

## B7 - God the Son

### Study 1 - The Servant of the Sick

#### BIBLE READING:

**Mark 1: 14, 15 and 21-45**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“And He healed many who were sick with various diseases.”**

Mark 1: 34

This set of Studies is based upon the Gospel according to Mark. Here are THREE POINTS to remember about this Gospel:

1. It is the shortest of the four Gospels.
2. It is likely to have been written first.
3. It is generally accepted that the writer, John Mark (**Acts 12: 12**), obtained much of his information for his Gospel from Peter.

Mark's Gospel differs from the other three in a number of ways. Note the following:

1. What Jesus **did** is emphasised more than what He **said**. In it, there are about 18 references to miracles, but only 4 main parables.
2. Movements and events take place rapidly. Words such as “immediately”, “at once”, and “straightway” are very common.



Ruins of the ancient Great Synagogue at Capernaum (Source: Wikipedia)

Mark's Gospel is, of course, about the Lord Jesus. What has He to say about Him? Here are a few things worth noting:

1. Mark does not give his readers any genealogy (or family tree) for Joseph and Mary, as Matthew and Luke do.
2. Mark writes nothing about Jesus' birth. He starts his story at the point where John the Baptist begins to preach; at that time, Jesus was about 30 years old.
3. About one-third of his whole Gospel focuses on Jesus' last week. (**chapters 11-16**)

In what way does Mark present Jesus? The best answer is to say that Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant - serving God and serving men. The Lord Jesus is seen as God's perfect Servant, always ready to do His Father's will. As such, He brings honour to His Father, and brings blessing to men and women.

About Himself He said, **“For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve”.** (**Mark 10: 45**)

Our study based on **Mark chapter 1** gives us a clear picture of the perfect Servant at work.

#### 1. SERVING IN THE SYNAGOGUE.

In **verse 21** He is busy teaching. We know that His words were powerful, for the people quickly sensed that He had an authority which their usual teachers lacked. His authority was also seen when He rebuked the evil spirit and the man stopped shouting.

#### 2. SERVING IN THE HOME.

Leaving the synagogue, He went to the house where Peter's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever. Jesus took her hand, lifted her up, and instantly she was cured and able to serve the meal!

#### 3. SERVING IN THE EVENING.

The perfect Servant worked long hours! As the day ended, sick people and those demon-possessed, were still being brought to Him. What wonderful changes occurred in many lives!

#### 4. SERVING WITH STRENGTH.

**Verse 35** gives an insight into the prayer-life of Christ. For Him, as God's Servant, it was both important and necessary to have time for fellowship with His Father. In this matter, He is the perfect Example for us in our service for God.

#### 5. SERVING WITH COMPASSION.

The case of the leper (**verses 40-42**) shows the Servant's love. Moved with compassion, Jesus touched him! At once he was clean from his disease. The Lord Jesus had responded to his faith and sincere desire for healing! God's perfect Servant, is the only One who can cleanse us from our sins and set us right with God. Have you experienced His power in your life? When we trust Him as our Lord and Saviour, He then becomes our Example in our service for God.

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### Study 2 - The Servant's Teaching

#### BIBLE READING:

**Mark 4: 1-9 and 13-20**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“And He said, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’”**

Mark 4: 9

In the last Study, we saw how the Lord Jesus served people by performing miracles. The Bible Reading shows that He also served them by teaching them about God and His Kingdom.

A feature of His teaching was His use of parables. One of these is ‘The Parable of the Sower’. Jesus spoke these famous words beside the Lake of Galilee. The crowd was so big that He used a boat as a pulpit!

Before we examine the parable in detail, we should remind ourselves that a parable is ‘an earthly story, with a heavenly meaning’. ‘An earthly story’ is one with a context familiar to its hearers which then makes it easier for them to connect their knowledge to ‘the heavenly meaning’ or spiritual truth being taught. In this case, the audience would have known about sowing seed; it was an essential task in their society. After telling the story (**verses 1-9**), Jesus made the parallels between ‘the earthly story’ and ‘the heavenly meaning’ clear to His disciples. (**verses 13-20**) Unlike other stories, a parable is of eternal value to those who want to seek out and learn from its true meaning.

