

HEARING THE WORD



NIGEL BARGE

FOLLOW-ON

(Mark 10:46-12:17)

Workbook

Hearing the Word Follow-on Workbook

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Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Phil and June Malloch, whose tireless editing, reviewing and pulling together of materials has enabled the ‘Hearing the Word’ resource to be shared with the wider church.

Nigel Barge, January 2019

Scripture Quotations taken from

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Resources

The *New Bible Dictionary* 3rd edition, published by Inter Varsity Press
The *New Bible Commentary* 21st century edition. A commentary on every Bible book, IVP
www.blueletterbible.org

Hearing the Word: A Tool for Bible reading



LOOK – What does it *say*?

- 1) The Text
 - a) What questions does it raise -
Who, What, When, Where, Why, How?
 - b) What surprises you?
- 2) The Context?
 - a) the surrounding text
 - b) the Book of the Bible
 - c) the whole Bible
 - d) the place in the Bible Story



LEARN – What does it *mean*?

- 1) What type of writing is it?
- 2) Answer the questions
- 3) Summarise the passage



LISTEN – What is the *message*?

- 1) Which is the main point?
- 2) Which is the key verse?



LIVE – How should we *respond*?

- 1) What does it show about God,
(Father, Son, Holy Spirit) :
 - a) His nature and character?
 - b) His grace*
 - c) Jesus / his salvation**
- 2) What should I do?

* God's undeserved generosity is evident throughout the Bible, and it is perfectly expressed in Jesus.

** The Bible, from 'the fall' onwards, describes God's plan of salvation through his Son. Thus, *all* the Scriptures speak in some way of Jesus (Luke 24:27)

Background to Mark's Gospel

Mark's Gospel is thought to have been written by John Mark, from the preaching of Peter, during the 60s AD.

We get quite a few clues about John Mark in the New Testament:

When Peter was in prison, facing execution, the church was praying for him in the house of Mark's mother. (Acts 12:12)

Paul and Barnabas took Mark on the first missionary journey, but since he went home part way through, Paul declined to take him a second time. Instead, Barnabas took Mark on a different trip. (Acts 13:5,13; 15:37,39)

We learn in Colossians 4:10 that Mark and Barnabas were cousins.

Paul tells Timothy to 'get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry'. (2 Timothy 4:11)

Paul calls Mark, 'my fellow worker'. (Philemon 24)

Peter, writing from Rome (he gives it the code name 'Babylon') calls Mark his 'son', which is more likely to be figurative than literal. (1 Peter 5:13)

Of the four gospel writers, only Mark mentions the incident in 14:51-52. Could he himself be the youth escaping in the Garden of Gethsemane? If so, our first glimpse of this esteemed Gospel writer is of him 'streaking'!

Persecution of Christians in Rome under Nero was killing the eyewitnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It was imperative to gather the existing narratives and teaching of Jesus, commit them to writing, make copies and distribute them widely, in case some were destroyed.

Mark makes much use of the term, 'Immediately,' when introducing a new section. This gives a sense of urgency to the narrative. Matthew and Luke often echo the order of events in Mark, but include more of Jesus' teaching. Mark may have been interrupted when writing at 16:8, as the Greek ends in a clumsy way, and the oldest manuscripts stop there.

If so, it must have been to escape imminent danger. His first readers well knew the experience.

Study 1

Mark 10:46-52

Faith in Jesus leads to salvation

Word List

- 46 *Jericho* City in Jordan valley, 15 miles NE of Jerusalem, and over 3,000 feet below it, on the main route south down the valley from Galilee. Last stop before dangerous ascent to Jerusalem.
- Timaeus* means 'defiled'; *Bartimaeus* = 'son of the defiled one'
- 47 *Son of David* Title for the Messiah, the awaited King
- 50 *cloak* A beggar's most important possession. Protects night & day
- 51 *rabbi* Means teacher.
- 52 *healed* Literal meaning is 'saved'

Bible Connections

- 46 *Jericho* The city that barred Israel's way to the promised land (Joshua 5:10). Destroyed and never to be rebuilt, on pain of death (Joshua 6:26).
- 47 *Son of David* c.f. Mark 11:10 - The crowds sang 'blessed is the coming of Kingdom of our father, David.
c.f. 1 Chronicles 17:14 - An eternal kingdom had been promised under the rule of a son of King David
- 52 *healed/saved by faith* Compare Ephesians 2:8,9.

(N.B.

The Word List and the Bible Connections at the beginning of each study attempt to make modern readers aware of background facts the writer might assume his first readers already knew.)

LOOK

1) The Text

What questions does the passage raise?

What surprises or confuses you?

2) The Context

What other parts of the Bible – surrounding passage, individual book, whole Bible, or Bible story – might help you understand this passage?

LEARN

1) How do you answer the questions the passage raises?

- 2) How do you resolve issues that surprised or confused you?
- 3) Give an overall 'picture' of the passage in a few sentences.

LISTEN

- 1) What is the lesson or the main point?
- 2) Which verse best sums up the message of the passage? v.

