

A Study of the Gospel of Mark
Week 1: Mark 1 | September 7/8, 2013

Discovering Jesus, Part I:
Who is this Jesus that we're following?



If you don't have a study Bible, please read www.biblica.com/niv/study-bible/mark for background on the book of Mark. In chapter 1, Mark shows his Roman audience important truths about Jesus' identity. [Q] What opinions about Jesus do you hear in the media, at work, or elsewhere? On what do people base their opinions? Jot down a few answers.

Investigate

Read Mark 1:1-15.

In verse 1, Mark immediately sets the stage for his gospel (the good news) by referring to Jesus as *Christ* and *Son of God*. In verses 2-3, Mark quotes prophecies from the Old Testament about what was expected before the Messiah arrived. Read Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3-5 and then compare with Mark 1:1-4.

[Q] Why do you think it was necessary to prepare people for the coming Messiah? How is this true today?

[Q] How are John the Baptist's message and Jesus' words in Mark 1:14-15 different from "self-help" books?

[Q] What do you learn about Jesus' identity and authority in Mark 1:1-15?

Jesus' first words in Mark are, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (1:15). The coming of the kingdom of God means that God's rule over people's hearts and lives is being established in and through Jesus. The kingdom is a whole-Bible theme in that Eden was set up as a little "kingdom" of God with Adam, the first king, commissioned to rule over the earth (Gen. 1:28). The king theme is heightened with the setting up of the kingship in Israel, and especially with David, to whom God promises a lasting dynasty (2 Sam. 7:8-16). With Jesus, this kingdom dawns decisively, and he will one day bring this kingdom to completion, sitting on his throne for all the world to see (Rev. 4:1-11).

Dane Ortlund, *Mark: A 12-Week Study (Knowing the Bible)*

Read Mark 1:16-45.

[Q] In verses 16-20, Jesus promises to make Simon (Peter) and Andrew *fishers of men* if they follow Him. If they do, what are the consequences?

[Q] Look at verses 21-28. Why are the people in Capernaum impressed by Jesus?

[Q] What effect does Jesus' authority have in verses 29-39? What would you say are His priorities?

[Q] Look at verses 40-45. What does Jesus' willingness to touch the leper tell you about our King?

Apply

[Q] Do you consider yourself a follower of Jesus? If so, what is it about Jesus that makes you want to follow Him?

[Q] What is it about Jesus that makes it hard to follow Him?

[Q] What is it about *you* that makes it hard to follow Jesus?

Mark wants us to see that the coming of Jesus calls for decisive action. Jesus is seen as a man of action, moving quickly and decisively from event to event. There is very little teaching in the Gospel of Mark. Mainly, we see Jesus' *doings*. It is His deeds that save us, and therefore we need to respond actively. We must repent, believe, and follow Him. We can't remain neutral. We must not sit and reflect and find excuses for not changing our lives now.
--Tim Keller, Pastor, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NYC

[Q] In Mark 1, we see Jesus, the Son of God, serving, acting with compassion and authority, praying and speaking. How will you follow Him this week?

Talk with other group members about your ideas and commit to being accountable to one another.

Pray