#### “THE EARTHLY STORY”

This parable is about a man sowing seed in his field where there were four types of ground. The results were determined by the type of ground! When it came to harvest-time, only one proved to be **“good ground”**, whilst the other three were unproductive.

#### “THE HEAVENLY MEANING”

In His explanation, Jesus made it clear that the parable was about different ways in which people respond to God’s message. How we react to God’s Word, is vitally important! We will now look in detail at what we learn from the four types of ground.

1. Some people are represented by what happened to the seed which fell on the hard path. It was quickly devoured by the birds! There are people who never really benefit from God’s Word entering their minds and hearts, because they allow Satan to take it from them. (**verse 15**)



2. The seed on the rocky ground pictures people who hear God’s Word, appear to receive it enthusiastically, but soon give up following the Lord, perhaps because of persecution. Their lives produce no ‘harvest’ for God. (**verses 16 -17**)

3. Another kind of hearer starts well, but before long he is distracted by the pressures of this life, so that God’s Word is **“choked”**. They are pictured by the seed which fell among thorns. It failed to achieve any worthwhile results. (**verses 18-19**)

4. Yet another group is seen in what happened to the seed which fell on the **“good ground”**. This seed germinated and produced a harvest of varying proportions. Here are the people who **“hearing the Word hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience”**. (**Luke 8: 15**) Bearing fruit is the evidence of a Christian having salvation. (**Matthew 7: 20**) It includes growing as Christians so that we become more like Christ through the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives (**Galatians 5: 22**) and doing the good works that God has prepared for us to do (**Ephesians 2: 10**)



By means of this wonderful parable, our Lord was prompting His hearers to check their response to His words. We, too, should examine how we react to the message of God’s Word, the Bible.

**“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Hebrews 3: 7, 8)**

**“Whoever hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John 5: 24)**

# Answer Sheet

## B7 - God the Son

### Study 1 - The Servant of the Sick

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Return address on back of answer sheet

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. Answer TRUE or FALSE to the following:

- a) Mark's Gospel was the last to be written. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Mark records nothing about Jesus' birth. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Mark's Gospel is the shortest of the four. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Mark presents Jesus as God's King. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Peter was probably the person from whom Mark got the facts for his Gospel. \_\_\_\_\_

□ /5

#### 2. Read *Mark 10: 45* and answer the questions:

- a) What did Jesus not come to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What was Jesus' greatest act of service while here on earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

□ /2

#### 3. In *Mark 1: 35* Jesus did something in a solitary (or lonely) place:

- a) What was it? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) When was it? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Why was this important to Him? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Why is this important to us? (*Read Luke 18: 1*) \_\_\_\_\_

□ /4

#### 4. Unjumble these words, using the clues to help you:

- a) **EGGYSONAU** (a Jewish meeting-house) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) **CPNMAAEUR** (a town Jesus visited) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) **BTASBHA** (the Jews' rest-day) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) **RYPSOLE** (a disease) \_\_\_\_\_

□ /4

#### 5. Match the individuals and groups of people whom Jesus healed with the verse number from the Bible Reading.

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| many people from the town of Capernaum | <b>verses 41-42</b> |
| a man with leprosy                     | <b>verse 39</b>     |
| a man with an impure spirit            | <b>verses 32-34</b> |
| those with demons throughout Galilee   | <b>verse 31</b>     |
| Peter's mother-in law                  | <b>verses 25-26</b> |

□ /5

#### 6. Read *Mark 1: 31* and answer the questions:

- a) What did Peter's mother-in-law do, as soon as she was made well? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Give two examples of ways we can serve God today, after we have trusted in the Lord Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Suggest two things which this study teaches Christians about how they should serve God. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

□ /5

**THINK:** Imagine that you were an observer of Jesus the Servant. What would have impressed you most about His character and the work that He did?

TOTAL = □ /25

# Answer Sheet

## B7 - God the Son

### Study 2 - The Servant's Teaching

1. Write a sentence to explain what a parable is.

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2. Supply suitable words in the blank spaces:

- a) Because the crowd was so big, our Lord used a \_\_\_\_\_ as His \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 b) The parable in the Bible Reading is usually known as "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_".  
 c) The seed fell on \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 d) Only \_\_\_\_\_ produced a good harvest.

