

SPIRITUAL DIGEST

Vol. 65

June 14 - June 19

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"GOD'S GRACE AND
MERCY ARE BIGGER
THAN THE BIGGEST
CHALLENGE WE MAY
FACE TODAY AND THE
WORST DECISION WE
MIGHT MAKE TODAY."

- JONATHAN MORRIS



OBTAINING BOTH MERCY AND GRACE

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

Believing is substantiating the [spiritual] facts. Once we see something, we substantiate it. Once we believe, we substantiate the facts, and we have it... If you do not have faith, you will not substantiate the facts. The color of a painting can be substantiated only by the eyes, the sound of an organ can be substantiated only by the ears, and the texture of an object can be substantiated only by the hands. In the same way, God's Word and His promises can be substantiated only by faith. We do not have to hesitantly pray to God,

saying, "Lord, be my victory, be my life, and be my sanctification." Rather, we should say to Him, "God, You are my victory. I thank and praise You because You are my life and You are my sanctification. I thank and praise You!" Brothers and sisters, we encounter temptations all the time. Many difficulties confront us, and harsh words fall on our ears. Should we pray for God to give us the strength to overcome? No, we should say, "Lord, I thank and praise You because You are my victory! Lord, You are overcoming for me. I thank and praise You that You are withstanding everything for me. Thank You that You are my Head and I am Your member. You are the vine and I am a branch. You are supplying me everything." He is already supplying us everything according to His Word!



T H E W A Y

Acts 9:1 But Saul, still breathing threatening and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

Acts 9:2 And asked for letters from him to Damascus for the synagogues, so that if he found any who were of the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way...

Acts 9:2 says that Saul's intention was to find those "who were of the way" and "bring them bound to Jerusalem." Here the way denotes the Lord's full salvation in God's New Testament economy. It is the way God dispenses Himself into the believers through Christ's redemption and the Spirit's anointing; it is the way the believers partake of God and enjoy God; it is the way the believers worship God in their spirit by enjoying Him, and follow the persecuted Jesus by

being one with Him; and it is the way they are brought into the church and built up into the Body of Christ to bear the testimony of Jesus. The way in 9:2 includes the way of truth, the straight way, and the way of righteousness spoken of in 2 Peter 2. The way of truth is the path of the Christian life according to the truth, which is the reality of the contents of the New Testament. It is designated by other titles according to its various virtues, like the straight way, the way of righteousness, the way of peace (Luke 1:79), the way of salvation (Acts 16:17), the way of God (Matt. 22:16), the way of the Lord (John 1:23), and the way (Acts 19:9, 23). It was slandered as the way of heresy (Acts 24:14).

BIBLICAL WORDSEARCH

Animals of the Bible

AFTER YOU HAVE FOUND ALL THE WORDS, WRITE THE LEFTOVER LETTERS IN THE CORRECT ORDER TO FORM THE **MYSTERY ANSWER**.

C	G	R	A	Z	E	D	O	G	C	H	E	E	S	E
A	O	T	E	L	G	A	E	N	L	E	M	A	C	V
L	Y	B	N	P	N	I	L	I	A	U	Q	I	O	O
F	E	E	R	E	O	E	V	W	O	L	F	L	R	D
S	N	E	C	A	P	S	O	O	D	I	R	O	P	E
W	O	U	A	C	S	R	D	R	R	O	E	C	I	L
A	H	G	T	O	M	O	E	C	O	Y	S	U	O	T
R	S	A	T	C	N	H	A	S	M	R	B	S	N	R
M	I	L	L	K	P	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	U
R	F	P	E	E	P	E	U	H	D	M	T	H	F	T
A	A	Y	H	A	R	F	T	J	A	C	K	A	L	X
V	L	S	R	O	T	A	D	E	R	P	L	W	O	F
E	C	R	P	E	E	H	S	D	Y	L	F	K	C	G
N	O	I	L	F	A	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	K	L
W	N	D	S	W	I	N	E	R	E	D	D	A	N	T

