

Study Guide

Monday, May 25-Friday, May 29

Monday, May 25. Invite God to speak to you through the scriptures you will read today. **Read Mark 10:1-12.** Notice verse 1 – it signifies a shift in the gospel. Up to this point nearly everything took place around the Sea of Galilee. From this time forward Jesus is journeying toward his crucifixion. This passage about divorce recognizes several things. It recognizes that marriage was hard in Moses' day, in Jesus' day and in our day. Moses made allowance for divorce. Jesus does not negate Moses, but he notes that divorce is not God's intention or plan. It is a violation of God's ideal. He challenges us to strive to avoid pursuing Moses' divorce provision and to strive for God's ideal. How does divorce and remarriage result in an adulterous situation? Why are Jesus' words on this subject important today? How do you reconcile Moses, Jesus and the world in which we live, where so many are divorced? **Read John 4:4-26** to see how Jesus responded to a woman who had been divorced 5 times, and who became the first female evangelist. What do you see here?

Tuesday, May 26. Begin your study time in prayer. **Read Mark 10:13-16.** What does this passage teach us about Jesus? About what he expects of us? What does this mean? **Read Mark 10:17-31.** Nowhere does Jesus command everyone to sell all in order to follow him, but he does command this man – Jesus is a physician of the soul – why would this have been his prescription for this young man? Why is it hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God? In Jesus' parable of the soils last weekend we learned that some seed falls among thorns and is choked out – and Jesus told us the thorns are the cares of this world and the longing for riches. How freely do you give your money away? How important are things to you? Are you tithing? If you came to Jesus and asked him what you must do for eternal life, and he peered into your soul, what do you think he might say?

Wednesday, May 27. Invite God to speak to you through the scriptures. **Read Mark 10:32-34.** The disciples were shocked, surprised, astonished and the crowds terrified that Jesus was heading to Jerusalem. Why? The center of Roman power was there, and Jesus had not yet amassed an army (the disciples and the crowds were still anticipating Jesus was the Messiah who would overthrow the Roman forces and restore the sovereignty of Israel). Jesus tries to explain to them what will happen to him – clearly he knows this and believes this is God's plan – but the disciples don't understand, which is clear in the next passage. **Read Mark 10:35-45.** James and John, the "sons of thunder," have been with Jesus since John's baptism. Now they want Jesus to assure them they will have an important place in his new government – this is what "glory" means – when Jesus is hailed by all as king. What does Jesus teach them, and us?

Thursday, May 28. Begin your study time in prayer. **Read Mark 10:46-52.** What does this story tell you about Jesus? How does he open our blind eyes today? **Read Mark 11:1-11.** If you have a Bible map look for the locations of the places you just read about. **Read Zechariah 9:9** – Jesus is intentionally choosing to fulfill this passage as a way of making a statement to the people of Jerusalem that he is the Messianic king. They could not miss this sign. But, he was a different kind of Messiah than they expected – he was announcing the Kingdom of God not the restoration of Israel. The people's response – cutting down branches – which they did when Judah Macabee came into Jerusalem freeing it from the pagans more than 100 years before (Jews celebrate this in Hanukkah). "Hosanna" is an exclamation and a prayer – it means, "Save us now!"

Friday, May 29. Invite God to speak through these scriptures. **Read Mark 11:12-25.** Here Jesus clearly establishes he is a religious reformer not a political king. He expresses his displeasure with the way the temple is run. What do you make of Jesus' teaching on prayer? Jesus uses hyperbole regularly – the device of exaggeration to make a point. If this is the case here, what is the point he is trying to help us understand? **Read Mark 11:27-33.** The conflict grows. Jesus' authority comes from the same source as John the Baptist's.