

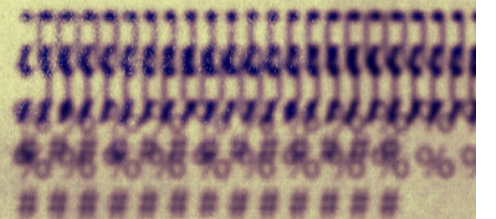
THE GOSPEL OF MARK

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CHAPTERS 1-16

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL

OF JESUS THE SON OF GOD





Week 1 – Mark 1:1-45

Day 1 – Mark 1:1-13

What do we learn about 'John' in this section?

What do we learn about Jesus in this section?

If everyone is getting baptised because of 'repentance for the forgiveness of sins', why do you think Jesus would get baptised?

One author has said that in this introduction, God is breaking into history, tearing open the heavens... Jesus has come; anything can happen now...

How does the fact that God has invaded human history change things?

Day 2 – Mark 1:14-28

How does Jesus demonstrate his authority in this passage?

What is the essential message that Jesus declares?

How does this compare with how you would explain the gospel?

What difference does it make to you that this authoritative Jesus is Lord today?

Day 3 – Mark 1:29-34

How does Jesus demonstrate his authority in this passage?

What difference does it make knowing that your Lord Jesus has this kind of control?

What do you think we could learn from Simon's mother-in-law's response to being healed?

Considering why people are getting excited about Jesus, why do you think Jesus won't let the demons speak about who he is?

Day 4 – Mark 1:35–39

Given the authority that Jesus has been demonstrating, what does he do in this passage which is surprising?

What do you think it means that Jesus, the Son of God, needed prayer and solitude?



Imagine the following that these amazing healings would bring. Why is Jesus' response so important?

Day 5 – Mark 1:40-45

If Jesus' main aim was preaching, what do we learn about him in his interaction with the leper?

Why do you think Jesus would tell this man:

- * to keep quiet?
- * To offer Old-Testament sacrifices?

Day 6 – Mark 1:1-45

As you have read Mark this week:

- * what has surprised you?
- * What has confused you?
- * What has comforted you?

Day 7- Psalm 1

What does this tell you about God and His Word?



Week 2 – Mark 2:1-4:34

Day 1 – Mark 2:1-17

What would seem to be the greatest need of the Paralytic?

How is Jesus' response to the Paralytic surprising?

What does this tell us about our different needs?

How do you think Levi would have felt when Jesus ate with him?

Do you share that amazement at the fact that Jesus wants to know you?

Day 2 – Mark 2:18-3:6

The people here are very concerned to be 'religious' by keeping the Fasting and Sabbath rules. How does Jesus' conduct compare with this?

What does Jesus say will happen if they try to contain him in the existing religious rules and structures? (2:19-22)

How does this comparison between the dutiful legalism of the people and the live-giving joy of Jesus impact how we should live out our faith today?

Day 3 – Mark 3:7-19

Verse 6 showed the religious leaders failing to recognise who Jesus really was.

How is this contrasted in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus called apostles and gave them the same kind of authority that he had?

What can you learn about being a follower of Jesus from the calling of the apostles?

What is unique for them?

Day 4 – Mark 3:20-35

What does the section say about who Jesus' family are?



What does this mean for you? How will it change how you live today?

According to this passage, how serious is it to not recognise who Jesus is?

Day 5 – Mark 4:1-20

What is the main point of this parable?

What does it tell you about the Kingdom of God?

What does it tell you about the Christian life?

How can you identify with this parable?

Day 6 – Mark 4:21-34

How do each of these parables:

- challenge you?

- comfort you?

Day 7- Psalm 119:1-16

What does this tell you about God and His Word?



Week 3 – Mark 4:35-6:56

Day 1 – Mark 4:35-41

What does this tell us about Jesus?

What does this tell us about trusting Jesus?

Where do you struggle to focus on who is with you (Jesus) rather than your circumstances?

Day 2 – Mark 5:1-20

List the ways the man in the story was broken / alienated

List the ways that Jesus brought him healing / wholeness

What does this tell us about Jesus?

Now Jesus isn't in his homeland anymore he tells the man to tell others. Why do you think Jesus would allow this man to speak of who he was?

Day 3 – Mark 5:21-43

How do people show their faith in Jesus here?

What do you learn about Jesus through:

* his reactions to the two people?

* His willingness to spend time with the woman when he was already doing something for an important leader?

* What he says in v.39?

How do these stories challenge you to grow in your faith?

How do these stories comfort you in your sometimes weak faith?

Day 4 – Mark 6:1-13

How and why is Jesus opposed?



How do people continue to be unimpressed by Jesus today?

How should this change how you tell others about Jesus?