 /4

3. Name the three types of ground which were unproductive.

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 /3

4. Answer these questions about the unproductive ground:

- a) What may become of the Word which is sown in people's hearts represented by the first type of ground?

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 /1

- b) Why do the people in **Mark 4:16, 17** endure only for a while?

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 /1

- c) Read **Mark 4: 18, 19**.

What three things cause God's Word to be ineffective in the lives of the hearers?

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (iii) \_\_\_\_\_

 /3

- d) Give an example of how one of the three things in the previous answer could show itself in a person's life.

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 /1

5. Read **Mark 4: 20** which relates to the productive ground.

- a) What are the three things that these people do with the Word of God?

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- b) What are the proportions of fruitfulness in their lives?

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- c) Use the Bible references in the study to find three specific examples of fruit which would be in these people's lives.

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 /7

6. Suggest three ways in which the Word of God is 'sown' into people's minds and hearts today.

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 /3

**THINK:** Read the two verses at the end of the Study again. Think about your response to the message of God's Word. Which type of ground best describes you?

TOTAL =  /25

# Answer Sheet

## B7 - God the Son

### Study 3 - The Servant must suffer

1. What explanation can you give for the fact that the Lord Jesus spoke so accurately of what would happen to Him?

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 /3

2. Answer the following:

a) What were the two questions which Jesus asked His disciples at Caesarea Philippi? \_\_\_\_\_

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b) Which disciple answered Jesus' second question? \_\_\_\_\_

c) Write his answer here. \_\_\_\_\_

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 /4

3. *Isaiah chapter 53* gives further insight into the Lord Jesus as the 'Suffering Servant'.

Read **verses 3-7** and:

a) Write down some of the ways in which Christ suffered. \_\_\_\_\_

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b) Explain in your own words why it was necessary for the Lord Jesus to suffer. \_\_\_\_\_

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 /6

4. There are many references in the New Testament concerning Christ's suffering and His subsequent glory. Look up these references and then write either 'glory' or 'suffering' next to it:

**1 Peter 2: 21** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 9: 32** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 17: 24** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Peter 1: 17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 13: 12** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter 3: 18** \_\_\_\_\_

 /6

5. Answer the following:

a) Give two examples of ways in which Christians today may suffer.

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 /4

b) According to **2 Timothy 2: 12**, what can encourage us in times of suffering?

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 /2

**THINK:** If **YOU** were asked the question: 'Who do you think Jesus is?', what would your reply be?

TOTAL =  /25

# Answer Sheet

## B7 - God the Son

### Study 4 - The Rejection of the King

#### 1. Answer the following:

a) Read **Mark 14: 53** and list the three types of men who belonged to the Jewish council.

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Give another name for the council. \_\_\_\_\_

/2

#### 2. Study **Mark 14: 55-59** and write a sentence about the main problem which the Jewish leaders had in bringing a charge against Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_

/3

#### 3. Answer the following:

a) Explain what the high priest meant by 'blasphemy'. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Under Jewish law, what was the penalty for blasphemy? \_\_\_\_\_

/2

#### 4. Using the Bible references, find these names:-

a) The Roman governor. **Mark 15: 1** \_\_\_\_\_

b) The prisoner who was released. **Mark 15: 15** \_\_\_\_\_

c) The man who carried the cross. **Mark 15: 21** \_\_\_\_\_

d) The place of crucifixion. **Mark 15: 22** \_\_\_\_\_

e) The man who buried Jesus. **Mark 15: 43-46** \_\_\_\_\_

/5

#### 5. In what ways did the soldiers mock Jesus' claim to be King? (**Mark 15: 17-19**)

\_\_\_\_\_

/4

#### 6. Answer the following:

a) What does 'resurrection' mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Name three people or groups of people who saw Jesus risen from the dead. \_\_\_\_\_

/4

#### 7. What do the predictions, and their fulfilment, which we have examined in these studies, teach us about the Lord Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

/3

#### 8. What do you consider to be the most important thing about Jesus' death?

\_\_\_\_\_

/2

**THINK:** Have you thanked the Lord Jesus for dying for your sins and made Him Lord of your life?

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL =  /25      UNIT TOTAL =  /100