ADDER, ANT, BEE, CALF, CAMEL, CATTLE, CHEESE, COBRA,
CROWING, DEN, DOE, DOG, DONKEY, DROMEDARY, EAGLE,
FALCON, FEATHERS, FISH, FLOCK, FLY, FOWL, FUR, GOAT, GRAZE,
HAWK, HONEY, HORSE, IVORY, JACKAL, LEATHER, LEOPARD, LICE,
LION, LOCUST, OX, PEACOCK, PLAGUE, PREDATOR, QUAIL, RAVEN,
ROOSTER, SACRIFICE, SCORPION, SERPENT, SHEEP, SHEPHERD,
SPARROW, SPONGE, STRENGTH, SWARM, SWINE, TURTLEDOVE,
WHALE, WOLF, WORM

(ANSWERS REVEALED
NEXT VOLUME)

WHERE DID EARLY CHRISTIANS WORSHIP?

The Roman prefect interrogated Justin Martyr and his associates: "What sort of life do you lead? What are your doctrines? You admit that you are a Christian?"

To each question, the Christian philosopher made a direct reply.

Then the prefect, Rusticus, demanded: "Where do you meet?"

"Wherever it is each one's preference or opportunity," said Justin. "In any case, do you suppose we can all meet in the same place?"

Rusticus pressed him, no doubt for information that might compromise others: "Tell me, where do you meet? In what place?"

Justin said, "I have been living above the baths of [text corrupt] for the entire period of my sojourn at Rome . . . and I have known no other meeting place but here. Anyone who desired could come to my residence, and I would give to him the words of truth."

At the close of this interrogation, Rusticus passed sentence on Justin and his companions, obtaining for Justin his appellation: Martyr.

The proceedings of Justin's trial, just prior to A.D. 168, reveal some things about the location of early Christian worship and teaching.

Atriums and Dining Rooms
In the Rome of Justin's day, Christian meetings were still being conducted in private residences, in much the same way as over a century earlier, during the ministry of Paul. This is remarkable in light of Justin's depiction of Christian worship, which included baptism, common prayers, preaching, and Communion. Though baptism played a prominent role in the Christian community, formal baptisteries were as yet undeveloped. Justin's only comment is that the candidates "are brought by us where there is water."

Justin's defense before Rusticus also suggests that although the Christians in Rome were becoming fairly numerous, they did not abandon meeting in homes, even if that meant the Christian community could no longer assemble in one place. Thus, the house-church pattern, first articulated in the New Testament, continued for

the first generations of the church's expansion in the Roman world.

The Acts of the Apostles portrays the first Christian community in Jerusalem as gathering in the temple colonnades and "breaking bread in their homes." As the Christian message gained a wider hearing in eastern Mediterranean cities, early believers commonly met in the homes of the community's more prominent members: Gaius, Titius Justus, and Stephanas at Corinth, Phoebe at Cenchrea, Priscilla (Prisca) and Aquila at Ephesus, Nympha at Laodicea.

Though houses came in various styles and sizes, an atrium in a Roman villa (or a spacious dining room of a Greek house) would accommodate the needs of the small Christian communities. The account of Eutychus' late-night plunge from his window seat suggests that, in Troas, the Christians met in the third-story dining room of a Greek house.

Local circumstances sometimes dictated other arrangements. While in Ephesus, Paul preached

daily in the Roman prefect
the lecture hall of Tyrannus
for two years, and apocryphal
stories hint that a warehouse
for grain functioned in the
same way when Paul went to
Rome. Nonetheless, house
churches seem to be the
principal setting for Christian
worship, at least through the
time of Justin Martyr.

