

An aerial photograph of the Dead Sea, showing the deep blue water and the surrounding arid, brownish-yellow landscape. The title 'THE GOSPEL of MARK' is overlaid in white text. 'THE' is written vertically on the left, 'GOSPEL' is in a large serif font, 'of' is in a smaller script font, and 'MARK' is in a large bold serif font inside a white rectangular box.

THE GOSPEL *of* **MARK**

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

My Desire for Us.....

- * See Clearly the Gospel

- Jesus the Son of God
- Amazed how God Initiated, Provided a Way, Invited us Into Relationship

- * Respond Clearly to Gospel

- Who do You say Jesus is?
- Renew the wonder, worship,

- * How we Live would Reflect this Truth

- Courage to Change

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

1. We Grow Comfortable with Things

- in regular life and relationships
- spiritually a truth

a) Dull of Hearing - Heb. 5:11-14 “About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

- tendency to non-engagement
- growth and maturing is expected

2. Amazing Truth – James 1:16-18 “Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

a) careful we are prone to deception

- we earn, we deserve
- Jesus and.....

b) from God who is....

- able, choosing to...
- unchanging – unaffected by your culture etc.

c) first fruits

- made alive in Christ, relationship restored

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

3. Engaged in Hearing and Responding

- James 1:19-22 “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

a) Quick to Hear

- awake, aware, ready to receive
- looking for and engaging in...

b) Slow to Speak

- reflective, choosing words with care
- different than announcing intention without accountability for action
- importance of articulating, choosing words
- checking the heart – important (1 Cor. 13)

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

c) Slow to Anger

- inner lawyers are awesome
- challenge our assumptions, cultural values
- pet peeves, personal reaction to things
- surrender is difficult, blocked by anger
- where is it coming from, how will I react

d) Put Away

- that which is not from God
- that which empowers me to serve self

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

e) Receive with Meekness

- not receive partially, suspiciously, critically
- gk – welcome, look with eagerness to....
- submission to truth
- teachable, inclined to hear, open

f) Implanted Word

- something God has put into you
- needs feeding, growth, maturing
- rooted and built up, deeper, more
- bearing fruit

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

g) Able to Save Soul

- life and death issues, power to save

h) Hearing and Doing

- information not enough, must be used
- deceived to have information not applied
- foundation for community group ministry
 - our heart is that you are in biblical community

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

So What?

1. Word of God living and active

- Heb. 4:12-13 “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

- will reveal, expose, equip, renew if you let it

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

2. Ask God to Reveal

- where I have become dull, comfortable
- wonder at who He is, what He has done, renew

3. Be Prepared and Intentional

- spend time with how to listen, articulate, respond

4. Make the Commitment

- read the gospel
- get into community to learn
- be engaged in what God will do