

Series:

Mark – Every Man’s Gospel

Theme: Journey

Title: *The Gospel Road*

Text: Various

Introduction:

There is nothing so frustrating to a student as to have a question about the teacher’s lecture but lack the courage to ask. And there is nothing as frustrating to a teacher as having a class that thinks it know better how to run the curricula.

We are going to see such notions this morning as Jesus, the teacher, interacts with the disciples, his students.

We take up the last of six themes this morning, that of the journey. I will refer to the journey as the “gospel road.”

The Journey

The theme begins right away (1:2-3) based on a quote from Isaiah 40:3. There was a way that needed to be prepared. Jesus would come on the scene and walk “the way.”

At first glance, it seems Jesus had no plan in his journeys. He is forever just wandering around with no destination. He is constantly crisscrossing the Sea of Galilee seemingly wandering aimlessly about. This goes on in the Gospel of Mark for 8 chapters.

But then we come to that all-important climax – the turning point, the point in time when, in Jesus’ life, his nose is set like flint toward “the journey,” “the road,” the “gospel road.” He must go to Jerusalem.

8:27-32a

9:33-34

10:17, on his journey – to...10:32

11:1-11 – he “enters Jerusalem”

“The way” became a code for the journey to Jerusalem where he would suffer at the hands of the Jews, be rejected, killed and rise from the dead. It was the way of His passion. It was the way of the cross. It was the Gospel road.

But what is remarkable is that Mark uses phrase, “the way,” or the “journey” three times and each of these three occurrences has an unmistakable theme.

Notice:

8:31

9:30-31

10:32

These three occurrences became teaching times for Jesus and his disciples as they were on “the way.”

8:31 – Jesus began teaching...

9:31 – Jesus was teaching (imperfect tense)...

10:32 – while on the road, he began talking to the disciples again...

This “way” was all about Jesus going to the cross to die so that he might rise again.

But this “way” was also just as much about those who will follow behind. The way of the master is the way of the disciple.

All three occurrences continue with some kind of talk about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

8:34-9:1

9:33-37

10:35-45

And all three of these occurrences are set within the context of some kind of conversation that was poorly thought-through.

8:32 – Peter’s rebuke – “Messiah’s don’t fail!”

9:33 – the disciples’ argument about greatness

10:35 – James and John’s request.

The Gospel Road:

Peter defines the issue clearly as a submission to the Father’s plan.

The disciple’s clarify the road as being about status when it is really about suffering and sacrifice.

James and John reveal that the gospel road is about rejection not position and power.

Application:

How do you walk the gospel road after Jesus?

How can I die today? – sacrifice

How can I live today? – serve

“The Way”

Acts 9:2

Acts 19:2, 23

Acts 24:14,22

Are you on the way? Do you walk the Gospel Road?