



Ludolf Bakhuizen

# THE BOOK OF MARK

*Lesson 6—Mark 4:22–41—Lessons in Faith*

This was the desire which Christ wished to arouse, that He might give them more definite instruction. He explained the parable to them, as He will make plain His word to all who seek Him in sincerity of heart. Those who study the word of God with hearts open to the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, will not remain in darkness as to the meaning of the word. "If any man willeth to do His will," Christ said, "he shall know of the teaching whether it be of God, or whether I speak from Myself." John 7:17, R.V. All who come to Christ for a clearer knowledge of the truth will receive it. **He will unfold to them the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, and these mysteries will be understood by the heart that longs to know the truth.** A heavenly light will shine into the soul temple, and will be revealed to others as the bright shining of a lamp on a dark path. (*COL 35.3*)

- Nicodemus—John 3:4, 9
- William Miller, Hiram Edson
- Mysteries of the incarnation, justification, sanctification, nature of sin and perfection
- 2300 day prophecy

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. (Mark 4:21–22)

For God shall bring every work into judgment,  
with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or  
whether *it be* evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

When the judgment shall sit and the books be opened, there will be many astonishing disclosures. Men will not then appear as they now appear to human eyes and finite judgments. Secret sins will then be laid bare to the view of all. Motives which have been hidden in the dark chambers of the heart will then be revealed. Designing ambitions, selfish purposes, will be seen where outward appearances told only of a desire to honor God and to do good to all men. What revelations will then be made! Men of pure motives and true and noble purposes may now be neglected, slandered, and despised; but they will then appear in their true character, and will be honored with the commendation of God. (6LtMs, *Ms 14, 1889, par. 25*)

God is no respecter of persons. Heaven is a place prepared for those who have a fitness of character for the society of angels. **Its lofty seats are not reserved for relatives and particular friends, but are given to those who love most.** The beautiful mansions are opened to those who have practiced self-denial, who have brought their will into subjection to the will of God, and in life and character have conformed to the divine standard. They may have by nature fierce tempers and grave faults, and these may have been fostered and increased by wrong methods of training; but if through the grace of Christ they subdue these unlovely traits, and fight the good fight of faith, they will receive the overcomer's reward.

*(6LtMs, Ms 14, 1889, par. 26)*

Our work is to copy the divine Pattern. We must rely in loving confidence upon the merits of Christ and take hold of His strength. **Day by day we must subdue the evil traits that strive for the mastery.** Earnest faith and loving obedience will bring us into close relationship with Christ, as was the beloved John. **Those who are faithful in this appointed work will be acknowledged heroes in the heavenly courts.** They reflect a bright light to the world now, for the power of divine grace is made manifest in them; and by and by they will shine forever as stars in the kingdom of heaven. (6LtMs, Ms

*14, 1889, par. 27)*

“And the Lord said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand; but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.” That is, the display of almighty power before Pharaoh, being rejected by him, would make him **harder and more firm in his rebellion**. His hardness of heart would increase by a continual resistance of the power of God. (3SG 194.2)

“Take heed, therefore, how ye hear” (Luke 8:18), is an admonition of Christ. We are to hear for the sake of learning the truth, that we may walk in it. And again: “Take heed **what ye hear**” (Mark 4:24). Examine closely, “prove all things” (1 Thessalonians 5:21), “believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). This is the counsel of God; shall we heed it?—Letter 12, 1890. (*2SM* 79.2)

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light** of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. (Mark 4:22)

. . . for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. (John 15:15)

The secret *things belong* unto the Lord our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

The word of God is light and truth. The true light shines from Jesus Christ, who “lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” John 1:9. (*CT* 360.4)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105)

