

## I. Windows

### A. O&E Windows

1. Giant, allow great light
2. Allow me to see if the coffee pot is on when I drive by at night

### B. Windows give those on the outside access to what's on the inside.

1. **The window of God's word, in this case, Mark's gospel, gives us access not to just to the activities and teachings of Jesus, but to His heart as well.**
2. Through the gospel record we have access to what motivates Jesus to do what He does and say what He says.
3. The gospel windows give those of us on the outside access to what's on the inside.

### C. Three Questions to Keep in Mind

1. What are the windows in this passage?
2. What do these windows reveal about Jesus' heart?
3. What impact does this revelation of Who Jesus is have on us?

## II. Three Gospel Windows That Give Us Access to What's in Christ's Heart

### A. The word "immediately" provides our first window into the heart of Jesus.

1. Used 34 times
2. Consensus: a filler word that keeps the narrative moving along.
  - a. Like a pump that pushes water from the reservoir to the top of a fountain, it keeps the water moving
  - b. Like a sheriff's deputy directing the flow of traffic leaving Grand Marais after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks are over.
  - c. Simply there to keep the story from getting bogged down.
3. More than filler: the word reveals something of how Jesus conducted Himself in the world
  - a. Urgency, not wasting time
    - (1) Not rushed, as if He might overlook something important
    - (2) But careful not to waste time, intentional, purposeful
      - (a) He is here for a reason
      - (b) He is actively pursuing a larger goal
        - i) Every activity, word, prayer, healing or miracle
        - ii) They all contribute to something else, something bigger, something more
    - (3) "Immediately" - Jesus doesn't diminish the bigger goal by getting lost in the details of any one single, lesser challenge
      - (a) He faces this challenge
      - (b) He overcomes
      - (c) He moves to the next.
  - b. What urgent business keeps Jesus moving through the challenges of His life? What goal motivates His constant progress?
    - (1) Manifesting the glory of God to the people of God for the love of God
      - (a) **Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV) *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.***
      - (b) **Hebrews 1:3 (ESV) *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds***

*the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

- (c) Jesus is the Incarnation of the Glory of God, the glory of God in human flesh, and His personal mission as the Christ is to manifest the glory of God to the people of God for the love of God.
- (2) Saving people of the world from captivity to the world by overcoming the world and giving His life on behalf of the world out of love for the world.
  - (a) The world is full of lost people that the world holds captive, whose sin separates them from the love of God.
  - (b) Jesus saves them by His sinless life and sacrificial death on their behalf
  - (c) On account of His love for them.
- c. “Immediately” reveals Jesus’ heart of love for God and for us that moved Him to be urgently purposeful.
  - (1) Jesus - the same yesterday, today, and forever -
  - (2) Impact
    - (a) This time is not being wasted in your life
    - (b) Jesus actively pursuing salvation and sanctification in your life as the means for filling the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
    - (c) Goal - eternal life in the indescribable glory of God

## **B. That Jesus enters the synagogue on the Sabbath and teaches with authority in the 2<sup>nd</sup> window into His heart**

- 1. Teaching with authority
  - a. Gathered with other Jews
  - b. Opened the scrolls of Scripture
  - c. More than just reading and reciting liturgy
  - d. Jesus expounded the word of God as One Who knew with complete confidence what the Scripture meant to communicate and how it was to be applied in the lives of His audience
- 2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> window through which we gain access to Jesus heart is found in the words, “On the Sabbath, He entered the synagogue.”
  - a. Sabbath
    - (1) Creation
      - (a) On the 7<sup>th</sup> day, God rested from all His work
      - (b) God blessed the 7<sup>th</sup> day and made it holy.
    - (2) Covenant and Commandments
      - (a) **Deuteronomy 5:12-15 (ESV)** <sup>12</sup> “*Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.* <sup>13</sup> *Six days you shall labor and do all your work,* <sup>14</sup> *but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.* <sup>15</sup> *You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from*