LIVE

- 1) What does it show about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - a) His nature and character?
 - b) His grace?
 - c) Jesus and His salvation?

Now underline the application of the Main Point.

- 2) What should I do?

Now underline the application of the Main Point.

Study 2

Mark 11:1-11

Jesus is the peaceful saviour

Word List

- 1 *Jerusalem* 'Capital' of Holy land with the Temple.
Bethphage / Bethany Villages outside Jerusalem (1- 2 miles)
Mount of Olives Small hill opposite Jerusalem on route from Bethany
- 2 *colt* Foal of an ass. Transport of a King coming in peace
- 3 *The Lord* coinciding with the words used when reading the OT, to avoid saying 'Yahweh', the God of Israel.
- ^c
7 *Cloaks* Outer garment.
- 9 *hosanna* an exclamation of praise; literally, 'save now'.
- 10 *Kingdom of David* the territory of David, a former King of Israel.
- 11 *The Temple* Centre of Jewish religion, where God's presence was manifest. Where sacrifices were made.
- The twelve* The disciples Jesus had chosen.

Bible Connections

- 1 *Bethany* The raising of Lazarus John 11
- 2 *colt* A prophecy of the Messiah Zechariah 9:9
- 10 *Kingdom of David*: See 1 Chronicles 17:14
- hosanna* Compare Psalm 118:25; 2 Kings 6:26

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Study 3

Mark 11:12-25

God forgives the sin of the faithful

Word list

15 *Temple area* The outer courtyard was as far as Gentiles could go. It was meant to be place of prayer for them, but also a place of preparation for Jews to go further in.

money changers Roman coins in everyday use were secular. So Temple tax, and purchase of 'spotless' lambs, had to be paid for in Jewish-approved shekels. With a monopoly, changers made extortionate profit on other currencies.

doves a poor man's sacrifice (Leviticus 12:8; 14:22; 15:14).
(*nb Sacrifice expresses the need for the forgiveness of sin and to restore the relationship between man and God*)

18 *chief priests* those in charge of Temple sacrifices.

teachers of the Law Scribes and Pharisees.

Bible Connections

13 *fig tree* symbol of Israel at peace 1 Kings 4:25;

25 *forgiveness of others* Matthew 6:12; 17:21-35; Luke 23:34

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- 2) What should I do?

Now underline the application of the Main Point.

God will judge the rejection of Jesus

Word List

27	<i>Temple courts</i>	Areas where all could go and Rabbis would walk with followers and teach them;
	<i>Teachers of Law, elders, chief priests</i>	All the 3 groups in the Sanhedrin (the religious court). i.e. an official deputation
	<i>John's baptism</i>	a baptism for the forgiveness of sins in preparation for one who would baptise in the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:4,7)
32	<i>a prophet</i>	one who speaks God's word on his behalf

Bible connections

28	<i>Jesus & authority</i>	Luke 4:18; Matt 28:18; Mk 2:10; John 10:18 Pharaoh doubted Moses' authority (Exodus 5:2).
38	<i>John's baptism</i>	Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8, Luke 3:1-18; John 1:19-34

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Now underline the application of the Main Point.

God will judge rejection of Jesus

Word List

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | <i>parable</i> | A story with one main point. (cf an allegory in which every detail of a story has another meaning eg <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>) |
| | <i>vineyard</i> | A field for growing vines to produce grapes. |
| | <i>wine press</i> | e.g. two hollows in rock, one for trampling grapes, the other at a lower level so the juice could run into it. |
| | <i>watchtower</i> | So that a farmer could guard his vineyard at a time when thieves might steal the ripe grapes. |
| 7 | <i>heir</i> | Son of the owner. |
| | <i>capstone or cornerstone</i> | A vitally important stone in a building that give it its stability or alignment. |

Bible connections

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | <i>God speaks about his beloved Israel as a fruitless vine</i> | Isaiah 5:1-7 |
| | <i>Jesus speaks in parables so that people can't understand</i> | Mark 4:10f |
| 8 | <i>The rejection of the Son by his own people.</i> | John 1:11 |
| 9 | <i>The wages of sin is death.</i> | Romans 6:23 |
| 10 | <i>'The stone the builders reject' in Old Testament refers to Israel, in New Testament – Jesus.</i> | Psalm 118:22 & Acts 4:11 |

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Now underline the application of the Main Point.

Study 6

Mark 12: 13-17

God awaits His right from us

Word List

- 13 *Pharisees* A strict group of Jews who upheld the letter of the Law.
- Herodians* Not a distinct group; collaborators who sided with non-Jew Herod and agreed to pay tax to Rome.
- 15 *denarius* A Roman coin, equivalent to the daily wage for a labourer.
- A poll tax that was levied from every person.

Bible connections

- 15 *God created man in His own image.* Genesis 1:27
- 17 *obeying the state* Romans 13:1,2
- spiritual worship* Romans 12:1

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ISBN 978-1-912209-32-3



