

# Mark Chapter 1

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# Chapter 1

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# Introduction

- Scholars primarily agree that the Gospel Of Mark is the first Gospel written—even though it is not first in the New Testament organization.
- Before this Gospel, there were no Gospels as such—the Gospels were done in an oral tradition. As eyewitnesses began to die out, it became important to record these traditions in writing—and the church asked John Mark to do this task.
- From verse 1, we understand that this Gospel is about Jesus—the Son of God.
- So tonight, we will break down this chapter into seven sections.

## Preparing The Way For Jesus 1-8

- Mark begins by stating that this is all about Jesus.
- Then Isaiah is referenced regarding John being the one who prepared the way for Jesus—a voice shouting in the wilderness.
- John the Baptist (called such because he was willing to baptize those that repented from sin) was preaching to the people—and he announced that One was coming that was greater than him—he of course was referring to Jesus.
- He states that he baptizes with water—but Jesus will do so with the Spirit.
  - Questions: what does it mean to be baptized with the Spirit?
  - How important is it to prepare the way for Jesus?
  - How important is the humility of John in understanding that Jesus would come and be greater than him? How important is humility in our lives?

# Jesus, The Son Of God Appears 9-15

- Jesus—the One whom John preached about—appears and is baptized by John. (Notice the humility of Jesus—the Son of God—being baptized) And as he was baptized, God approved.
- Next, Jesus is compelled by the Spirit of God to go into the wilderness (and wilderness is both metaphorical and physical)—where He was tempted by Satan.
- Satan messed with Jesus for forty days—and God continued to take care of Jesus.
- After this, Jesus went to Galilee where He preached about the Kingdom of God being near—and telling people to repent of their sins and to believe in God.
  - Questions: Look at Jesus' humility in being baptized by John—it is an amazing example of how we should act.
  - Temptation may come—but God continues to care for us. Think about some temptations you have had where God cared for you.
  - Right after being tempted—and overcoming—Jesus went right to preaching. What have you learned from overcoming temptation that allows you to preach to others?

# Jesus Calls The First Disciples 16- 20

- Jesus was walking along the shore and saw Simon and his brother Andrew fishing—and told them to follow Him and Jesus would show them how to fish for people.
- So immediately they left and followed Him.
- A little farther up, Jesus saw James and John repairing their nets—as they were fishermen as well—and Jesus called them and they too immediately followed Jesus—and, they left their father Zebedee behind.
  - Questions: When Jesus calls why is it important not just to follow—but to follow immediately?  
Are we able to do this?
  - Are we able to leave the things we love and that have made us comfortable—even family—to follow Jesus?

# Casting Out Demons In The Synagogue 21-28

Jesus and the disciples went to Capernaum, and Jesus was teaching in the Synagogue on the Sabbath.

The people were amazed at His teaching—because He taught with real authority—unlike other teachers.

A man possessed by an evil Spirit kept shouting asking Jesus why He was interfering with the demon—and the demon acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus told the demon to be quiet and come out of the man—and the evil spirit came out.

The audience was amazed at this new teaching—wondering who has the authority to make demons obey His orders—and the news spread quickly.

Questions: What is teaching with real authority? Why do people not believe in demons as prevalently as they once did? Do you believe that demons still exist?

## Healing—And Increasing Reputation 29-34

- After healing the demon possessed man, Jesus went to Simon Peter and Andrew's home—and Simon's mother-in-law was sick.
- Jesus went to her bedside and healed her—and she prepared a meal for them.
- Later, many sick and demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus—and the whole town gathered at the door to watch.
- Jesus healed many people with various diseases—and cast out many demons—but because the demons knew who Jesus was—He did not allow them to speak.
  - Question: After Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law, she immediately got up and prepared a meal for them. What gratitude do we show to God when we are blessed?
  - Why did Jesus not allow the demons to speak about who He was?

## Powerful Preaching 35-39

The next morning, Jesus went to an isolated place to pray—and the disciples went to find Him.

They told Jesus that everyone was looking for Him.

Jesus told them that they must go to other towns as well—and preach to them as well.

So Jesus traveled throughout the region, preaching in the synagogues and casting out demons.

Questions: What is the importance of Jesus finding that isolated place and time to pray in order to achieve His mission? How important is isolated prayer to us?

Never forget that the Gospel is supposed to be shared—not just kept to a particular group. What steps can we take to share the Gospel beyond our comfort zone? How do we deal with those that don't do—or want to do this?

## Compassionate Healing 40-45

- Jesus encounters a man with leprosy who begged to be healed telling Jesus if He was willing He could make the man clean.
- Jesus was moved with compassion—and touched him—saying that He was willing and He declared the man healed.
- Instantly the leprosy disappeared—and Jesus sent him on his way telling him not to tell anyone—but let the priest examine you--taking the necessary offering.
- Jesus stated that this will be a public testimony that he has been cleansed.
- But the man went out and spread the word about Jesus—telling everyone what happened—and large crowds surrounded Jesus and He could hardly find a secluded place.
  - Questions: How does seeing the compassion of Jesus and His willingness to heal the man make you feel?
  - Why did Jesus tell the man not to tell anyone he had been healed by Jesus—but still wanted him to go to the priest?
  - Why did the man disobey Jesus and tell everyone what happened? Should he have kept quiet or should he have shared the Word about Jesus?