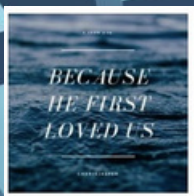


A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



If God Leads You to Walk a Way

If God leads you to walk
A way that you know,
It will not benefit you as much
as
If He would lead you to take the
way
That you do not know.
This forces you to have
Hundreds and thousands of
Conversations with Him,
Resulting in a journey that is an
Everlasting memorial
Between you and Him.



<https://soundcloud.com/charisjasper/if-god-leads-you-to-walk-a-way>

MARK 1

WEEKLY BIBLE CHAPTER READS

Mk 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,

Mk 1:2 Even as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way,

Mk 1:3 A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths."

Mk 1:4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins.

Mk 1:5 And all the region of Judea went out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

Mk 1:6 And John was clothed in camel's hair and had a leather girdle around his loins, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

Mk 1:7 And he preached, saying, He who is stronger than I comes after me, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

Mk 1:8 I have baptized you in water, but He Himself will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

Mk 1:9 And in those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

Mk 1:10 And immediately, coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens being parted and the Spirit as a dove descending upon Him.

Mk 1:11 And a voice came out of the heavens: You are My Son, the Beloved; in You I have found My delight.

Mk 1:12 And immediately the Spirit thrust Him out into the wilderness.

Mk 1:13 And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild animals, and the angels ministered to Him.

Mk 1:14 And after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,

Mk 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has drawn near. Repent and believe in the gospel.

Mk 1:16 And passing beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net in the sea, for they were fishermen.

Mk 1:17 And Jesus said to them, Come after Me, and I will cause you to become fishers of men.

Mk 1:18 And immediately leaving the nets, they followed Him.

Mk 1:19 And going on a little, He saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who also were in their boat, mending the nets.

Mk 1:20 And immediately He called them, and leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, they went after Him.

Mk 1:21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately, on the Sabbath, He entered into the synagogue and taught.

Mk 1:22 And they were astounded at His teaching, for He taught them as One having authority and not like the scribes.

Mk 1:23 And immediately, there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, saying,

Mk 1:24 What have we to do with You, Jesus, Nazarene? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God.

Mk 1:25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Be quiet and come out of him!

Mk 1:26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and shouting with a loud voice, came out of him.

Mk 1:27 And they were all amazed, so that they discussed among themselves, saying, What is this? A new teaching! With authority He orders even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.

Mk 1:28 And immediately the report concerning Him went out everywhere into all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Mk 1:29 And immediately, going out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.

Mk 1:30 And Simon's mother-in-law was lying down with a fever, and immediately they told Him about her.

Mk 1:31 And He came to her and raised her up, holding her hand, and the fever left her, and she served them.

Mk 1:32 And when evening fell and the sun had set, they brought to Him all those who were ill and those who were demon-possessed.

Mk 1:33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door.

Mk 1:34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and He cast out many demons and did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Mk 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still night, He went out and went away to a deserted place, and there He prayed.

