

## Mark: Eyewitness to History

March 13-17

**Monday, March 13 – Mark 6:1-29** <sup>1</sup> Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? <sup>3</sup> Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. <sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. <sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them. <sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. <sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about this, for Jesus’ name had become well known. Some were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” <sup>15</sup> Others said, “He is Elijah.” And still others claimed, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago.” <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!” <sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married. <sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” <sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, <sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup> Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.” <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.” <sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” “The head of John the Baptist,” she answered. <sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” <sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John’s disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

**Tuesday, March 14 – Mark 6:30-56** <sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” <sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. <sup>35</sup> By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. <sup>36</sup> Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” <sup>37</sup> But he answered, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup> “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. <sup>45</sup> Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. <sup>47</sup> Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup> He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, <sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” <sup>51</sup> Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup> for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. <sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup> They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

**Wednesday, March 15 - Mark 7:1-23** <sup>1</sup>The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus <sup>2</sup>and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup>(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup>When 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. <sup>5</sup>So 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 defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>7</sup>They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.'" <sup>8</sup>You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.'" <sup>9</sup>And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' <sup>11</sup>But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)— <sup>12</sup>then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. <sup>13</sup>Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." <sup>14</sup>Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. <sup>15</sup>Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." <sup>17</sup>After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. <sup>18</sup>"Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? <sup>19</sup>For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

**Thursday, March 16 - Mark 7:24-8:1-13** <sup>24</sup>Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. <sup>25</sup>In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup>The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>"First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>"Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup>He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). <sup>35</sup>At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. <sup>36</sup>Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup>People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

**8** <sup>1</sup>During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, <sup>2</sup>"I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup>If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance." <sup>4</sup>His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" <sup>5</sup>"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied. <sup>6</sup>He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. <sup>7</sup>They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. <sup>8</sup>The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>9</sup>About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, <sup>10</sup>he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. <sup>12</sup>He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." <sup>13</sup>Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

**Friday, March 17 - Mark 8:14 - 9:1** <sup>14</sup> The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup> "Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod." <sup>16</sup> They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread." <sup>17</sup> Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? <sup>18</sup> Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? <sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied. <sup>20</sup> "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven." <sup>21</sup> He said to them, "Do you still not understand?" <sup>22</sup> They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" <sup>24</sup> He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." <sup>25</sup> Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup> Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village." <sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" <sup>28</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." <sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

**9** <sup>1</sup> And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

### **Getting to Know Me**

How would close friends describe you? How would co-workers describe you? How would your family describe you? What are the differences and why do you think that is?

### **From the Sermon**

When you think of Jesus as King, what are some negatives that you have or actually do associate with 'King'.

Now, what are some positives associate with King?

What are the implications for your life if you allow Jesus to be King?

### **Into the Bible & Application**

In chapter 6, different people have examined Jesus' life and ministry; his neighbors and family, Herod the king, and the disciples. Yet none of these appreciated Jesus for who he was. The disciples were still pondering, still confused, still unbelieving. They did not realize that Jesus could provide for them. They were so preoccupied with the immensity of the task that they could not see what was possible with God. Do you let what seems impossible about Christianity keep you from believing?

Seeing Jesus walking on the lake, the disciples were terrified. It wasn't the lack of power that frightened them, but the idea of a power beyond their imagining. In C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Mr. Beaver said of Aslan the Lion (the book's Christ figure), "Course he isn't safe. But he's good." Do you ever find the idea of God actually "showing up" a bit scary? In what ways is Jesus "not safe"? What gives you confidence that "he's good"?

Ancient Jewish culture was extremely strict about purity laws, especially food laws. Jesus said it's not what goes into a person's body that is bad; it is what comes from within a person. He went further to show that many people's keeping of the Hebrew religious rituals had become empty and destructive. The most hurtful, defiling stuff, he said, comes from inside, from the human heart apart from God's guidance. To people devoted to carefully following the Old Testament food laws, Jesus' statement was shocking: "Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God's sight; rather, the things that come out of a person contaminate the person." God's main concern is your heart's motives and your relationship with God. What helps you to focus your primary energy and concern on the state of your heart, rather than on trying to make your outward behaviors look good? In verse 21 Jesus said, "It's from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come." God covers us with grace, and the Holy Spirit bears fruit in our lives. But God doesn't change our hearts without our collaboration, working with him to shape our thoughts and actions. How can you keep religious rituals from becoming empty forms, just done for the sake of doing them? Which faith rituals truly draw you closer to God?