

# Mark 8–10 review

IGG | 17 February 2021 | George Diwakar

## Introduction

Mark 8–10 is:

- **A bridge between the two halves of Mark's Gospel**
  - 1–8: in Galilee, miracles, two sections (1–4, 5–8), one teaching block (ch 4: listen!), confession (8:29)
  - 11–16: in Jerusalem, no miracles, two sections (11–13, 14–16), one teaching block (ch 13: watch!), confession (15:39)
- **All about “the way” between the two halves of Mark's Gospel**
  - “The way” from Galilee to Jerusalem (8:27; 9:33, 34; 10:17, 32, 46, 52)
  - “The way” from exile and the shadow of death to life in the new Zion (1:2–3 cf Isaiah 35:8; 40:3; 62:10)
  - “The way” from Capernaum to Calvary (8:31; 9:31–32; 10:32–34)
- **A section with three parts divided by Jesus's three predictions of the cross**
  - 8:31–9:29: the cross and the king
  - 9:30–10:31: the cross and the kingdom
  - 10:32–52: the cross and the question

## 1. The cross and the king (8:31–9:29)

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” — Mark 1:1 ESVUK

- 1–4: Jesus is the king with authority to forgive sins who builds his kingdom through his words
- 5–8: Jesus is the New Exodus king who can rescue us from death but must first open our blind eyes

“Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.” — Mark 8:30 ESVUK

### a. The Christ must be crucified (8:31–9:1)

Two astonishing announcements:

#### I. The Son of Man must suffer and die

“And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.” — Mark 8:31 ESVUK

#### II. Whoever follows him must die with him

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” — Mark 8:34 ESVUK

**Question:** How can the Christ suffer and die? Why would anyone follow him?

**Discussion (5 minutes):** What do you find most challenging about Jesus's two announcements in Mark 8?

## b. The crucified one is the Christ (9:2–29)

Three confidence-boosting passages:

### I. A preview of Jesus's resurrection glory (9:2–8)

- He is God's last prophet → the cloud, the mountain, the voice = Mount Sinai (cf Exodus 19, 1 Kings 19)
- He is God's only Son → "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." — Mark 9:7 ESVUK

### II. A programme for Jesus's resurrection kingdom (9:9–13)

- The disciples' discussion: a debate about the resurrection  
"I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes." — Malachi 4:5 ESVUK
- Jesus's reply: a timetable for his resurrection kingdom

### III. A demonstration of Jesus's resurrection power (9:14–29)

An important miracle:

- The disciples couldn't do it (9:18, 28 cf 3:15, 6:7, 13)
- The demon was especially deadly (9:17, 19, 22, 26)
- The demon represented all Jesus's opponents → mute (9:17, 7:31-37), withered (9:18, 3:1–6), dead (9:26, 5:35–43)

Therefore:

- Listen to his words → "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." — Mark 9:7 ESVUK
- Ask for his help → "I believe; help my unbelief!" — Mark 9:24 ESVUK

**Discussion (10 minutes):** Which confidence-boosting passage helps you most to take up your cross and follow Jesus? How could we be better at listening to his words and asking him to help us trust them? If it helps, try thinking about your IGC group, Sunday church, and your personal Bible reading.

## 2. The cross and the kingdom (9:30–10:31)

"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 9:30 ESVUK

The disciples:

- Don't understand why Jesus has to die (9:32)
- Don't understand what it means to follow him (9:34)

### a. Kingdom greatness means serving Jesus's children (9:30–50)

"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." — Mark 9:35-37 ESVUK

The disciples:

- Must learn to serve Jesus's children
- Must beware not to stumble Jesus's children

**Discussion (5 minutes):** When are we tempted to act like the disciples? How do Jesus's words challenge us?

**Question:** Why does kingdom greatness mean serving Jesus's children?

## b. Kingdom entry depends on being served by Jesus as a child (10:1–31)

### I. It is impossible to enter the kingdom by doing good works

- The Pharisees
- The rich man

### II. It is only possible to enter the kingdom by receiving God's gift

“The Son of Man is going to be **delivered** into the hands of men” — Mark 9:30 ESVUK cf Isaiah 53:6, 12

“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” — Mark 10:14–15 E ESVUK

**Discussion (10 minutes):** How does this section make you more grateful for Jesus's death? What would it look like if it shaped your attitude towards other Christians? If it helps, try thinking about your IGG group, your parents, or your home church.

## 3. The cross and the question (10:32–52)

“See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.” — Mark 10:33–34 ESVUK

**Question:** What do you want me to do for you? → Mark 10:36, 51

### ■ Glory and honour like James and John

“Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” — Mark 10:37 ESVUK

### ■ Mercy and sight like blind Bartimaeus

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” — Mark 10:47–48 ESVUK

“And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.”...And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.” — Mark 10:51–52 ESVUK

**Discussion (10 minutes):** If you could ask Jesus for one thing, what would it be? How does your answer compare with Bartimaeus's? What difference should it make to your time in London, or your plans for going back home?