Day 5 – Mark 6:14-29

How and why does Jesus' follower suffer in this passage?

What does this teach you about what to expect in your life?

Are there places that you need to make a stand for righteousness?

Day 6 – Mark 6:30-56

What does this passage tell you about Jesus?

What does this passage tell you about trusting Jesus?

How do you need to grow in your trust of your Shepherd Jesus?

Day 7- Psalm 119:17-32

What does this tell you about God and His Word?



Week 4 – Mark 7:1-8:26

Day 1 – Mark 7:1-23

What do the religious leaders think makes a person 'unclean'?

What does Jesus say is wrong with their thinking?

What does Jesus say is really wrong with us?

It's not nice to hear that our problem / uncleanness is about something deep within us, not just about what's around us. But how does understanding this actually help us to change?

Day 2 – Mark 7:24-30

How does this story of Jesus hesitating to heal a non-Israelite make you feel?

Do you think Jesus ever owes it to anyone to help them?

What does this story tell you about what you really deserve?

How does Jesus treat the undeserving?

How has he treated you?

Day 3 – Mark 7:31-8:10

At first these two miracles can seem unimpressive as Jesus has already done similar things. Why would it be significant that these two miracles aren't in Israel, but among foreigners?

Are there any people that you think are beyond Jesus' reach? Pray for them.

Day 4 – Mark 8:11-21

How are the Pharisees, the religious leaders, going at understanding who Jesus is and responding to him correctly?

How about his closest disciples?

If it hasn't been the religious elite or his most privileged disciples, what kind of people have been the best models of faith in Jesus so far in Mark?

Who do you resemble in your trust and response to Jesus?



Day 5 – Mark 8:22-30

What does Peter finally realise and confess about Jesus?

We have known this since 1:1. Why do you think Mark has spent so long showing us how people figured this out?

What is different about this healing (8:22-26)?

After this two-stage healing, how do you think Peter's understanding might still be a little fuzzy? (eg. He has recognised Jesus' power and kingship as the Christ, try looking ahead a few verses to see how this could still be a partial understanding of Jesus)

Day 6 – Look back through Mark 1-8

Flick back through Mark 1-8.

What have been the main things you have learnt about Jesus?

Day 7- Psalm 119:33-40

What does this tell you about God and His Word?



Week 5 – Mark 8:27-9:29

Day 1 - Mark 8:27-33

What do you think helped Peter to realise that Jesus was 'the Christ'?

What picture do you think Peter may have had of 'the Christ' that made it incompatible with suffering and dying?

Do you ever have preconceived ideas about what God should do or what the Christian life should be like? Are they ever challenged?

In what ways might Satan have tempted Jesus to embrace his title as king and Christ while not being willing to suffer? How would have Jesus felt to have one of his closest friends suggesting the same thing?

Day 2 - Mark 8:34-9:1

What does this tell us about what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

How do you think it works to gain your life by losing it?

What are ways that you resist taking up your cross?

Day 3 - Mark 9:2-13

What do the disciples see about Jesus on the mountain?

Jesus is shown to be even more glorious than they knew (from observing his miracles and life). How is it possible that this can still be affirmed when he is also to suffer and be rejected?

Does this picture of Jesus challenge the way you view him or yourself?

Day 4 – Mark 9:14-29

What does Jesus say the disciples were getting wrong?

Why would disciples need for humble dependence fit well between two predictions of Jesus' suffering and death?

How do you need to rely more on God and less on yourself?



Day 5 – Following a Crucified King

Compare the pictures of following Jesus in:

Mark 3:13-19, 6:12-13, and;

Mark 8:34-35, 9:35, 10:29-31, 10:42-45, 13:9-13

Do you expect both power and persecution in your service of Jesus?

Day 6- Psalm 119:41-48

What does this tell you about God and His Word?

Day 7- Psalm 119:49-64

What does this tell you about God and His Word?



Week 6 – Mark 9:30-10:52

Day 1 – Mark 9:30-37

According to Daniel 7:9-15, what is the Son of Man to be like?

Why do you think the disciples didn't understand Jesus?

How does their lack of understanding of Jesus flow into not understanding themselves?

Where are you prone to do this?

Day 2 – Mark 9:38-50

Are there any surprising ways that Jesus says people will be judged (either for reward or punishment)?

What is the challenge here for you?

What is the comfort?

Day 3 – Mark 10:1-12

How does this affect your view of marriage?

Do you ever find yourself asking “is it lawful to...?” in a similar way to the Pharisees?

What attitude should we have when genuinely figuring out how to obey?

Day 4 - Mark 10:13-31

How are the children's and the Rich Man's approach to God different?

What surprises you about Jesus' answer to the Rich man?

What does this section teach you about wealth, possessions and riches?

