
000102PM Mark-1

TAPE # 1
WALKING WITH JESUS
THROUGH THE
GOSPEL BY MARK

Tonight we begin an incredible new study in Y2K.
You hold this evening in your hands:
The ONLY Book for EVERY person in ANY situation for ALL of Life!

We start this evening on a year-long time of WALKING WITH JESUS.

Through the eyes of Peter, from the pen of Mark, and under the flawless breath of God's Spirit the words of the Gospel by Mark lay before us.

This series of WALKING WITH JESUS will examine the most visible aspect of Christ's earthly walk. The 2nd Gospel most describes Christ's walk as the walk of a servant. If anything strikes your heart over the next year in this walk, I hope that it is a growing desire to be WALKING WITH JESUS as His servant!

THE BIBLE:

Read it to be wise,
Believe it to be safe, and
Practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to sustain you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's chart.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed.

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Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully.
It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure.
In short: READ IT DAILY, TRUST IT COMPLETELY and OBEY IT ALWAYS.

The Bible¹ contains:

- 3,566,480 letters,
- 810,697 words,
- 31,179 verses,
- 1,189 chapters, and
- 66 books.
- Of the 1189 chapters in God's Word the New Testament has 250 and the Old Testament has 939.
- Half of all the books in the Bible are no longer than two columns of a modern newspaper.
- It only takes 78 to 80 hours to read the Bible all the way through!

It is, therefore, a "divine library," and demands not only spiritual illumination, but also the practical application of reverent and diligent study methods in order to master its diversified subjects, as well as its unified message. The Bible Is Unique. It is the book "different from all others" in the following ways. Here is a book²:

Written over a 1600 year span, covering over 60 generations.
Written by 40 plus authors from every walk of the life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc. Moses, a political leader, trained in the universities of Egypt; Peter, a fisherman; Amos, a herdsman; Joshua, a military general; Nehemiah, a cup bearer; Daniel, a prime minister; Luke, a doctor; Solomon, a king; Matthew, a tax collector; Paul, a Rabbi.

Written in different places: Moses in the wilderness; Jeremiah in a dungeon; Daniel on a hillside and in a palace; Paul inside prison walls; Luke while traveling; John on the Isle of Patmos;

¹ Phillips, EXPLORING BIBLE, P. 7

² EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT (p.18)

Written at different times: David in times of war; Solomon in times of peace;

Written during different moods: Some writing from the heights of joy and others writing from the depths of sorrow and despair.

Written on three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe; in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Koine Greek the international language at the time of Christ.

The CHAPTER DIVISIONS of the Word of God were made by Stephen Langton the Archbishop of Canterbury in the 1200's and the

VERSE DIVISIONS of the Word of God came in 1550 by Robert Estienne, who fled for his life from France to Calvin in Switzerland.

Perhaps the primary goal of Satan is to keep you from the Word. He will use disinterest, discouragement and distraction or whatever else it takes. Why? Because the Word of God is powerful. It will change you and me to look more like Jesus every time we look at it seriously. There are usually two reasons men give for not reading the Word of God:

1. No desire and
2. No time.

You are here, that equals desire. Let's destroy the no time myth.

Lt. General William K. Harrison³ was the most decorated soldier in the 30th Infantry Division, rated by General Eisenhower as the number one infantry division in World War II. General Harrison was the first American to enter Belgium, which he did at the head of the Allied forces. He received every decoration for valor except the Congressional Medal of Honor - being honored with the Distinguished Silver Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart (he was one of the few generals to be wounded in action). When the Korean War began, he

³ Hughes, Discipline of a godly man, p. 76-77.

served as Chief of Staff in the United Nations Command - and because of his character and self-control was ultimately President Eisenhower's choice to head the long and tedious negotiations to end the war.

General Harrison was a soldier's soldier who led a busy, ultra-kinetic life, as also an amazing man of the Word. When he was a twenty-year-old Cadet, he began reading the Old Testament once a year and the New Testament four times. General Harrison did this until the end of his life. Even in the thick of war he maintained his commitment by catching up during the two- and three-day respites for replacement and refitting which followed battles, so that when the war ended he was right on schedule.

When, at the age of ninety, his failing eyesight no longer permitted his discipline, he had read the Old Testament seventy times and the New Testament 280 times! No wonder his godliness and wisdom were proverbial, and that the Lord used him for eighteen fruitful years to lead Officers Christian Fellowship (OCF).

