

**Day 6** **Read Mark 3:1-19**  
Hard hearts hinder our ability to truly see and serve Jesus. We can easily be bound by human-made rules that can prevent us from doing what is best for others (1-6). Those with humble hearts, by contrast, are persistent in wanting to be close to Jesus (7-12); lives that consistently reveal a passion to 'Share the Story | Live the Life'. What do these verses reveal about Jesus' ministry and about those he shares his authority with? Thank God for all the people who have helped shape your spiritual life.

**Day 7** **Read Mark 3:20-35**  
The teachers of the law accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebub (another name for Satan). What was Jesus' response to their accusation (23-30)? Why do you think he chose to speak in parables? How do you react when someone levels a wrong accusation against you? What does this passage teach us about Jesus' character? Ask God to give you the right words to say and the right attitude of heart when dealing with those who speak out against Jesus.

**Day 8** **Read Mark 4:1-20**  
Jesus shared a parable about scattering seeds and then went into a little more detail about what the story meant when he was alone with his disciples. Initially, what do you understand about the seed (3-8)? What do you think Jesus meant by, 'the secret of the kingdom has been given to you'? Using Jesus' explanation, how would you compare yourself to the seed or the soils (13-20)? What kinds of 'weeds' might stop spiritual growth and fruitfulness in your life? Ask God's help in identifying and uprooting them.

**Day 9** **Read Mark 4:21-34**  
In this passage Jesus mentions the foolishness of hiding a lamp under a bowl. What use is a lamp or its light when it is covered? Why do we sometimes choose to hide the light of God's truth rather than let it shine? The parables in vs.26-32 are full of encouragement. Read them again and look for the words you find helpful about sharing your faith. Pray that God's light will shine brightly; not only in your own life but also in our corporate life together as a 'city on a hill'.

**Day 10** **Read Mark 4:35-41**  
The interesting part of this story is that the disciples were exactly where Jesus told them and wanted them to be and yet, despite that, a storm came with waves big enough to frighten even experienced fishermen. What 'storms' have you been through where you've maybe doubted God's presence and questioned his motives? What have you learned from previous 'storms' that will better prepare you for those in the future? God never promises us a 'storm-free' path. Give thanks to God for revealing himself to you in times of difficulty and uncertainty.

**Day 11** **Read Mark 5:1-20**  
One again Jesus demonstrates his authority through a miracle; this time he shows he has power to cast out demons. In response the previously demon-possessed man asks to go with Jesus (18). But look at Jesus' response (19-20). Jesus asks for the man to stay and witness to God's greatness to those in his own community. Where is God calling you to be 'salt and light'? Pray that God will reveal 'the bigger picture' to you and show you where he wants you to serve him right now.

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**Day 12** **Read Mark 5:21-34**  
The woman in this story displays remarkable faith. She was confident of Jesus' power. Faith's significance isn't found in the person who demonstrates faith but instead it is in the object of that faith. Who or what do you put your faith in? How is that faith revealed in your life, through your actions and words? What risks are you willing to take to step out in faith for God? Ask God to reveal something of his power to you today through the everyday circumstances of your life.

**Day 13** **Read Mark 5:35-43**  
It's interesting to notice the parallels between today's story and yesterday's. Both are powerful examples of faith and Jesus' ministry to the hurting. Read again vs.40. Jesus did and said things that from a human point of view were ridiculous; simply laughable! Yet, God is 'able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine' (Ephesians 3:20). Think of a situation today where you desire to see God's 'ridiculous' power at work. Ask God to work a miracle.

**Day 14** **Read Mark 6:1-13**  
Jesus returns to his hometown, to the people who knew him, his family and the people who had seen him grow up. But there was a problem. These people (1-6) had made up their minds about Jesus and were blinkered as to his true identity. How might a limited view of Jesus shape our faith? In contrast, Jesus' disciples are willing to 'take nothing' and leave everything to follow Jesus' command to tell others about God? What things may hold you back from that kind of whole-hearted following? Pray for God's strength to 'speak truth in love' (Ephesians 4:13).

**Day 15** **Read Mark 6:14-29**  
John the Baptist paid the ultimate price for his outspokenness - should he have been a little more sensitive and circumspect? What about Herod? Do you ever find yourself caught in two minds? Herod was fascinated by John and his message and yet afraid of the consequences of that message for his own life. Where might you be tempted to compromise? What are the issues that the church ought to be speaking out about today. Pray that God's Spirit will help you to discern when it's right to speak out and when it's best to stay silent.

**Day 16** **Read Mark 6:30-44**  
The disciples were acutely aware of the need all around them but were powerless to meet it; their only answer was to send the people away. In contrast, Jesus sees the crowd as 'sheep without a shepherd' (34) and shows compassion. How do you react when faced with overwhelming need whether spiritual or physical? Ask God to show you ways in which you can make a difference in the lives of those who are 'hungry'.