There should be evening readings, in which one should read aloud to those assembled at the winter fireside. There is but little interest manifested to make the most of the light given of God. Much of it is concerning family duties, and instruction is given to meet almost every case and circumstance. Money will be expended for tea, coffee, ribbons, ruffles, and trimmings, and much time and labor spent in preparing the apparel, while the inward work of the heart is neglected. God has caused precious light to be brought out in publications, and these should be owned and read by every family. Parents, your children are in danger of going contrary to the light given of heaven, and you should both purchase and read the books, for they will be a blessing to you and yours. You should lend *Spirit of Prophecy* to your neighbors and prevail upon them to buy copies for themselves. Missionaries for God, you should be earnest, active, vigorous workers. (4T 390.4)

Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings. The cares of the world, the love of fashion, and the lack of religion have turned the attention from the light God has so graciously given, while books and periodicals containing error are traveling all over the country. Skepticism and infidelity are increasing everywhere. **Light so precious, coming from the throne of God, is hid under a bushel.** God will make His people responsible for this neglect. An account must be rendered to Him for every ray of light He has let shine upon our pathway, whether it has been improved to our advancement in divine things or rejected because it was more agreeable to follow inclination. (4T 391.1)

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light** of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.  
(John 8:12)

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14–16)

Our work is to copy the divine Pattern. We must rely in loving confidence upon the merits of Christ and take hold of **His strength**. Day by day we must subdue the evil traits that strive for the mastery. . . . Those who are faithful in this appointed work will be acknowledged heroes in the heavenly courts. They reflect a bright **light** to the world now, for the power of divine grace is made manifest in them; and by and by they will shine forever as stars in the kingdom of heaven. (6LtMs, *Ms 14, 1889, par. 27*)

And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear:  
with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to  
you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.  
For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that  
hath not, from him shall be taken even that which  
he hath. (Mark 4:24–25)

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure,  
pressed down, and shaken together, and running over,  
shall men give into your bosom. For with the same  
measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you  
again. (Luke 6:38)

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all,  
how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?  
(Romans 8:32)

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:  
freely ye have received, freely give. (Matthew 10:8)

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the  
beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the  
fountain of the water of life freely. (Revelation 21:6)

And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; (Mark 4:26)

So—in this way, in this manner

Matthew 8:23–27

Luke 8:22–25

When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in perfect peace. There was no trace of fear in word or look, for no fear was in His heart. But He rested not in the possession of almighty power. It was not as the “Master of earth and sea and sky” that He reposed in quiet. That power He had laid down, and He says, “I can of Mine own self do nothing.” John 5:30. He trusted in the Father’s might. **It was in faith**—faith in God’s love and care—that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God. (*DA* 336.1)

As Jesus rested by faith in the Father's care, so we are to rest in the care of our Saviour. If the disciples had trusted in Him, they would have been kept in peace. Their fear in the time of danger revealed their unbelief. In their efforts to save themselves, they forgot Jesus; and it was only when, in despair of self-dependence, they turned to Him that He could give them help. (*DA* 336.2)

How often the disciples' experience is ours! When the tempests of temptation gather, and the fierce lightnings flash, and the waves sweep over us, we battle with the storm alone, forgetting that there is One who can help us. We trust to our own strength till our hope is lost, and we are ready to perish. Then we remember Jesus, and if we call upon Him to save us, we shall not cry in vain. Though He sorrowfully reproves our unbelief and self-confidence, He never fails to give us the help we need. Whether on the land or on the sea, if we have the Saviour in our hearts, there is no need of fear. Living faith in the Redeemer will smooth the sea of life, and will deliver us from danger in the way that He knows to be best. (*DA 336.3*)

There is another spiritual lesson in this miracle of the stilling of the tempest. Every man's experience testifies to the truth of the words of Scripture, "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest.... There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Isaiah 57:20, 21. Sin has destroyed our peace. While self is unsubdued, we can find no rest. The masterful passions of the heart no human power can control. We are as helpless here as were the disciples to quiet the raging storm. But He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee has spoken the word of peace for every soul. However fierce the tempest, those who turn to Jesus with the cry, "Lord, save us," will find deliverance. His grace, that reconciles the soul to God, quiets the strife of human passion, and in His love the heart is at rest.

*(DA 336.4)*



They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the LORD, And his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. (Psalm 107:23–30)