

MINING FOR GOLD IN THE GOSPELS

This evening I would like to go on a treasure hunt with all of you. Most of us have at one time or another read or heard about some of the great treasure finds of history. From the golden treasures of Ancient Pharaohic Egypt, in King Tut's tomb to the fabled lost gold of the Incas we have thought about what it must be like to first stumble on hidden treasure. The sunken galleons and their hordes of gold and silver coins, the gem stones of India and the fabled lost cities all keep the treasure hunters going.

But did you know the single largest buried treasure ever unearthed was not too far from us in the state of Nevada? This is a page from recent American history that is worth repeating and helping us as we start in our study of the Gospel by Mark. Let me share with you the secret of mining for gold in the Gospel by Mark as you open with me to Mark 1.

Now that you are there, let me remind you of the Wild West of 150 years past. Prospectors and gold diggers were crisscrossing the West a century and a half ago. The great gold strikes in California only fanned the treasure hunter's hearts as they dug, mined, and panned for gold across the western states. Among the many stories of this period one stands out most vividly when gold was found at the head of Six-Mile Canyon in the territory of Nevada in 1859.

Two miners named Pat McLaughlin and Peter O'Reilly found a small vein of gold and immediately went to town to sell it and buy a drink. In their weakened state from alcohol, a fellow miner, Henry Comstock, stumbled upon their find and claimed it was on his property. The gullible McLaughlin and O'Reilly believed him and assured Comstock a place in history when the giant lode was named. The most amazing part of the story though is not the loss of O'Reilly and McLaughlin, it is the amazing amount of treasure that was actually there all the time and yet unnoticed for so long!

When Comstock began following the thin vein of gold up the canyon, he found an outcropping of gold in quartz. Each day as he went to town to sell his gold to the assayer's office he would bitterly complain. He kept telling them that his biggest problem in his grubstake paradise was the sticky blue-gray mud that so tenaciously clung to his mules, his wagons, his picks, his shovels, and most of all like lead to his boots. With that the assayer came around the counter with a knife and asked if he could scrape some of this mud off his boots.

When the mud was assayed, it proved to be silver ore worth over \$2,000 a ton - but that was in 1859 dollars! That was a dollar per shovel full then or in terms we understand in January 2000 money - it was equal to over **\$400 per shovel scooped!** Can you imagine the way he ran back and began to shovel the gray dirt when he made it back to his land? Literally billions No wonder the Crocker Bank of California and the Hearst Fortune both began here.

Have you started turning shovels of blessings into gold from the Gospels? There is a simple way to do just that:

FINDING CHRIST IN MARK

HIS ACTIONS: What He did.	HIS SELF-DESCRIPTION: What He said.	HIS REPUTATION: What others said.
1. Mark 1:25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" HE REBUKE DEMONS	Mark 2:19 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. HE IS OUR BRIDEGROOM	Mark 1:7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. HE IS DIVINE
2. Mark 1:31 So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. HE HEALS SICKNESS	Mark 2:28 "Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." HE IS LORD OF THE LAW, SABBATH	Mark 1:24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" HE HAS DIVINE TITLES KNOWN IN SPIRIT WORLD
3. Mark 1:42 As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. HE HEALS LEPROSY	Mark 3:14-15 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, ¹⁵ and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: HE CALLS A NEW PEOPLE AND EMPOWERS THEM	Mark 3:11 And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God." HE TERRIFIES DEMONS
4. Mark 2:5 when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." HE FORGIVES SIN	Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." HE IS THE JUDGE OF ALL	Mark 5:7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." HE HAS THE POWER OF ETERNAL DESTRUCTION
5. Mark 2:8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? HE READS MINDS	Mark 9:31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." HE EXACTLY KNEW THE FUTURE	Mark 8:29 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." HE IS VERIFIED BY CLOSEST FRIENDS AS SUM OF ALL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES
6. Mark 2:11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." HE HEALS PARALYSIS	Mark 13:32 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. HE IS LIMITED IN HIS INCARNATION	Mark 16:6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. HE IS VERIFIED BY ANGELS AS IMMORTAL
7. Mark 4:39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. HE MASTERS THE WEATHER	Mark 13:35 "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— HE DETERMINES DESTINY AS MASTER	
8. Mark 6:51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they	Mark 14:24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which	

<p>were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. HE CALMS STORMS</p>	<p>is shed for many. HE INAUGURATES THE GREATEST COVENANT</p>	
<p>9. Mark 9:3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. HE SHINES WITH GLORY</p>	<p>Mark 14:62 Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." HE IS MESSIAH</p>	
<p>10. Mark 9:33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" HE READS MINDS</p>		
<p>11. Mark 14:36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." HE UNIQUELY RELATES TO GOD</p>		
<p>12. Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. HE CHOOSES WHEN TO DIE</p>		

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2. Mark 1:24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" **HE HAS DIVINE TITLES KNOWN IN SPIRIT WORLD AND FROM ISAIAH (30 X) 10:17, 20; 17:7; 29:19, 23; 48:17**
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