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## B7 - God the Son

### Study 3 - The Servant must suffer

#### BIBLE READING:

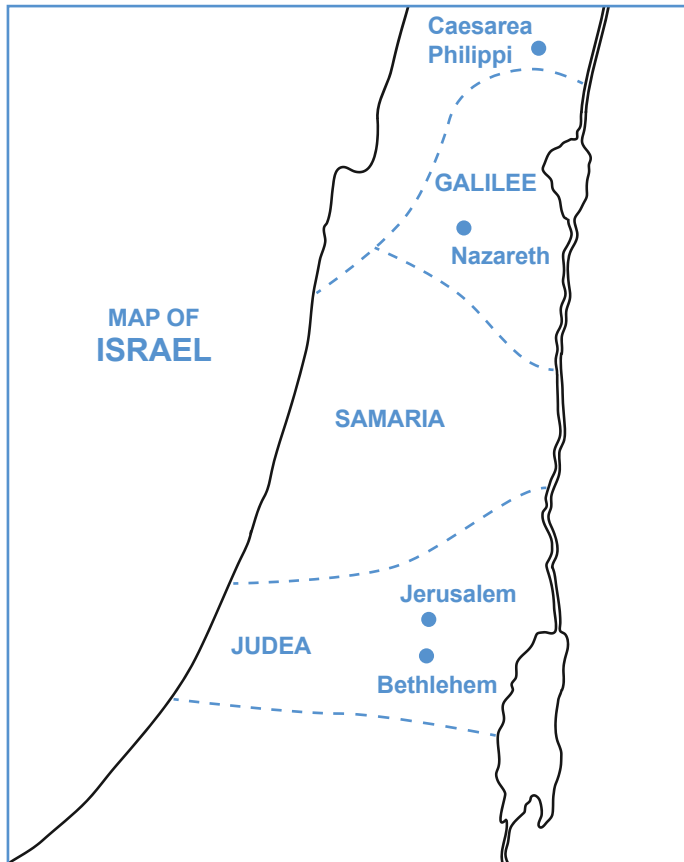
**Mark 8: 27-33; 9: 30-32; 10: 32-34**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise.”**

Mark 9: 31

We know very little about what the future holds for us. With the Lord Jesus, however, it was very different. He understood clearly that ahead of Him was suffering and death. Not only did He know these things, but He often spoke about them. This study focuses on three such occasions.



#### 1. AT CAESAREA PHILIPPI - MARK 8: 27-33

This was the most northern point ever visited by Jesus. As He and His disciples walked along, He asked two questions. First, **“Who do people say that I am?”** To this, the disciples gave several answers:-

1. Some think You are John the Baptist, now risen from the dead after being beheaded by Herod.
2. Some think You are Elijah. He had gone to Heaven in a chariot of fire, and it was believed that he would come again. (**2 Kings 2: 11 and Malachi 4: 5**)
3. Others remain vague about who You are, and think You are One of the prophets.

Jesus then asked a second, more pointed question: **“But who do YOU say that I am?”** Peter answered, **“You are the Christ”**. (**verse 29**) ‘The Christ’ means ‘The Messiah’ or ‘The Anointed One’, a name that the Jews used for the long-awaited Deliverer whom God had promised.

Immediately, the Lord Jesus began to teach them not to think of Him yet as a glorious, reigning Messiah. He must first suffer and die. Only by His death could He save us from our sins.

Peter disliked what Jesus said, and he rebuked his Master for speaking such things. The Lord Jesus’ reply to him may seem harsh (**verse 33**), but we must remember that He knew who was behind Peter’s objection. It was Satan himself! Our Lord was totally committed to doing His Father’s will, by dying for our sins. Therefore, without any wavering, He ordered Satan away!

#### 2. IN GALILEE - MARK 9: 30-32

The Lord’s southward journey continued. (See map) His talk was not of royal splendour and kingly power, but of being rejected and killed. The most astonishing thing is that He declared that He would rise again the third day! The perfect Servant must indeed suffer, but He will triumph! Death conquers all others but not Him!

