

Mark 7-9

Ch 7

Theme – Confrontation with Pharisees over washing hands; Mark explains the controversy to Roman reader; Jesus does not address handwashing, but that religious leaders disregard the Law of Moses when it “hinders” their traditions; uses the practice of “Corban” (transliteration of Hebrew word “qorban”); what really defiles a man (cleaning the inside of the cup (Matt 23:25-26)); Syrophoenician woman; healing of the deaf man; “He has done all things well!” – v37

Ch 8

Theme – Feeding the 4,000; returning to Jewish area; Pharisees confront Jesus & demand a sign; beware the leaven of the Pharisees (unbelief & hypocrisy); disciples focused on worldly issues & not understand the warning; “Gradual” healing of the blind man (picture of the disciples); confession of Peter; what the Messiah must endure; Peter rebukes Jesus & Jesus rebukes Peter; mind on God’s interest (deny, take up cross, follow, lose yourself in Jesus) or on Man’s interest (save yourself, ashamed of Jesus); might gain the world but will lose you soul; if ashamed of Jesus, He will be ashamed of you before the Father

Ch 9

Theme – Mount of Transfiguration; Peter opens mouth, inserts foot; God the Father keeps the focus on the Son (both by declaration & only Jesus in v8); commanded not to share the miracle with others UNTIL AFTER the Resurrection; Inner Circle confused, but ask about Elijah; Lord addresses their real concern, but also answers question (Elijah is coming & J.T.B. came in ministry of Elijah); father of boy possessed by a mute & violent demon; disciples could not cast the demon out; Lord burdened by disciples' lack of faith; demon causes violent convulsion in presence of the Lord; man explains how long the child has endured this; "I do believe; help my unbelief!" – v24; demon is cast out (symmetry with Jairus's daughter); Lord explains why disciples couldn't cast the demon out; explains what Son of Man is going to suffer, but disciples do not understand; "Which one was the greatest"; to be the first must be the last & servant of all; receive those who are the least valuable & weakest & do so in Jesus name; John discloses they tried to stop someone from casting out demons in Jesus' name; "Who is not against us is for us" (echo of Matt 12:30 – "not with Me is against Me"); be radically ruthless with sin lest we stumble a "little one"; protect your "saltiness" (if you lose it, how will you get it back?)
