

Breakthrough of the Miraculous 10/3/2010

Review – studying book of Mark

- Kingdom of God broke through into our world with the coming of Jesus
- Jesus broke into “this present evil age” an age ruled by Satan who Paul calls “the God of this world”
- Jesus came to invite humanity into a relationship with God → citizens of Kingdom of God

How many people grew up going to church?

- My understanding of the gospel – be a good person, be nice and follow the rules; Christianity is for when you grow up, when you’re ready to settle down
- Even after I came to Christ – accept Jesus as my Savior, receive salvation by faith, and get safely through life until the end when I get to go to heaven. Lacked life and adventure.
- In college I always wrestled with how Christianity was different from other philosophies and ways of viewing life. Everyone had their own version of the truth, who was I to argue with them? I couldn’t reason out my faith with others so I just was quiet about it.

Book of Mark paints a very different picture though

- Constant conflict between the Kingdom of God and Satan
- Jesus proclaims a message with authority and demonstrates authority through miracles
- If you excluded your traditions and preconceptions, you couldn’t read the gospels without seeing that miracles were a part of Jesus’ ministry
- There are **41 recorded miracles of healing** in the Gospels.
- One fifth of the Gospel account (**727 out of 3,779 scriptures**) devoted to the healing

Jesus came with a message and a ministry, words and works.

- The 21st century church, especially in America, tends to emphasize the message or words of Jesus and de-emphasize the ministry or works of Jesus.
- Illustration: Cafeteria... picking and choosing which parts of God we want. *“I’ll take message of Heaven, God blessing, some service, side order of ministry to the poor”*

We have sterilized the gospel.

- The Devil loves it when the church just teaches the message of Jesus. He encourages powerless, rational, safe religion that is under man's control.
- Then there is nothing we can't explain or risk the whole faith thing.

Turn in your Bibles to Mark 7

- Remember, Jesus primary message is the Kingdom of God. That God’s reign and rule on

the earth has come with Jesus Christ.

- However, there is a tension between the “already and the not yet”.
- The “already” is the fact that God does miracles today even though not everyone gets healed or set-free or has their needs met completely.
- The “not yet” is the coming return of Christ in which He will rule completely over all.

- Jesus miracles always accompanied teaching.
- They displayed His compassion and demonstrated His authority.
- Illustration: College lecture & lab (→model for others to follow)

Jesus emphasized that He had authority over all areas of our life:

- Spiritual – salvation. Accepting Christ → spiritual rebirth
- Soul – deliverance miracles – Jesus’ authority to break Satan’s control over our minds
- Body - Healing miracles – Jesus’ authority to break Satan’s control over our bodies

Reading in Mark 6, 7, 8 Jesus performs miracles over demonic forces, human bodies, and the natural world. Like the show 24, non-stop action: does a 5k, walks on water, frees a little girl influenced by an evil spirit, heals a man that couldn’t hear or talk, and feeds another 4,000

In the process He really annoys the religious crowd. Mark 7:1-5:

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. 3(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. 4When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) 5So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"

They attack Jesus over the fact that He and His disciples are not keeping some miniscule point of the law. The *Message Bible* describes Jesus response to the accusation Mark 7:6-8:

Jesus answered, "Isaiah was right about frauds like you, hit the bull's-eye in fact: These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their heart isn't in it. They act like they are worshipping me, but they don't mean it. They just use me as a cover for teaching whatever suits their fancy, Ditching God's command and taking up the latest fads."

To move past this sterilized version of the gospel → How did we end up here?

1) Traditions

NIV Mark 7:8 ***You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of man.***

- Many of us grew up in churches where the message of Jesus is all that was taught and emphasized. It's all we know.
- Amount of Jesus scripture on baptism, baby dedication, communion vs. healing
- It's messy and risky to pray for someone or give a word to someone God gave you
- The **woman at the well** wanted to have a rational, safe discussion about religion (which mountain should we worship on). Jesus began to tell her things that the holy Spirit was revealing to her about her life. Now she is being transformed by God's truth being accompanied by His power. This is the way the kingdom of God is supposed to work.

2) For the "Professionals"

- Believe 'ministry' like Jesus' is for the professionals, the super religions, or the mature
- Look at an example of healing and deliverance from the book of Acts to show this ministry continued through ordinary believers. Actions 8:1,3-8
On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.
4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.
- Everyone plays. Everyone that follows Christ is qualified to do His ministry.
- Illustration: Football Team and Crowd
"On any given Sunday in stadiums across the nation there are 22 men on a field in desperate need of rest and 50,000 fans in the stands in desperate need of exercise." – Bill Bidwill, Owner Ariz Cards

3) Don't Believe Jesus

- Some of us haven't accepted Jesus or what He says is true. Peter was asked this question: Mark 8:27-29
²⁷Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"
²⁸They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."
²⁹"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

- John 14:12
¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
- Let's stop and dream a little. What would it be like to see people healed physically, to be set-free from emotional and mental pain and anguish? What impact do you think it would make in your world to see the kind of miracles that took in Jesus day? The reactions would probably be similar.
- Don't you get tired of powerless religion? I know I am. I am ready to take risks of faith and I believe that God will honor us. Ready to live the life of adventure, risk and change God created us for. Just getting by isn't enough. We are going to be known as a people who know their God and see the works of God in our generation. As you have heard us say, "Jesus never condemned anyone for too much faith."
- I believe God is going to honor faith. I believe if we will be faithful to listen and obey God is anxious to release His power through us. This doesn't mean we go to the extreme of just focusing on the supernatural and diminish God's word and sound doctrine. It simply means that we bring balance to the teaching of Jesus by accompanied works.