

A WINTER BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 12 noon – February 23rd – May 11th

Facilitators: Rev. Geoff Ross & Rev. Rosemary Doran

"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1 NRSV)

Session 7: Tues., April 13th Galilee: "Of Miracles & Signs" – Mark 6:30-8:30

Group Study - 7:

Question 1) Our reading this week starts with the first of two "feeding" stories in which Jesus 'miraculously' "makes something out of nothing" as Francis Chan says to feed everyone. The Bible is clear; God repeatedly 'makes something out of nothing': **Have you ever felt that you didn't have "enough"? Did you pray for God's help? How did God respond? What effect did this experience have on your faith?**

Question 2) Chapter 7 begins with Jesus being challenged by the Pharisees about the Law and their 'traditions' – what is 'clean' or 'unclean' – and exposing their hypocrisy: they were too busy looking good and neglecting the commandments of God. Jesus tells His disciples that there is an important difference between God's Law and human rules/traditions: **How much of your faith is based on following 'rules' – spoken or unspoken? What 'traditions' do you think are helpful? Or destructive? What traditions do you think help you in, or detract you from, your faith?**

Question 3) To many the story of the healing of the Syrophoenician woman is off-putting: how could Jesus treat a desperate woman the way He does? But the reality is very different. Even though her approaching Jesus was unconventional and against cultural tradition, Jesus still offered her mercy and healed her. **In what ways is the Syrophoenician woman a model for us – for you? Have you ever been that desperate that only God could help you? What does Jesus' saving of this woman reveal about the scope of Jesus' mission?**

Next Week's Study:

Session 8: Tues., April 20th Judea & Samaria: "Jesus Foretells His Death I, II & III"
Mark 8:31-10:52