Mk 1:36 And Simon and those with him hunted for Him,

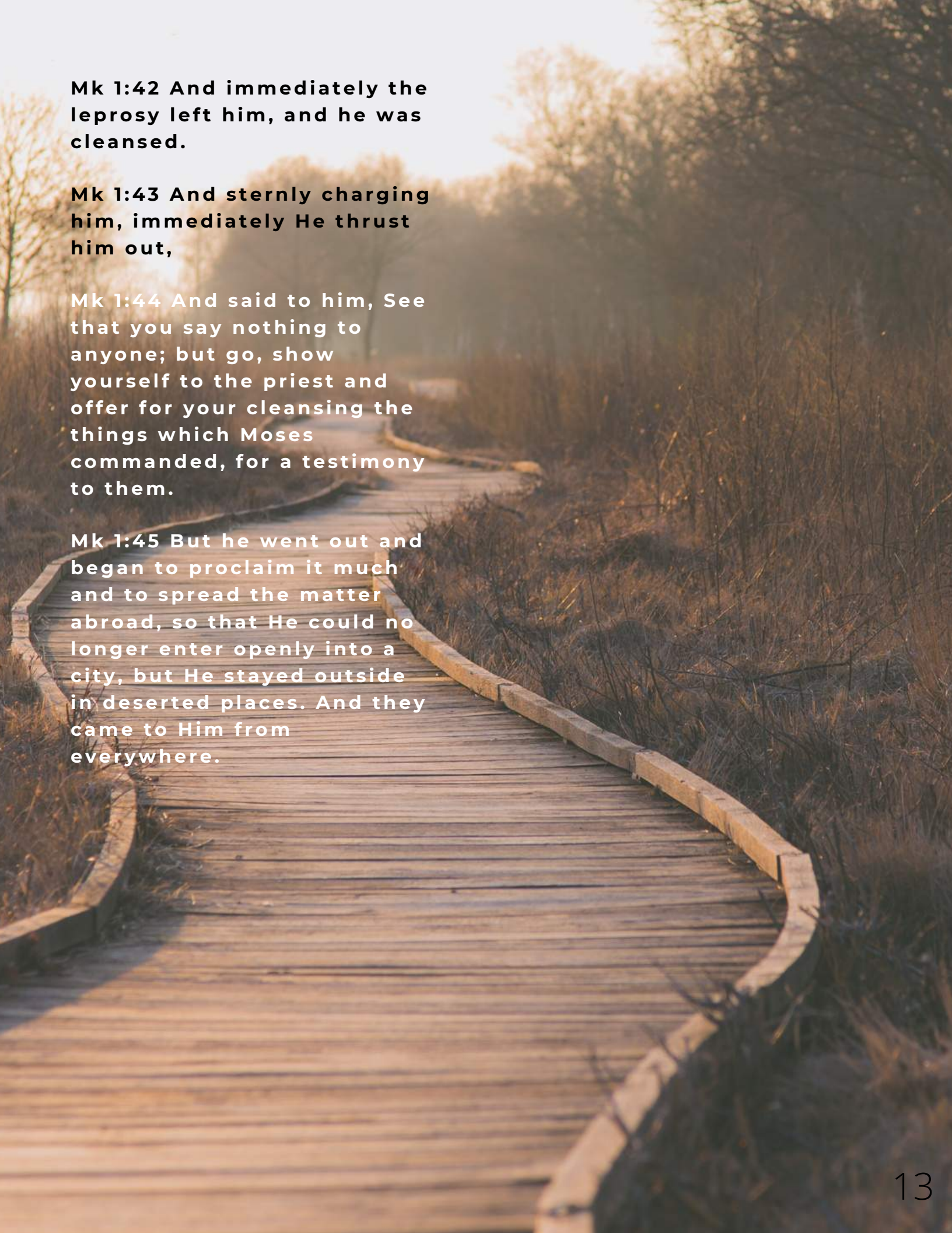
Mk 1:37 And they found Him and said to Him, All are seeking You.

Mk 1:38 And He said to them, Let us go elsewhere into the nearby towns that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I came out.

Mk 1:39 And He went preaching in their synagogues in the whole of Galilee and casting out the demons.

Mk 1:40 And a leper came to Him, entreating Him and falling on his knees and saying to Him, If You are willing, You can cleanse me.

Mk 1:41 And He was moved with compassion, and stretching out His hand, He touched him and said to him, I am willing; be cleansed!

A wooden boardwalk made of parallel planks winds through a field of tall, dry grasses. The scene is captured at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light filtering through the trees in the background. The boardwalk curves gently to the right, leading the eye into the distance.

Mk 1:42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

Mk 1:43 And sternly charging him, immediately He thrust him out,

Mk 1:44 And said to him, See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing the things which Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.

Mk 1:45 But he went out and began to proclaim it much and to spread the matter abroad, so that He could no longer enter openly into a city, but He stayed outside in deserted places. And they came to Him from everywhere.

last week...

CROSSWORD: GENESIS

