



Getting to know Christ Jesus from some questions asked in the Gospel of Mark

INTRODUCTION

A WAY OF STUDYING THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Driving along I was listening to a CD MP3 recording of the Bible. The Gospel of Luke was read. For some reason questions asked *to* Jesus and *by* Him stood out as a way in which one can do a study of the Gospel to know more about the Person, his mission, and how people respond to it, stood out.

I explored that possibility and what we have in front of us is something of the study that I did.

At first I thought to restrict my study to the questions asked to Jesus and his response to it. But I soon realise that the questions Jesus asked and the way people responded to them are also very important.

WE ASK QUESTIONS TOO!

I guess in some way we also get to know people by asking questions about them. “What is your name?” “What is your surname?” “Are you related to so-and-so with the same surname?” “Where were you born?”

In the flow of any conversation we ask questions. The intention with these questions is to get an answer that would help us ahead in our conversation.

Whit this introduction as the background for the study, let’s get into it!

CHRIST AND SATAN

READ MARK 1:1-45.

The question asked to Christ in this reading comes from the evil spirits as slaves and messengers of Satan.

“What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” (Mark 1:24)

Let’s look at the context:

Who was John the Baptist? READ MALACHI 4:4-5 and MATTHEW 17:10-11-13.

.....



Modern day Capernaum – a very fertile district along the Sea of Galilee



Capernaum on the map in the time of Jesus. Jerusalem is in the south and the fertile Jordan Valley is running between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea

.....

What did John the Baptist say about Jesus Christ? READ MARK 1:7.

.....

Jesus also went to be baptised by John the Baptist. What did the Spirit of God say about Jesus after He was baptised? READ MARK 1:11.

.....

What happened to Jesus immediately after He was baptised and the Holy Spirit declared that He was the Son of God? Read MARK 1:12

.....

What is the significance of the words “The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news”? in MARK 1:15?

.....

Between the proclamation of the kingdom of God and what follows Jesus calls some of his disciples and appointed them as “fishers of men” (MARK 1:17). This is the God-chosen way to have people introduced into the Kingdom which was at hand.

In a way typical to Mark he allows the events in his Gospel to jump very quickly from one scene to the other. We now find ourselves in Capernaum, in a synagogue.

Capernaum is not mentioned in the Old Testament, and was most probably founded after Israel returned from Babylonian captivity. It was situated on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus performed many miracles. It was also a border city where contact with religions of the surrounding nations the northern and north-eastern regions influenced the way in which the Jews practiced their religion. Isaiah prophesied this region that they would be living in darkness when the “Branch from Jesse”, the Son of God, would be born (READ ISAIAH 9:1-2).

The spiritual darkness of these people, as well as the nearness of the Kingdom and the light of the Gospel, is now mightily at display in Capernaum the day when our Lord entered the synagogue in Capernaum. His teaching was with *authority* (we will come back to this aspect, as we will answer another question regarding Jesus).

Where was the man possessed by the evil spirit when Jesus found him? MARK 1:23

.....

Who spoke first, Jesus or the evil spirit(s)? What does it tell us?

.....

Here we find the first question asked in the Gospel of Mark. It seems important because it immediately informs us about the person and mission of Christ.

What were the questions asked by the evil spirit(s)? MARK 1:24

.....

What did the evil spirit(s) know about Jesus that (seemingly) his disciples and the others did not know at the time? Note the progression the spirits made in the names of Christ.

.....

What was the reaction of Jesus? MARK 1:25

.....

What was the reaction of the evil spirit(s)? MARK 1:26

.....

What do we understand about the Person and work of our Lord from what He said and did at this point in time?

.....

What was the reaction of the people who witnessed this account of the ministry of Jesus Christ? MARK 1:27

.....

What follows this event describes the power, authority and mission of Jesus. How is the ministry of Jesus described in MARK 1:34?

.....

How does Jesus define his mission in MARK 1:38?

.....

How did Jesus discharge of his mission according to MARK 1:39?

.....

In interesting question: How do we understand the embargo Jesus put on letting the world know what He did to the man with leprosy? MARK 1:44

.....

The answer to the question above probably has something to do with the fact that the mission of Jesus as the Son of God was not only to heal people physically. The ultimate meaning of the “coming of the Kingdom” in Christ was his death and resurrection which brought us righteousness and put us in the right relationship with God.

In the light of what was just said, what is the major thought and lesson of our study today? In answering this, keep this in mind:

Who was Jesus according to John the Baptist? Read MARK 1:8

.....

Who was Jesus according to the Holy Spirit? READ MARK 1:11

.....

Who was Jesus according to MARK 1:17

.....

Who was Jesus according to the evil spirit(s)? READ MARK 1:24

.....

Who was Jesus according to the people? READ MARK 1:27

.....