

The
New
Testament
in a Year

Week 14

Mark 2-6

Marianne Leach Hoffer

is in ministry with the congregation of
Calvary St. Jacobs.

Definitions of "Habit"

"A continual, often unconscious
inclination to do a certain activity,
acquired through frequent repetition"

"An established disposition of the
character"

"Sow a thought, reap an act.
Sow an act, reap a habit.
Sow a habit, reap a character.
Sow a character, reap a destiny."

"A customary practice"

How is this habit of daily scripture
reading coming along?

Monday

Mark 2

Imagine walking around your town telling
people "Your sins are forgiven!"

The response would be one of outrage.
But this is precisely what Jesus went
around doing. And in the face of angry
opposition, Jesus demonstrated his
authority to cancel out sin by doing
miracles.

The injection of forgiveness into these
miracles shows us something about the
rule of Christ: it isn't willing to rule on the
surface, it penetrates, it goes deep.

And when it gets in; it heals, restores
and redeems. Jesus is interested in
every part of peoples' lives.

He wants us to be healed in body, mind
and spirit. We live on the surface; he
plunges to its depth.

Things to think about:

- *Eating with sinners was considered
one Jesus' worse offenses. Who is
Jesus calling you to eat with?*
- *Are there barriers that we are called to
break through?*
- *What old ideas or prejudices are
keeping you from new life in Jesus?*

Tuesday

Mark 3

How do you picture Jesus? Would it be
like "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild"?

How do you feel about a Jesus that is
described as angry or even furious?

Jesus became angry about the
Pharisees' lack of compassion and
obsession with rules so how did he act
out his anger?

He healed the man's hand.

What did the Pharisees' do? They
began to discuss plans for killing Jesus.

It is not a sin to feel anger. Anger
becomes wrong when we're angry about
the wrong things or when we act on our
anger in harmful ways.

Jesus casts out demons. In the midst of
this miracle Jesus is accused of being a
demon. He responds by telling one of
the few parables recorded in Mark: If a
kingdom is divided against itself, that
kingdom cannot stand (v. 24)

Things to think about:

- *How do you respond when you are
angry?*
- *What do we do in the face of
accusations? How can we respond more
like Jesus?*

Wednesday

Mark 4

Instant coffee. Drive thru. Chia Pets. Extreme Makeovers. Special affects.

We want it now and we want it to be SPECTACULAR.

In these scriptures we see that sometimes God chooses to perform the immediate life- change, radical healing and stunning miracles but in the parable of the growing seed we also see slow, gradual life that is rooted in prepared soil.

We must not be disappointed if there is only gradual growth in our lives. Whether our lives change or bear fruit in that spectacular moment or through a slow process, it is still a miracle.

Things to think about

- In Mark we see Jesus as a man of action. What can you do to put your words into actions?
- Storms and darkness are metaphors that each of us can relate to. How do these illustrations give you hope?
- How can you prepare your life so that you are good soil that the Word can grow in you?

Thursday

Mark 5

In this chapter we see the contrast between the people who rejected Jesus because miracles upset their world with those who risked change. In this chapter we see people willing to risk rejection. We see Jesus rejected.

Things to think about

- Have you ever felt unclean? Who was willing to reach out to you?
- Who are the unclean in our communities? Are we willing to reach out to them?
- Have you ever stepped out even though your words and actions might be rejected? How do you respond to rejection? How is Jesus calling us to respond?

Friday

Mark 6

This is one action packed chapter. Some of the most well known stories are from these 56 verses.

Jesus says “A prophet is never recognized in their home town”

Jesus sends the twelve apostles out. “Shake off the dust from your sandals” (v. 11) comes from this passage. We also are told that disciples also cast out demons and healed the sick.

John the Baptist is beheaded.

From five loaves and two fishes the five thousand are feed.

Jesus walked on the water.

In the midst of all this action Jesus took his disciples off to a remote place. “Come off by yourselves; let’s take a break and get a little rest.” For there was constant coming and going. They didn’t even have time to eat (v.31)

Things to think about

- What do you in the midst of busyness to be centred in God?
- How do you react to rejection?
- What is the theme that ties all of the action together in the chapter?