



THE GOSPEL *of*

MARK

The Good News

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

The Good News

Mark 1:1... The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

Mark has crafted an incredible masterpiece outlining his thesis that Jesus was the Son of God and supports it with the evidence of the life, the work, the teaching, the signs, and the death of Jesus as well as the shocking empty tomb that Jesus no longer occupies

Key Themes

1. Authority

- Teaching – “And they were astonished at his teaching for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes” (1:22)
- Over Spirits – Jesus confronts evil spirits regularly and they obey him (1:27)
- Over sickness – Jesus heals people from every disease (1:34)
- To forgive sin – “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” (2:9-11)
- Lord of the Sabbath – 2:27
- Over nature – even the winds and waves obey him! (4:39)
- Over death – Jesus brings Jairus’ daughter back to life (5:41)

Key Themes

1. Authority

2. Amazement/Awe

- 12 times in the first 9 chapters – 8 times the people were astonished or amazed, 3 times the disciples were terrified amazed (Jesus calms the storm, walks on water and transfiguration), and once Jesus “marvels” at the unbelief in his hometown
- Mark has shown the reader how the crowds responded to Jesus’s miracles, teaching, signs and even his presence, “And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him.” (9:15)

Key Themes

1. Authority
2. Amazement/Awe
3. Opposition

- Mark very clearly shows the escalation of opposition to Jesus. It begins very mild but builds throughout the book
- It is important to note how the religious leaders see Jesus differently than the common people – they see Jesus as a threat that needs to be eliminated to keep the balance of power and the people see Jesus as a famous prophet and miracle worker who they “clamour” to see
- The disciples also see Jesus differently, but are unable to understand who he really is and what his mission is

What We Need From The Good News in Mark

1. The Good News Gives Us Hope

- Let's face it... life is hard and we all desperately need hope
- We are heading into a difficult season where despair, depression and discouragement threaten to engulf us and drown us
- As we investigate the person and work of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, it will bring you hope
- This hope is for us but not exclusively – 1 Peter 3:15-16... But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

What We Need From The Good News in Mark

1. The Good News Gives Us Hope

2. The Good News Reminds Us to Fix Our Eyes on Jesus

- When we get overwhelmed, we tend to focus on the problems we face rather than Jesus
- We are like Peter when he tries to walk out to Jesus on the water
- Hebrews 12:1-3... “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

What We Need From The Good News in Mark

1. The Good News Gives Us Hope

2. The Good News Reminds Us to Fix Our Eyes on Jesus

3. The Good News Infuses Weary Souls with Joy

- When we look closely at the life-giving testimony about Jesus, we are reminded of our unworthiness to be embraced by him into this faith and this salvation, and are left to marvel that God would call us his own because of his great love and mercy
- Psalm 51:10-12... “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”