

THE GOSPEL *of*

**MARK**



## Gospel of Mark

- Section 1 – Who Is this Jesus?
  - Mk. 1:1 “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”
  - encountering Jesus – teaching, authority, display of His power.....
- Section 2 – The Way to Jerusalem
  - disciples struggling to understand how....
  - doesn't look like we imagined
- Section 3 – Jerusalem – Jesus Provides a Way

# THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

First and Last

“They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.”

Mark 9:30-32

# THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

First and Last

## Simple Observations:

- Jesus' fame at an all time high – pursued
- teaching disciples, avoiding crowd to teach
- Highly detailed
  - will allow myself to be taken – delivered to
  - will result in my physical death – killed
  - will arise in three days
- confusing for disciples – big implications
- afraid of the answer if they asked!

# THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

First and Last

“And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.” 33-37

## Simple Observations

- disciples discussion – greatness
- when asked – did not want to tell Jesus
- sat them down
  - not to rebuke them
  - but to redefine Greatness with them
- uses an object lesson

## 1. Desire for Greatness

a) Personal Belief – reflection of God in us

- gifts and abilities, ambition, significance
- scripture clear – called to be .....
- empowered, equipped, examples

b) Distortion of Greatness

- sin has colored our view on this
- comparison – greater than .....
- reputation & influence – get value from
- desire for fame & glory

## c) Jesus Re-defines Greatness

- willingness to be last, the servant
- look at Jesus model and example
- servant of all (not just those who respond)

## 2. Object Lesson

a) status and role of children in that society

b) Jesus clear – action of in His arms

- receive him in My name
- Important – receives the Father as well



# THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

First and Last

“John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.” 38-41

## Simple Observations

- John thought He was doing the right thing
- someone using Jesus name – successfully
- told him to stop ..... Why
  - not a part of our tribe
  - not dedicated and traveling with us
  - don't know this guy
- Jesus – don't stop him
  - if mighty works done, will not speak against

# THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

First and Last

- not against us – for us
  - let God decide and deal with it
- those who recognize children of God and respond kindly will be seen and rewarded by God



## So What?

Go Backwards in passage

### 1. God will see and set right

- if using God's name – let Him look after it
- set down tradition, training, style, etc.

### 2. Ease up on those not opposing

- not attacking or contradicting – not outspoken
- check out Joseph of Arimathea

## 3. Children have amazing value

- serving them, training them up, matters
- God sees us sacrificing & serving his kids – matters to him.

## 4. Greatness needs to be Defined in Your life

- authentic desire to be significant, legacy, wise
- distortion needs to be checked
  - reputation and influence issues
  - comparison and source issues

# THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

First and Last

- true greatness defined by Jesus, modeled by Jesus, rewarded in the Kingdom
  - servant who is willing to be last, poured out blessing others, as Jesus has gifted and asked

## 5. Uncomfortable Truths

- God is for you – not about you
- God gives us difficult truths about this life, how his plan will unfold, suffering and loss, persecution
- affects our world, directs our choices, bring fear
- don't be afraid to ask, wrestle and allow truth