

Week Twenty-Three

Days 155–161



Messianic Checkpoint Narrative: Mark 3–16 | Supplemental: Psalms 20–23, 29, 67–68

JESUS SHOW US WE ARE LIVING TEMPLES



Jesus Casting Out the Money Changers at the Temple
by Carl Bloch

The first half of Mark's Gospel reveals the identity of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and Son of God (see Mark 1:1–8:30). The second half focuses on the mission of Jesus (see Mark 8:31–16:8). Mark teaches his audience that Jesus is the Son of Man and must suffer. He will be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes; he will be killed but will rise from the dead after three days.

- Mark begins with Jesus' baptism, the calling of the first disciples, and a healing.
- In the exorcism of the Gerasene demoniac (see Mark 5), Jesus sends the demons into a herd of two thousand pigs, who drown. For Jesus, one person is worth infinitely more than even valuable pigs. This shows how much the Lord cares for us.
- With every exorcism, Jesus takes back his Father's kingdom from the devil.
- When Jesus cures the deaf and the blind, he shows the power of the sacraments—sacred signs that convey God's grace through the material world.
- Jesus' teachings are central to his ministry. He has many teachings that seem difficult. But he never calls us to do anything that he does not give us the grace and strength to do.
- Mark 9 details Jesus' Transfiguration. Representing the Old Covenant are Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the Prophets). Jesus shows that he is not just another leader or prophet. All of humanity will be judged by him.
- Jesus cleanses the Temple because God's house is only for prayer. This is a metaphor for Baptism, when our souls become living temples of the Holy Spirit.
- We must allow ourselves to be cleansed by Jesus so we can glorify him.
- On the Cross, Jesus says, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" quoting the first line of Psalm 22. With these words, Jesus is not indicating that he has been abandoned by God; rather, he is pointing us to the entire psalm, which ends in a proclamation of deliverance.
- Jesus' crucifixion is far from end the story. There is much more.

