 14:64).
- When Jesus was before Pilate, He didn't try to defend Himself or escape (Mark 15:3).
- Barabbas had murdered someone in an insurrection against Pilate (Mark 15:7).
- The multitude was given the opportunity to free Jesus (Mark 15:9).
- The reason the chief priests delivered Jesus to Pilate was because they envied Him (Mark 15:10).
- The multitude chose to free a murderer instead of Jesus. They chose someone who killed innocent people instead of someone who healed the sick and raised the dead (Mark 15:11). The reason they rejected Jesus was because they listened to the chief priests, who persuaded them.
- Pilate repeatedly called Jesus the "King of the Jews" (Mark 15:12).
- The multitude didn't demand the death of Barabbas, a

murderer. Instead they demanded the death of Jesus, an innocent person (Mark 15:14).

- Jesus was sentenced to death because the chief priests arrested Him, delivered Him to Pilate, and persuaded the multitude to demand his crucifixion (Mark 15:15).
- Jesus was sentenced to death because the multitude demanded that He be crucified and Pilate wanted to please them (Mark 15:15).
- There was popular support for putting Jesus to death. That was the will of the people (Mark 15:15).
- Even though the chief priests didn't want Jesus to be killed on the day of the Passover (Mark 14:2), that's exactly when it happened (Mark 15:15).
- The Roman soldiers despised Jesus (Mark 15:20).
- Jesus refused to drink the wine that was mixed with myrrh (Mark 15:23).
- The Messianic prophecy which said that Jesus would be numbered with transgressors was fulfilled when He was crucified between two thieves (Mark 15:28).
- When Jesus was crucified, those who passed by mocked Him for saying He was going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days. Yet that's exactly what He was doing at that very moment, by dying on the cross and then rising from the dead three days later (Mark 15:29). The temple that He spoke of was His own body (John 2:21).
- When Jesus was crucified, the chief priests mocked Jesus by calling Him the Christ (the Messiah) and the King of Israel (Mark 15:32). Yet in reality Jesus was both of those

things.

- When Jesus was crucified, supernatural darkness fell upon the whole land from the sixth hour to the ninth hour of the day (from noon to 3pm) (Mark 15:33).
- When Jesus was crucified, God forsook Him (Mark 15:34).
- The reason Jesus was given vinegar to drink (thus fulfilling a Messianic prophecy) was because people misunderstood Him and thought He was calling for Elijah (Mark 15:36).
- Jesus died after being on the cross for six hours (from 9am to 3pm) (Mark 15:37).
- When Jesus died, there were many women watching from afar (Mark 15:41).
- When Jesus went to Jerusalem, many women went with Him on the journey (Mark 15:41).
- Even though the religious leaders and the people hated Jesus and put Him to death, Joseph of Arimathaea went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus (Mark 15:43). This means he wasn't ashamed of Jesus, even though He had just been publicly crucified.
- Even though Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that He would rise on the third day, none of His disciples went to His tomb on the third day to see if He had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1). None of the women who went to His tomb expected Him to be risen either.
- Jesus told people exactly what He was going to do in the future, but no one believed Him. No one believed that He was going to die, and when He died no one believed that He would rise from the dead (Mark 16:1).

- Jesus rose from the dead before the women arrived at the tomb (Mark 16:6).
- The young man inside the tomb told the women to tell Christ's disciples that He had risen and gone into Galilee, exactly as He said He would do (Mark 16:7). The disciples should have looked for Him in Galilee but they didn't.
- After Jesus rose from the dead, the first person He appeared to was Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9).
- The disciples didn't believe Mary Magdalene when she told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. This is in spite of the fact Jesus told them He would rise from the dead, and He told them He would rise on the third day (Mark 16:11).
- Jesus can change His appearance so He's not recognized (Mark 16:12).
- When Jesus appeared to His disciples, He rebuked them for not believing the testimony of the eyewitnesses who saw Him alive (Mark 16:14).
- The gospel is for all nations (Mark 16:15).
- The gospel has the power to save all who believe (Mark 16:16).
- Those who have never heard the gospel won't be saved. This is because we must believe the gospel to be saved (Mark 16:16).
- Being able to cast out demons is a miraculous sign (Mark 16:17).