

The Gospel of Mark

Joshua's Notes

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Introduction

Mark is a very succinct, quick, gospel. He focuses on Jesus as a worker, the deeds of Jesus. That's the significance of this book. Mark was not part of the 12 disciples. He was a young boy during the life and ministry of Jesus. The early church of Jerusalem met in Mark's home. He accompanied the apostle Paul and Barnabas on the first part of their missionary outreach. Mark later became a sort of assistant to the apostle Peter. And most of these events were an eyewitness testimony of Peter, because Mark was so young during the time.

1 Chapter 1

1.1 Verse 1

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
(Mark 1:1)

This gospel of which we are concerned, is the only everlasting good news. Without Jesus, our mentality becomes very materialistic, happiness becomes the end. There would be no meaning to life, and everyone tries to be happy, so they will end up doing bad stuff.

1.2 Verse 2-3

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
Who will prepare your way,
³The voice crying in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make his paths straight,"

(Mark 1:2)

Mark is referring to the prophecy given by Isaiah.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(Isaiah 1:1–3)

This is one of many Old Testament prophecies that actually has a dual fulfillment in that this prophecy relates to the first coming of Jesus, and also the second coming of Christ. And that is many case with many Old Testament prophecies. Mark is pointing out the fact that Isaiah prophesied of one who would come and prepare the way. And we're told who that is.

1.3 Verse 4-5

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

(Mark 1:4–5)

This is a huge move of God, because people were gathering, for one purpose: to confess their sins. It's not easy to get people to get together to talk about their sin, even more so repenting of it. It's a miracle! What does it mean to repent though? Repent means to have a change of mind, to change your actions based on your change of mind. What is this move of God going to do? How does repentance prepare the way of the Lord? We have to go to another gospel account to answer this question.

1.3.1 Why is repenting important?

²⁹When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

(Luke 7:29–30)

The power of repentance is that it opens our hearts to hear God, and respond to him in a positive manner. If there is a hardness of heart that refuses to repent, the Word of God just kind of bounces off us. The people who received Jesus and understood him, they prepared by repenting.

1.4 Verse 6

⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

(Mark 1:6)

Elijah wore much of the same clothes. But more interesting than that is that, in Luke, when the angel prophesied to Zechariah about John the baptist, that John would go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah. But John never performed a miracle, yet the Bible tells us he goes forth in the spirit and power of Elijah, which is shown in his clothing.

1.5 Verse 7

⁷And he preached, saying,

”After me comes he who is mightier than I,
the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop
down and untie.”

(Mark 1:7)

To the jew particular statement elevated Jesus and humbled John. The teachers in Judaism used to say that a teacher could ask pretty much anything of his student except to help him off with his shoes. That was supposed to be beneath any student. John comes along and to speak of the greatness of the one who comes after and says I am not worthy to take off his shoes. He further goes on to contrast his ministry and continues with verse 8.

1.6 Verse 8

⁸”I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

(Mark 1:8)

John is immersing you in water, and he's preparing you to meet Jesus. But Jesus is going to immerse you in God. Jesus is going to bring God into your life. Baptism doesn't change your life, the spirit of God does. Living in him. Baptism won't change the condition of your heart, but being filled with the Holy Spirit will.

1.7 Verse 9-11

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, ”You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

(Mark 1:9–11)

Jesus came to the midst of the Jordan river filled with sinful people, and identified with them. Jesus would hang on the cross after 3 years for these sinners. The bible says he became sin, that we might become the righteousness of God.

1.8 Verse 12

¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

(Mark 1:12)

Jesus had 40 days of temptation, even though we only learn of 3 particular temptations. Imagine being tempted for 40 days. This is Jesus going through what we go through. Most of our lives we have to deal with temptation and the enemy trying to bring us further from God. Jesus came to drink the entire cup of the condition of man.

1.8.1 The sympathy of Jesus

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

(Hebrews 4:15)

He not only experienced what we experienced, but also gave the way not to fall into temptation. With the word of God, and faith, he came through with victory. Which can now become our victory. To be victorious over sin, its not a method, we look to Jesus. We enter into his victory. The source is a person, not a few steps. (As we see on facebook or whatever)

1.9 Verse 14-15

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

(Mark 1:14–15)

Jesus spoke repentance as well. He also said the time was fulfilled, the coming of Messiah!

1.10 Verse 16-18

¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were

fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

(Mark 1:16–18)

This is actually the second time Jesus has spoken to them, and Mark does not record the first time. But now that he has started his Galilean ministry, he called them and they immediately followed him. And Mark loves to use this word "immediately", uses it about 40 times. Peter had a family, and they dropped everything and immediately followed Jesus, even though he was probably the only breadwinner. When Jesus calls us, its nay or yay. Its impossible to do both. Its a decision, are you going to follow Jesus?

1.11 Verse 19-20

¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.
²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

(Mark 1:19–20)

And he says, "I'm going to make you fishers of men." We all talents, what he's saying is take the things he has given you and follow him to the kingdom of God. These guys were fishermen, Jesus said "Fine, let's go fish, but we're gonna fish for different things. You're a bulider, let's go build different things. You're a banker, let's go invest in different things." What you are in the world, bring it into the kingdom, that has eternal scope and value. New goals for old powers.