



Questions

- These statements have an element of truth, but at minimum are incomplete—what should they say?
 - Let go and let God
 - Do you best and hope for the rest
 - All you have to do is accept Jesus and nothing else

Big Picture

- Fall ABF study in the gospel of Mark
 - 12 Lessons
- Fall and winter sermon series in the gospel of Mark
 - 22 Lessons
- **Why?**
 - We need to see Jesus Christ more clearly
 - We need to respond more actively to Jesus' call to be disciples who make disciples

The gospel of Mark

Jesus Christ, Son of God

**Divine authority,
Suffering servant,
Redemptive Savior**

The Gospel of Mark

- What is a gospel?
 - The word generally means, “good news”
 - Often used of a proclamation of good news

“ **Acts 10:36–41** As for the word that he sent to Israel, **preaching good news** of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), **37** you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40** but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, **41** not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. (ESV) ”

The Gospel of Mark

- What is a gospel?
 - The word generally means, “good news”
 - Details relating to the life, ministry and death of Jesus Christ
 - the descriptions of events and the message
 - a specific type of genre
 - Technically
 - It came to refer to the preaching about Jesus Christ and God’s saving power through Him for all who believe
 - Mark’s writing is called **a** Gospel because it contains **the** Gospel.
 - **Gospels are theology in the context of life**

“ The essence of other religions is advice; Christianity is essentially news. Other religions say, “This is what you have to do in order to connect to God forever; this is how you have to live in order to earn your way to God.” But the gospel says, “This is what has been done in history. This is how Jesus lived and died to earn the way to God for you.” Christianity is completely different. It’s joyful news. ”

Tim Keller

The Gospel of Mark

- 1st Gospel written, mid 50s AD
 - So we must seek to read it the way the original audience would have read it
- By John Mark
- To a Gentile audience

Mark Overview


- Fast paced
- **Movement**
 - From village to village
 - Around and on the sea—boat
 - On the way
 - In and out of Jerusalem
- Orally visual
 - The details of an eyewitness are clearly presented

Mark Overview

- Key declarations
 - Mark 1:1

Title/Theme

- 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ (8:29) . . . the Son of God (15:39)
- “ichthus”
 - Ιησους — Jesus
 - Χριστος — Christ
 - Θεου — Of God
 - Υιος — Son
 - Σωτηρ — Savior



- “Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son Of God, the Savior”

Mark Overview

- Key declarations
 - Mark 1:1
 - Mark 8:29
 - Mark 15:39
 - Mark 10:45
- The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- "You are the Christ."
- "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
- "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Special Features

- *Secrecy Motif*
 - Irony
 - Whenever Jesus told people to keep quiet as to who He was, they didn't listen
 - When Jesus tells the disciples to tell others who He is. . .
- *Crowd Motif*
 - In contrast to the secrecy motif, Mark also emphasizes the crowds that not only gather but encroach on Jesus
- Note the interplay between these two motifs
 - As the story moves from village to village, to on the boat, to on the way, to finally in and out of Jerusalem

Special Features

- No genealogy given
- No birth recorded
- No mention of childhood at Nazareth
- No reference to pre-existence
- No lengthy discourses and few parables

“

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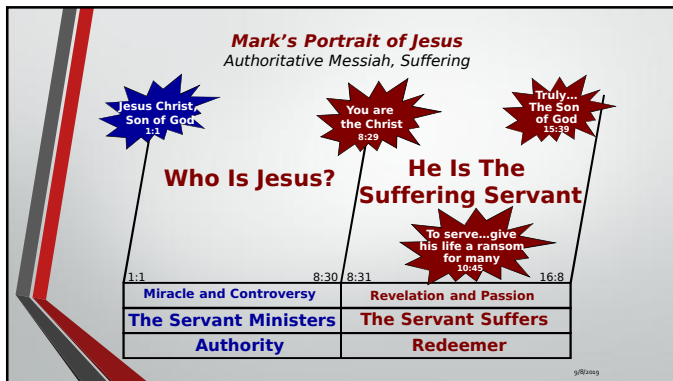
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Structure

- Acts 10:36-41
 - Beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed
 - God anointed Jesus with Holy Spirit and with power
 - Went around, doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil
 - We are witnesses—in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem
 - They put him to death...God raised on the third day
 - He appeared...to us...who have been chosen as witness
- Mark
 - Mark 1:1-15
 - Mark 1:16-8:30
 - Mark 1:16-6:6
 - Mark 6:7-8:30
 - Mark 8:31-16:8
 - Mark 8:31-10:51
 - Mark 11:1-16:8

Structure

- Multiple layers of structure to
 - 1st half—Jesus Christ's authority
 - 2nd half—Jesus Christ's suffering and redemptive work
- Pivot
 - Peter's declaration Mark 8:29



Subject Purpose Statement

- **Subject**
 - Mark action-packed gospel, records a number of miracles and encounters from the life of Jesus, to reveal the true identity of Jesus,
 - the Messiah (1:1; 8:29),
 - the Son of God (1:1; 15:39) (Christological focus),
 - the servant who was rejected by Israel, but who came to give His life as a ransom for all (10:45)
- **Purpose**
 - in order to evoke a lasting responds in words and deeds from his Gentile audience, as they follow as true disciples (Discipleship focus).

FOLLOW ME

The Call to Be and Make Disciples

A study in the Gospel of Mark

The goal of our study

- Mark has two primary themes that are interwoven through the gospel—
 - Christology
 - Answering the question, “Who is Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God?”
 - Discipleship
 - Answering the question, “How should we follow Jesus?”

The goal of our study

- Themes create several key goals for our study of the Gospel of Mark:
 - **Enhance** our vision of Jesus—the more we love Him, the more we become like Him
 - **Expand** our commitment to discipleship—understanding the calling and purpose as well as character and cost of discipleship
 - **Excitement** to share what God has done for us through Jesus Christ—to invite others to join us on the journey, to make disciples

The goal of our study


- **Key Questions to ask:**
 - Who do we follow?
 - What do we learn about Jesus?
 - What should we be?
 - What does a disciple look like?
 - What are we to do?
 - How can we develop a legacy as disciples who make disciples?

Challenge

- Read the whole book first week—12 minutes per day, will take 7 days to read Mark

Each week there after

- Minimal Exposure challenge
 - 15 + 10 + 5 x 3
 - 15 minutes reading
 - 10 minutes observing and reflecting
 - 5 minutes praying
 - 3 times each week
- Engagement challenge
 - 15 + 15 + 10 x 4
 - 10-15 minutes reading
 - 15 minutes observing and reflecting
 - 10 minutes reflecting, praying and worshipping (as a start)
 - 4 times each week



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