

The Gospel of Mark

Intro Comments ...

“To show that God’s grace through Christ fulfills the promises of the Old Testament, Mark explains further who this Jesus really is” Concordia Self-Study Bible.

“...the whole story of the world – and of how we fit into it – is most clearly understood through a careful, direct look at the story of Jesus. My purpose here is to show, through his words and actions, how beautifully his life makes sense of ours” *Jesus The King* by T. Keller

Mark (John Mark) – companion to Paul and Barnabas on first missionary journey

Some evidence to claim he was the secretary and translator for Peter

Recipients primarily Gentile (not as familiar with OT Jewish traditions)

Not favorable time for followers of the Way

Focused more on what Jesus did than what He said ... the One expected, here is the proof

Main Emphasis on

The Cross ... His ... Ours

Discipleship

The Teachings of Jesus (Teacher)

The Messianic Secret (Time & Place)

Son of God

Basic Difference from the other Gospels ...

Matthew: Present Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (connecting the dots)

Luke: Background being a Physician definitely emphasizes the healing miracles, along with the early years of Jesus, confirms has the testimony of countless eyewitnesses

John: Supplements the earlier Gospels, more theological in approach, emphasizing the relationship of the Trinity and all supportive of the salvation plan, keys in on the last days of Jesus

Ways to know the Bible is true ... come up with three

a)

b)

c)

How has Jesus been a significant part of your life up to this point?

How do you see Jesus being a significant part of your life going forward?

1) We are not the answer to the Universe.

2) We are not the answer to life's ills.

A few Sources to keep in mind for further reading –

The People's Bible: Mark

Be Prepared to Answer ... More Prepared to Answer, Mark Paustian

The Theology of the Cross, Daniel Deutschlander

From Atheism to Christianity: The Story of C. S. Lewis

Jesus The King, Tim Keller

The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel

A Skeptics Search for God, Ralph Muncaster

***“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God, and that by believing you may have
life in his name” ... John 20:31***

***“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” ... 2 Peter 3:18***

Glorify God ... Grow in Grace ... Go with the Gospel

What do you notice is missing in the opening comments of Mark, and why is this the case?

What is in a name, in this case, the name Jesus Christ? (Son of God)

What is the news which has filled and is filling our world?

What is the news which needs to fill this world, and why is this to be the case?

What was the role of John the Baptist?

Describe John the Baptist.

What clue(s) do we have that John the Baptist understood this role?

How long did the Lord and others know that John the Baptist would have this role?

What is the significance of that last question and answer?

Summarize the message of John the Baptist. Contrast that to 'preachers / churches' in our day.

The point of Jesus being baptized was ...

"out of the water" ...

Who else is present at the Baptism of Jesus?

Why was their presence important?

How long did Jesus have to enjoy His 'Baptism?'

See Hebrews 4:14-16

See Ephesians 6:10-18

Moving right along, 6 months later, why was John the Baptist put in prison?

What was Jesus doing at this time?

Define 'repentance.'

Not catch and sell but rather catch and set free. Who can explain what is meant by that statement?

The call of discipleship implies what is all included with it? (Matthew 22)

What amazed the people who had witnessed the miracle recorded in verses 21-28?

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a)

b)

What did Jesus use to carry out this miracle?

Significance ...

What was the result of this miracle?

How does doing miracles help with Jesus' identity?

What does this miracle recorded in verses 29-34 reveal about Peter?

How does the mother-in-law serve as an example for us?

Why would Jesus not let the demons speak since they knew who He was (is)?

Healing on the Sabbath was Jesus' way of saying what to the people (Mark does not put emphasis on this...)?

How is your time for personal reflection going?

Advice for others related to personal reflection time ...

What was the purpose for Jesus coming in flesh?

How would you respond to someone who says Jesus does not care about the individual (me)?

What lesson can we learn in how the leper approached Jesus?

In directing the healed leper to do what told in verse 44, what was Jesus doing?

Because the man did not follow Jesus' direction what was the result?

What are some situations that have arisen, while having good intentions, send the wrong message or come with unintended circumstances when the advice of Jesus is not heeded?

Something further to think about ...

Christianity is a relatively new belief system. Comment.

Read through the Athanasian Creed (p. 132-133 CW). What is this Creed confessing?

Comment. (Lewis) "In Christianity God is not a static thing ... but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, almost a kind of drama." *What do you think he meant by this comment?*

What will we have to face, as Jesus did; and how can we face them? (Acts 14:22; 1 Corinthians 10:12,13)

How is the Gospel 'life-shaping' news?

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Been done for you ... significance of those words

Possible to have a relationship with Jesus how ... (consider the calling of the 12)

Jesus had nothing 'new' to offer the people and yet it was 'new.' Explain.

Explain. The roots of the discontent of the human heart go deep. (reference 35-38)

Who or what is building your identity? And how does your answer impact your life outlook?

Agree or Disagree. We need to be forgiven.

Why had so many gathered to the point there was no room left?

What is meant by the phrase, "When Jesus saw their faith"?

What evidence are we given which points to His identity, the very thing the teachers of the law denied?

So which is easier ... to forgive sins ... or to enable a person to walk?

Why take note of the response of the people after witnessing this miracle and conversation?

This leads to meaning of life question ... PROBLEM ... SOLUTION.

What approach to mission work do we catch from Jesus?

See Matthew 28:18-20

See Romans 10:12-17

What could you say was unusual in the choosing of Matthew (Levi) to be one of the core disciples?

What were the teachers of the law and the Pharisees missing about themselves?

See Matthew 7:3-5

Who are the 'healthy' and who are the 'sick' in this case?

What is the point of fasting, spiritually speaking?

What was Jesus alluding to already with His response to the people's question on fasting?

Sum up what Jesus was saying with the wineskins illustration.

See Hebrews 10:1-4

See Colossians 2:16-17

What words would serve as a fitting description of the Pharisees given the times they have been mentioned in Mark?

The account referenced here is found in 1 Samuel 21.

Was the Sabbath made for man, or man for the Sabbath (explain too why an important distinction)?

Who was this person doing miracles, talking up free salvation, challenging the religious ideas of the day?

Is there a distinction between people living for Christ and people living for the church?

What had the teachers of the law and the Pharisees done with God's Law and Gospel?

Can 'that ' still happen in the church today? (if so, examples ...)

What preconceived ideas about faith and God do we bring into the church?

Agree or Disagree. Jesus declares not that He has come to reform religion but that He's here to end religion and replace it with Himself.

What is Jesus wanting to do in this situation, and why?

What did the religious leaders of that time know about Jesus?

What kind of reaction was Jesus stirring, and what was the draw to Him?

Apostle – one personally chosen by the Lord, sent out

What authority were these disciples given to confirm their message?

Why was it foolish to accuse Jesus of being a partner with Satan?

What is the difference between a person sinning and a person sinning against the Holy Spirit?

Jesus was not dising his immediate earthly family; however He was making what point?

Something further to think about ...

In connection with verse 4, how is that question still applicable to be posed to people?

The Sabbath is about restoring, replenishing, repairing (hospital and gas station) ... not rules

Comment. One day a week is all the 'rest' we need.

If we don't have the 'rest' of Jesus, what do we have?

Mediate versus Immediate Call

What form does opposition today take to stop the spread of the Gospel?