

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 over.....
- Section 2 – The Way to Jerusalem
  - disciples struggling to understand how....
  - doesn't look like we imagined
- Section 3 – Jerusalem – Jesus Provides a Way



## Blind Man at Bethsaida – Mark 8:22-26

“And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?” And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. And he sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

## 1. Interesting Details

- only recorded in Mark's gospel
- taken away from others witnessing
- healing is gradual – not one and done
- Jesus doesn't make a pronouncement, asks
- sends him back – don't even go tell people

## 2. Lessons for today

- a) Evidence of Jesus identity



- question from John the Baptist (Luke 7)

- answer – vs.22 “And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.”

### b) Some See Gradually

- not a casting out, dramatic instant thing

- ok to come to understand, see dimly and be persistent in seeing clearly

### c) Timing and Understanding Important

- healed man does not understand Jesus mission or how this will look
- create an expectation of simply changing the temporary, not seeing big picture



## The Most Important Question – Mark 8:27-33

“And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

“And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”



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The Question

## 1. Location is Interesting

- 25 miles from Galilee - Caesarea Philippi
- headwaters of Jordan River, Pagan temples
  - literal 'gates of hell' found here
  - worship of 'Pan' – other gods
  - worshiped 'dancing goats'
- interesting that it is here Jesus asks this question

## 2. Two Questions

### a) Who do People say I am?

- crowds are massive
- confronted by religious leaders
- miracles and evidences the talk of the town
- who do they say I am?
- mighty spiritual figure – undeniable you are from God
- interesting – the general population has not connected Jesus as Messiah



## b) Who Do You Say I Am?

- Peter steps in – you are the Christ
- Matthew 16 gives more detail “Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”
- revealed as the messiah, the promised Savior
- important moment – they understand

### 3. Don't Tell Anyone

#### a) Expectations of The Savior

- physical kingdom with king & ruler
- away from Roman occupation
- established on a world stage
- they would rule & reign with Christ

#### b) How they see Jesus mission

- earthly return to power
- common understanding – delivered now



## 4. Jesus Begins to Tell Them

### a) Suffering Servant King

- Isaiah 53 – suffering for our sake

- “And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again”

- this will look very different than you imagine

## b) Taken Aside by Peter

- begins to rebuke Jesus
- Jesus confronts this harshly
- “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”
- you don't see what God is doing here
- will tell them three more times on this journey the plain truth



## So What

1. We live among many forms of 'spirituality' and ideas about what God should be up to
  - value spirituality – not surrender to God
2. We have the living inspired Word of God to reveal, and witness Jesus Power and Authority
  - encounter Jesus and presence of God
3. We will have to answer the question
  - who do they say Jesus is?
  - who do you say Jesus is?

4. When you Declare – Jesus is the Messiah
- that will come with some expectations
  - often the source of ‘disappointment with God’
    - a) truth is there to be discovered
      - Holy Spirit will reveal truth, expose lies
    - b) will you set your mind on the ‘things of God’ or the ‘things of man’?
      - some of those are uncomfortable and challenging