

## Learning and Teaching

### Mark 10:1

Charlie Brackett

Jesus "...arose from there," our text says, "and came to the region of Judea by the other side of the Jordan." This marks the end of Christ's Galilean ministry. His ministry there took Him to every corner of the region, circling from one side to another teaching and healing in every city and village. Now, Mark tells us Jesus passed from Galilee to Judea, which journey ended in a triumphal entry into Jerusalem followed by severe opposition from religious leaders. The ordeal of the cross loomed ever nearer.

Luke 9:51-54 informs us that Jesus planned to journey to Jerusalem, apparently through Samaria. He sent messengers into Samaria to prepare for His arrival, but the Samaritan village they visited did not receive Him. Verse 53 says it was, "because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem." So He journeyed from Galilee into Perea on the east side of the Jordan river, south past Samaria and then back across the Jordan into Judea.

Now notice the last part of Mark 10:1. "And multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again." In this word-picture of our Savior, there is a wonderful lesson which will help us be more effective in His cause. Notice that He was *accustomed* to teaching them, and that they came to Him *again*. I want us to see the continuity of this thought. Jesus had been away from them for awhile, but when He returned He was the same as before; He did what was His custom: He taught them. And they did what was customary: they came to Him to be taught.

There are two lessons here. First, let's be like the multitude and make it our custom to be taught by the Savior. Second, let's emulate the Master in His teaching. They came to Jesus again because He continued to be willing to teach, He continued to give them worthwhile instruction, and He continued to live the kind of life that would enhance, not detract from His message.

Everyone who professes to be a student of the Master Teacher, must recognize and shoulder his or her own responsibility as a teacher. Then, to be able to continue just as Jesus continued we must maintain a disciplined life. A teacher for Jesus must live a godly life, as free from sin as possible, so as not to detract from the gospel message. Next, we must continue to work at it. God's word must be studied. The message we teach must bear the same marks of divine authority as did Christ's. And, finally, we must persevere. Christ never gave up; He never got side-tracked. We also must continue as long as there are souls to save, as long as God gives us time in which to work.