Day 5 – Mark 10:32-45

Why do you think Jesus keeps telling them what is going to happen?

What did the disciples get wrong here?



What kind of greatness do you admire in others?

What are you doing to aspire to true greatness?

Day 6 – Mark 10:46-52

What is your impression of Bartimaeus? Do you think he would fit in if he turned up at our church?

Why do you think people told him to be quiet?

Why do you think Mark put this account straight after the account of the disciples request?

Who are you more like?

Where are you tempted to 'not make a scene' or 'not be too desperate or pathetic' in your need for Jesus?

Day 7- Psalm 119:65-72

What does this tell you about God and His Word?



Week 7 – Mark 11-13

Day 1 – Mark 11:1-19

What is normal about the way king Jesus enters his city?

What is unusual?

If Jesus comes to his people looking for fruitfulness and godliness, what does he find and how does he react?

What do you learn about Jesus from this section?

Do you think Jesus finds the fruitfulness he would like in your life?

Day 2 – Mark 11:20-33

How are you challenged in regard to prayer?

How are you comforted in regard to prayer?

Why do you think Jesus answers his opponents like this?

Day 3 – Mark 12:1-12

What do you think this parable means?

What do you think the 'harvest' was that God wanted from his people?

How do you think this parable speaks to you?

Day 4 – Mark 12:13-43

In each of the questions in this section:

What do you think the questioners are hoping to achieve in asking their question?

How does Jesus show himself to be greater, wiser and more authoritative than they ever expected?

Why do you think Jesus asks them the question he does?



Day 5 – Mark 13:1-25

What should we expect in the last days?

What shouldn't we expect in the last days?

What can we be certain of and comforted by in the last days?

Day 6 – Mark 13:26-37

What should we expect in the last days?

How should we live in the last days?

What can we be certain of and comforted by in the last days?

Day 7- Psalm 119:73-80

What does this tell you about God and His Word?



Week 8 – Mark 14

Day 1 – Mark 14:1-11

What are the four different ways people treat Jesus in this section?

Why do you think the woman does what she does?

What does the reaction of others show about their opinion of Jesus?

Do you ever resemble anyone in this chapter?

How should it change you?

Day 2 – Mark 14:12-26

Why do you think it is significant that Jesus' death was at Passover?

What do we learn here about the meaning of Jesus' coming death?

How should it change the way you think about celebrating the Lord's Supper at church?

Day 3 – Mark 14:27-42

At Jesus, moment of greatest need, how do his friends go at supporting him?

What do you think their actions show about their understanding of Jesus?

What does it mean to you that Jesus felt this way as he approached the cross for your sake?

Day 4 – Mark 14:43-65

What things seem unfair in what happens here?

Is Jesus guilty of blasphemy?

How does Jesus use his authority and power?

What does it mean for you that your God underwent all of this for you?

Day 5 – Mark 14:66-72



Compare who is questioning Peter and Jesus at this time and how each one responds.

Why do you think Peter does what he does?

Can you see how you would be susceptible to do the same thing?

What comfort does it bring you that Peter went on to become one of the great leaders of the early church?

Day 6- Psalm 119:81-96

What does this tell you about God and His Word?

Day 7- Psalm 119:97-112

What does this tell you about God and His Word?



Week 9 – Mark 15 - 16

Day 1 – Mark 15:1-15

What did Pilate seem to think of Jesus?

Why do you think he hands him over to be crucified anyway?

What does what happens with Barabbas tell us about the meaning of Jesus' death?

Day 2 – Mark 15:16-32

What different things is Jesus mocked about?

What is ironic about what Jesus is mocked about?

What does it teach you about God that he would accept this treatment at the hands of his own creation?

How does it change your life knowing that God?

Day 3 – Mark 15:33-41

How does Jesus' cry show:

* how terrible and painful the cross is for him?

* That he still trusts his Father?

The curtain in the temple had symbolised the inability of man to approach God. What do you think it means that it is ripped?

Why do you think the centurion figures out who Jesus is at this point?

Why would it be significant that THIS man is the first to see clearly who Jesus is?

Day 4 – Mark 15:42-16:8

How do Jesus' followers seem to react to his death?

Do you think they had understood what he had been telling them again and again?

Why do you think the women are so afraid?

We can be pretty sure that the original of Mark's gospel finished at 16:8.



If the book of Mark ends with the women hearing of Jesus' resurrection and staying quiet, what do you think it is prompting you to do?

Day 5 – Look back through Mark

How have you been surprised by what Jesus is like?

How have you been comforted by what Jesus is like?

How have you been challenged in how you should follow Jesus?

Day 6- Psalm 119:113-128

What does this tell you about God and His Word?

Day 7- Psalm 119:129-144

What does this tell you about God and His Word?