*there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.*

- (b) The 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments
  - i) **Deuteronomy 5:21 (ESV)** “*And you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.*”
  - ii) Coveting
    - a) desiring with resentment something someone else has that you do not have
    - b) Type of envy and lust
    - c) An unjust and unholy craving for something not yours to have.
    - d) Relies on perceptions of powerless need, unworthiness to possess, and deep discontent.
    - e) Coveting is married to greed and breeds contempt.
  - iii) The relationship between “Remember the Sabbath” and “Do not covet”?:
    - a) “Do not covet, for why would you crave to fill your emptiness with what someone else has when I have given you something that belongs uniquely to me?”
    - b) I took the 7<sup>th</sup> day and made it what it is!
    - c) In six days I made all the things that others can own, but on the 7<sup>th</sup> day I made what I alone can make: time, a day, a day set aside for contentment, satisfaction, rest, worship, peace, renewal, hope, joy, and glory.
    - d) I made a day for myself, and I gave that day to you for fellowship with me.
    - e) What in all creation could possibly offer you more satisfaction than the gift of a day I made for myself?”
- b. Jesus’ attitude toward the Sabbath
  - (1) Part of his life rhythm - **Luke 4:16 (ESV)** *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.*
  - (2) The Sabbath exists for Sabbath-keepers - **Mark 2:27 (ESV)** *And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.*
  - (3) Though He was lord of the Sabbath, Jesus honored the Sabbath by keeping and doing on the Sabbath what fulfilled the purpose of the Sabbath - **Luke 6:5 (ESV)** *And he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”*
  - (4) The Sabbath is misunderstood when it becomes a law and a duty

and not a gift and a joy. - **John 5:9-10 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> *And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.* <sup>10</sup> *So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed."*

- c. Jesus wholeheartedly and habitually engages in the Sabbath and by doing so reflects God's own heart toward His glory, His creativity, and His goodness.
    - (1) To keep the Sabbath as Jesus does is to enter into God's own satisfaction in His glory as manifested in creation.
    - (2) God does not rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day because He is exhausted by the work and effort of creation.
      - (a) God rests because He is satisfied with the expression of His glory that resulted in the creation He intended to create
      - (b) God creates an additional day for satisfaction and for His human creation to join Him in His joy!
  - d. Jesus heals on the Sabbath and worships in the synagogue on the Sabbath, and behaves with God-centered, God realized compassion and authority on the Sabbath because He is God enjoying God on the day God created for humans to join Him in His joy.
3. Do I really need to spell out for you now what you are missing when you treat the Sabbath day like any other ordinary day?
- a. This window into the heart of Jesus allows us to see the personal and spiritual value of taking this gift of a day and joining God in His joy in being God.
  - b. This window into the heart of Jesus allows us to see
    - (1) the value of taking a day devoted to God and not self
    - (2) the value of taking a day committed to worship and not work
    - (3) the value of taking a day given to giving and not greed
    - (4) the value of taking a day consecrated to compassion and not pride
    - (5) the value of taking a day, a 24 hour period once a week sanctified to the Creator and not the creature.
  - c. "Do no work" is more than a command to devalue your efforts or your goals; it is an invitation to be as satisfied with God and His work in your life, as God is satisfied with His work in your life.
  - d. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.
  - e. Jesus loves the Sabbath because He loves the One Who gave us the Sabbath as a moment to share in His joy.
    - (1) So can you.
    - (2) So should you.

**C. The final window in the passage that gives us access to the heart of Jesus is Jesus' rebuke of the demons enslaving the man who came to the synagogue to challenge Jesus.**

- 1. Mark recounts with rich detail four exorcisms, more than any of the other gospel writers.
- 2. Focus on just one aspect: Jesus uses His authority as God's Christ, God's Deliverer, to transform the spiritual condition of a man's heart and life experience
  - a. Someone comes to Jesus in desperate need and Jesus' response is to change their life.
    - (1) False teaching -

- (a) you can engage with Jesus and leave the encounter affirmed but unchanged
  - (b) Jesus is more concerned with your personal happiness than your personal holiness
- (2) It is never the case that a genuine encounter with Jesus leaves a person unchanged.
- b. Examples
  - (1) The demoniac in the synagogue - from captive to free
  - (2) The woman with the issue of blood - from broken to whole
  - (3) The woman caught in adultery - from guilt to forgiveness
  - (4) The rich young ruler - from self-satisfied to sad
- c. Such were some of you: **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,* <sup>10</sup> *nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.* <sup>11</sup> *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
  - (1) Now Christ forgives
  - (2) Now Christ renews
  - (3) Now Christ fills
  - (4) Now Christ sends
  - (5) Now Christ will return, gather, and reward

### III. Conclusion

#### A. Do you see through the windows?

1. Do you see through the windows of these words that Christ's heart is for you, for your joy, for your inclusion in God mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory?
2. If, through these windows, you see Christ's heart for you today, it is because God the Holy Spirit has given you
  - a. spiritual eyes to see,
  - b. spiritual faith to believe
  - c. spiritual knowledge to understand and accept God's loving, gracious will for you.

#### B. Access what is in the heart of Jesus for you

1. Put your faith in Jesus
2. Confess your sin and your sinfulness
3. Trust God in Christ to forgive you, give you a new life, a new heart, and fill you with His Spirit so that you live with Him and for Him now and forever.
4. Don't hold back.
  - a. You can see His heart for you.
  - b. Access His heart.
  - c. Accept His heart.