#### 3. NEAR JERUSALEM - MARK 10: 32-34

The capital city, where so many kings had reigned, was now not far away! Again, Christ repeated, in even greater detail, what He had been saying ever since they left Caesarea Philippi. Note the following remarkable details:-

1. He named the PLACE where He would suffer. **“See we are going up to Jerusalem...”**
2. The Jewish rulers would condemn Him and hand Him over to the Gentiles.
3. After ill-treating Him, the Romans would put Him to death.
4. The third day, He would rise again, as He had stated in **chapters 8 and 9**.

The Gospel of Mark, therefore, portrays God’s perfect Servant as the One who will not turn from God’s path. He knew that only by His suffering and dying could we be delivered from our sins. His reigning, in power and glory, will follow. (**Luke 24: 26 and 1 Peter 5: 1**)

The same order applies to Christians; every believer is ‘a servant of God’. Unlike the ‘perfect Servant’ we often fail, yet God’s promise stands true: **“If we endure, we will also reign with Him.”** (**2 Timothy 2: 12**)

## B7 - God the Son

### Study 4 - The Servant's predictions fulfilled

#### BIBLE READING:

**Mark 14: 53-65; 15: 1-3, 15-25; 16: 9-16**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“No one ever spoke like this Man!”**

John 7: 46

The previous study showed how the Lord Jesus, on His last journey to Jerusalem, consistently foretold His death and resurrection. The final chapters of Mark's Gospel, show that all He had predicted came true.

### 1. HE HAD PREDICTED THAT HE WOULD BE REJECTED BY THE ELDERS, THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE SCRIBES. (MARK 8: 31)

These three groups were the Jewish leaders, who comprised the Sanhedrin, before which the first stage of His trial took place. It was a council of about 70 men, under the control of the High Priest. Having been arrested in Gethsemane, Jesus was taken to the High Priest's palace where the Sanhedrin members were already gathering. (Mark 14: 53)

To secure a verdict against Him, it was necessary for them to find witnesses. Some men were prepared to testify falsely against Him, but difficulties arose when their evidence contradicted each other!

As the night wore on, and the problem about finding witnesses remained unsolved, the High Priest decided to proceed with the case. He questioned Jesus about His claims to be the Messiah. **“Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”** he asked. **“I am.”** Jesus replied. (Mark 14: 61-62)

That was enough! The Council members had heard this amazing claim, and they judged Him to be guilty of blasphemy. In their view, He was an ordinary man; to claim to be the Son of God was blasphemy, punishable by death. They condemned Him and set about ill-treating Him. Therefore His prediction came absolutely true.

### 2. HE HAD PREDICTED THAT HE WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE GENTILES, WHO WOULD TREAT HIM BADLY, AND EVENTUALLY KILL HIM. (MARK 10: 33-34)

Following His sentencing to death by the Sanhedrin, Jesus was bound and taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. After considerable hesitation, Pilate gave into the Jews and authorised the crucifixion of Jesus. (Mark 15: 15)

In His foretelling of what would happen, Jesus spoke of “mocking”, “scourging”, and “spitting”. All came true! They mocked His claim to be King by dressing Him in a purple robe and placing a crown of thorns on His head. They struck Him with a cane, and spat on Him. They also scourged Him with a many-tailed whip. (verse 15) The crucifixion took place almost as soon as day dawned. As Peter looked back on that day he could say that Jesus was **“delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God... crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”** (Acts 2: 23)

### 3. HE HAD FORETOLD HIS RESURRECTION. (MARK 10: 34)

Of all His predictions, none is more remarkable than this! Was it fulfilled? Did He really rise again?

There is abundant evidence that He did! We need not hesitate to believe that Jesus rose on “the third day” never to die again! There are many reliable witnesses to this great event. (See **1 Corinthians 15: 3-8**)

It is impossible to read about these things without being challenged! The core question we face is this: ‘Who is this Person called Jesus?’ We cannot dismiss Him as of no importance! If He is who He claimed to be, then we ought to trust Him for our eternal salvation. He has done for us what no one else could have done, in dying for our sins. We should give Him the supreme place in our lives as Saviour and Lord.



This is the third of five units on **God the Son.**