General Harrison's story tells us two things: it is possible for the busiest of us, to systematically feed on God's Word. No one could be busier or lead a more demanding life than General Harrison. His life remains a demonstration of a mind programmed with God's Word. His closest associates say that every area of his life (domestic, spiritual, and professional) and each of the great problems he faced was informed by the Scriptures. People marveled at his knowledge of the Bible and the ability to bring its light to every area of life. He lived out the experience of the Psalmist:

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. (119:97-100)

You must remember this: You can never have a Christian mind without reading the Scriptures regularly because you cannot be

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deeply influenced by that which you do not know. If you are filled with God's Word, your life can then be informed and directed by God - your domestic relationships, your child-rearing, your career, your ethical decisions, your interior morality. The only way to a Christian mind is through God's Word!

Again, we must be careful not to create a Bible-reading legalism - "good Christians read the Bible through once a year." The Bible nowhere demands this. Some simply cannot read well, or fast, and speed reading is not the answer. As Lucy told Charlie Brown: "I just completed a course in speed reading and last night I read War and Peace in one hour! ... It was about Russia."

Perhaps the most dangerous thing we could do for the status quo of spiritual life in America is to ask God to give us spiritual insights into His Word. Psalm 119:18 is a prayer to see the Lord in my everyday life.

It takes about 16 minutes to read the book of Ephesians out loud. Silently reading it takes maybe 6 minutes or so. Have you ever thought what would happen if you planned to read the Bible 15 minutes each day?

There are several suggestions that can make your time in the Word a time remembered.

First start with anticipation. Do you still hold some of the feelings you felt when you began to know your girlfriend was becoming your wife? Each word, smile and moment took on new depth and richness. Her notes, cards and letters were mined repeatedly for treasures. Anticipate by asking God to Psalm 119:18 you! Only we can want opened eyes, only He can energize dim, weary and unseeing eyes into windows of anticipated blessing.

READ AGGRESSIVELY IN Y2K

Next, may I suggest we read aggressively? If you really want to get something as a man you must be selective and aggressive.

In seeking the Lord in His Word we must decide we are going to plunge in and wade through all the obstacles and get to the goal.

What is the goal? Making Connection with God in His Word.

Would you cross the state to you favorite hunting or fishing spot and then turn around without a shot or a cast? Never.

Would you get the snack, turn on the TV, adjust your chair sit down and then switch off the Super Bowl before it started? Only if you were going to the Tulsa Bible Church evening service right? But you know what I mean. We can't stop short of the goal. But in this area of the Word we often do just that. So we need aggression and anticipation.

START SOME NEW HABITS IN Y2K

Here are some powerful principles for energizing your time in the Word:

- ✓ EQUIVALENCE: try a one-for-one ratio of TV and sports for the Word of God.
- ✓ EXCELLENCE: try picking the very best time in the day for the Word of God.
- ✓ ENDURANCE: try to stay with it until you hit treasure in the Word of God.
- ✓ EXPECTANCE: try to come looking for something in the Word of God.
- ✓ ESSENCE: try to ask God to help you find the key to unlock truths in the Word of God.
- ✓ EFFERVESCENCE: try to let it out when you do find riches in the Word of God.

Read is what it says.

Interpret is what it means.

Meditate is what do I do!

MAKE A SACRED VOW IN Y2K

The Key is: read it whether you feel like it or not, make a sacred vow and make no exceptions. Dr Tim La Haye tells of his life long interviews of the greatest Bible teachers and missionaries. He concludes that among them all he found that they had made a sacred vow. What is that? Ecc. 5:5 says it is a vow we make to the Lord that we keep.

What was their vow? Simply this. Each one, La Haye included vowed to the Lord, "No Bible, no breakfast". In other words if getting up late, or an unexpected item or a child's sickness in the home, or whatever, stopped the daily pattern of beginning the day with God, then no breakfast. Simply that. Kept up the quiet time in God's Word will become a habit of life.

Where do we find that? Try Job 23:12 "I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food".

Some great hunting spots I've found:

- ✓ TRACK DOWN KEY WORDS: prayer, "in Christ",
- ✓ FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF KEY THEMES: love, King, walk, stand,
- ✓ PAINT THE FACES OF KEY HEROES OF THE FAITH: David on the run, David as a young man,
- ✓ CHART THE TIMES OF KEY EVENTS: David's sin, Solomon's three books, Paul's "press"
- ✓ TRACE THE OUTLINE OF GOD'S KEY ATTRIBUTES: try the Holy Spirit's work in the Epistles,