

1:21-45 Jesus is the eternal life giver!

cf. Isaiah 6-39

1:21-28 restoring mental wellbeing

1:29-31 restoring physical wellbeing

1:32-34 healing a town

1:35-39 healing the Galilee region

1:40-45 restoring those banished

2:1-20 Jesus is the relationship-with-God fixer!

cf. Isaiah 40-55

2:1-12 Beyond healing, Jesus is the sin-forgiver

2:13-17 Jesus came for those who acknowledge their sin

**Shove off, God
I'm in charge
No to your rule!**

2:18-20 Jesus is bringing permanent and safe relationship with God

2:21-3:35 Jesus is the King of a new and humble Israel

cf. Isaiah 56-66

2:21-22 Analogy: Jesus is doing something *destructively new*

2:23-28 Jesus sits above the law of Moses

3:1-6 Teachers of the law reject the life-giver...

3:7-12 ...whom normal suffering people need

3:13-19 Jesus appoints twelve new pillars for 'Israel'

3:20-35 Jesus sets up a new house/family for those who humbly listen

3:20-21 Jesus' family, 'He is out of his mind'

3:22 Jewish teachers, 'He is evil'

3:23-29 Jesus, 'Satan wouldn't defeat himself!?'

3:30 Jewish teachers, 'He is evil'

3:31-35 Jesus, 'You are out of my family'



Worldview diagnostic

- 1:21-45 1. When we encounter problems or suffering, where do we find it hardest to look forward to eternal life in Jesus' kingdom?
- 2:1-20 2. What makes it difficult for us to come to Jesus simply as sinners who need forgiveness?
- 2:21-3:35 3. Where do pride, status, tradition or the desire to appear respectable make it difficult for us to trust Jesus's way of forming and ruling his people?

Getting back into the text

- 1:22-28 1. What is the effect of introducing Jesus through astonishment at his teaching before describing his first miracle?
2. What is the dramatic effect of the unclean spirit recognising Jesus when the people do not yet understand who he is?
- 1:29-31 3. What is the effect of moving directly from the public synagogue to an ordinary home?
- 1:32-34 4. What is the literary effect of 'the whole town' gathering at the door?
- 1:35-39 5. What is the effect of Jesus leaving a place where he is already successful in order to proclaim his message throughout Galilee?
- 1:40-45 6. What is the effect of Jesus touching the man before declaring him clean?
7. What irony is created when the restored man can re-enter society, while Jesus must remain outside in lonely places?
- 2:1-12 8. (2:9) Which is easier: to say 'your sins are forgiven' or 'get up, take your mat and walk'?
- 2:13-17 9. What is the effect of moving from calling one sinner to eating with a whole group of sinners?
- 2:18-20 10. How persuaded are you that Mark is alluding to Isaiah 54 in the language of bridegroom (post-forgiven, eternal and safe relationship with God)?
- 2:21-22 11. In context, how stern is Jesus' message in these verses?
- 2:23-28 12. What is the effect of Jesus asking the Pharisees, 'have you never read'?
13. How does the theme of authority work in 2:27-28?
- 3:1-6 14. How does returning to a synagogue on another Sabbath intensify the conflict?
15. What is the irony of Jesus' opponents refusing to answer a question about saving life, before leaving to plan his death?
- 3:7-12 16. What is the effect of placing this enormous needy crowd immediately after the religious and political leaders decide to kill Jesus?
17. How does the response of the unclean spirits contrast with the response of Israel's recognised teachers?
- 3:13-19 18. How persuaded are you that Mark is alluding to Exodus 24 as he writes about Jesus going up a mountain before appointing the Twelve?
- 3:20-35 19. What is the effect of placing the teachers' accusation inside the account of Jesus' family coming to restrain him?
20. How might the accusations that Jesus is *out of his mind* and being *controlled by Satan* link?
21. How does the repeated language of a "house" prepare for Jesus' declaration about his new family?
22. What is the effect of Jesus' biological family standing *outside*, while those listening to him sit *inside* with him?

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!'

²⁵ 'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!' ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.' ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all who were ill and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: 'Everyone is looking for you!'

³⁸ Jesus replied, 'Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.' ³⁹ So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

⁴⁰ A man with leprosy^a came to him and begged him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean.'

Isaiah 33:24

²⁴ And no inhabitant will say,
"I am sick";
the people who dwell there
will be forgiven their iniquity.

Isaiah 35:4-6

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind
shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then shall the lame man
leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute
sing for joy.

^a The Greek word traditionally translated *leprosy* was used for various diseases affecting the skin.

⁴¹ Jesus was indignant.^a He reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ 'See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.' ⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

2 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ 'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up, take your mat and walk"? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the man, ¹¹ 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him

^a Many manuscripts *Jesus was filled with compassion*

eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: 'Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, 'How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?'

¹⁹ Jesus answered, 'How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. ²⁰ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

²¹ 'No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. ²² And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.'

²³ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of corn. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?'

²⁵ He answered, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶ In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.'

²⁷ Then he said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.'

3 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. ² Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. ³ Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, 'Stand up in front of everyone.'

⁴ Then Jesus asked them, 'Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?' But they remained silent.

⁵ He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. ⁶ Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Isaiah 54:5-8

⁵ For your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel
is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.
⁶ For the LORD has called you
like a wife deserted
and grieved in spirit,
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,
says your God.
⁷ For a brief moment I deserted you,
but with great compassion
I will gather you.
⁸ In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love
I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD, your Redeemer.

1 Samuel 21:1-6

Then David came to Nob to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David trembling and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?"
² And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place.
³ Now then, what do you have at hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here." ⁴ And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread at hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women."
⁵ And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?" ⁶ So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the LORD, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.