**Day 17** **Read Mark 6:45-56**  
This is the second time that we find Jesus putting the disciples in a boat that's heading for a storm (see Mark 4:35-41). What learning experience have you faced repeatedly? Why do you think Jesus might have passed them by? What lessons do you think he was trying to teach them? Despite everything they had seen and heard the disciples 'had not understood ... their hearts were hardened' (52). Pray for a soft heart and an awareness of God teaching you through his Spirit.

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**Day 18****Read Mark 7:1-13**

Once again we find Jesus and his disciples being singled out by the Pharisees for defying tradition. Why do you think the Pharisees were so upset? What is your response when you see people doing things differently from the way you would do them? Re-read vs.7. What might you need to re-evaluate or change in order to be sure that rules and traditions don't overshadow your love and devotion to God? Ask God to show you where you might be worshipping in vain.

**Day 19****Read Mark 7:14-23**

In today's reading Jesus is referencing 'clean' and 'unclean' meats and ceremonial washing (not dissimilar to vs.1-13). Jesus' words highlight the need for internal cleanness, not external observances. Read Proverbs 4:23. How might this verse apply to what we've read today in Mark? In what areas of your life might you be tempted to place too much importance on outward appearances? Pray, as the Psalmist did, that God would 'create in me a clean heart' (Psalm 51:10).

**Day 20****Read Mark 7:24-37**

Again we read about Jesus being interrupted when wanting to rest (24). The woman who approaches Jesus is a non-Jew, yet when she asks for a crumb she is given so much more! What might we learn from this story about how to approach God in prayer? Jesus' approach to healing the deaf and mute man is tailor made to fit his need (33-36). Who might be in need of your help today? Take time today to praise and thank God for sending Jesus to meet your ultimate need for spiritual healing and restoration.

**Day 21****Read Mark 8:1-10**

The crowd in the story had been following Jesus for three days and were now without food. Their eagerness to hear what Jesus was saying outstripped their concern for personal comfort and physical food. What are you willing to sacrifice to follow Jesus? What are the things that make you feel most comfortable? Would you be willing to give them up? Ask God to give you a fresh desire to spend time with him in prayer today and to know a greater awareness of his priorities for your life.

**Day 22****Read Mark 8:11-21**

The disciples had already seen Jesus provide food miraculously for a hungry crowd twice but once again their main concern is bread. They lacked faith despite what they are seen. Imagine yourself in their shoes. How easy is it for you to forget Jesus' provision? Take time out today to list the ways in which God has provided for you in the past and begin to make connections with how remembering the past can help you trust God today.

**Day 23****Read Mark 8:22-30**

Again Jesus brings healing to someone in need, showing his disciples and the man's friends both his compassionate nature and his power (22-26). He then asks his disciples 'Who do people say I am?' (27). How might you expect the people around you to answer that question? Your friends, neighbours, work colleagues or family members? Pray for a willingness to tell others about who Jesus is and a renewed desire to 'Follow Me into all the World'

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8



These daily reading notes are intended to supplement the evening service teaching series entitled [The Kingdom is Here](#).

As you begin each reading ...

[Find a quiet place](#) - prepare yourself to listen

[Read the verses and highlight the main points](#) - expect to hear God speak

[Think about the questions](#) - be intentional about prayer during the day.

**Day 1****Read Mark 1:1-15**

John the Baptist was baptising and preaching repentance. His message caused a great excitement and following, but he made sure that people knew someone even greater and more powerful was coming. What does it mean to you that Jesus was baptised, tempted (12-13) and then began his ministry sharing the good news about God (14-15)? Does knowing that Jesus was tempted whilst being obedient help you serve him? Pray for God's help in the midst of your life's circumstances.

**Day 2****Read Mark 1:16-28**

Think about the way that Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James and John. Consider their response. What might it have meant for them to leave their nets? How have you sensed God calling you? In vs.22 we read that Jesus 'taught them as one who had authority'. How does your view of Jesus' authority shape the way you respond to his call? Pray for a deepening awareness of what it means to fully accept Jesus' invitation to 'follow me'.

**Day 3****Read Mark 1:29-45**

What stands out most to you about Jesus' character in these verses - his humility, his healing, his need for prayer, his view of people? Are there specific words or phrases that resonate with you? If so, how could those things help to strengthen your character? And what would growth look like for you in that area? Pray for God's help in drawing closer to Christ as you walk with him.

**Day 4****Read Mark 2:1-17**

The paralysed man and his friends were desperate to see Jesus. How did their need for Jesus cause them to act? What does that kind of desperation or need look like today? What does it look like for you? Pray for an awareness of God's closeness in times of need and for his power to bring transformational change into your life as well as into the lives of those you know.

**Day 5****Read Mark 2:18-28**

Jesus was questioned by the religious leaders of his day about his defiance of some 'important' rules and traditions. What was Jesus ultimately saying about them through his actions and response? How does Jesus' view of rules and tradition encourage or challenge you? Pray for God's Spirit to reveal a right attitude towards tradition and legalism for your life.