

Session 3: Amazed

Scripture questions:

Mark 1:1-11

Matthew 1:1-17

Compare the passage in Mark to the beginning of Matthew. What differences do you see?

What does Mark not talk about?

Mark 1:28-31

Mark 2:8-12

Mark 5:29-30

Mark 9:20-24

What repeated phrases or words does Mark use to describe the way things happen in these accounts?

Mark 1:21-28

Mark 2:1-12

Mark 5:35-42

Mark 6:45-51

Mark 11:15-19

Mark 12:13-17

What is the common response of people to Christ's actions and teachings?

Mark 1:40-45

Mark 3:6-12
Mark 5:35-43

What does Christ say to people after He performs a miracle? Why do you think He gives them this command?

Mark 5:1-20

Compare this story to the previous three verses you read. Why does Jesus instruct this man to go tell others about what the Lord has done for him?

Mark 16:1-8

How does the angel tell the women to respond? What does he tell them to do?

How do the women respond? What do they do?

Why do you think Mark ends his Gospel in this way?

The book of Mark: focuses specifically on Christ's ministry and the affect it had on people. Mark is believed by many scholars to be the first Gospel written. The story of Christ in the Gospel of Mark is full of action, told at a fast pace, and forces people to make a decision as to who Christ is.

How People Responded to Christ

The word "amazed" or "astonished" used throughout much of Mark is not a positive term. When the people were amazed or astonished, they were actually scared and did not completely understand

what was going on. It was not just what Jesus did that amazed or frightened them—it was also what He taught.

The Messianic Secret: when Jesus tells people to be silent about what He has done or said. Jesus does this to encourage people to form their opinion of who Christ is based on their encounter with Him.

The **longer ending of Mark**, chapter 16:9-20, was added by an unknown writer who probably thought the absence of important information was cut off by someone else. The original ending of Mark brought together the themes of amazement, action and immediacy, and the Messianic Secret. The encounter with the angel communicates to us that those who are not amazed will teach others about Christ while those who are amazed, or frightened, will keep silent and refuse to tell what happened.

Application Questions:

Recalling that the teachings and works of Christ caused amazement in others, how do you live a faith that amazes, astonishes, and perhaps even causes discomfort for others?

Followers of Christ are expected to tell others about the works of Christ. How do you do this? What makes you most uncomfortable when telling others about Christ? How can you overcome this discomfort?

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