

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 11TH, 2025 // THE GOSPEL OF MARK

AUTHOR AND AUDIENCE

Mark's Gospel does not have any statement about its author or recipients.

- The early church and most modern scholars believe that John Mark, a companion of Paul, Peter, and Barnabas, is the author.
- Based on the way it is written and its content, most believe it was written around 70 AD to a Roman audience...Christian gentiles.

WHAT IS MISSING

There is no genealogy of Jesus, no miraculous birth with Bethlehem and the shepherds, no childhood at Nazareth or visit to the temple, no Sermon on the Mount, and few parables.

- Because Mark was writing to a gentile audience, he seeks to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who came to **serve** and **save** those who are lost.
- Mark 10:45
- Jesus came to serve and save people who would follow Him when He calls.
- Are we listening and following that call?

FORETOLD (MARK 1:1-8)

THE BEGINNING

It is the beginning of this gospel and Mark wants his readers to pay attention and not miss this part if you want to understand the rest of the story.

- **Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the anointed one, the Son of God. Jesus has a unique and unparalleled relationship with God.**

I AM SENDING

God had promised to send a messenger before the arrival of the Messiah. Mark shares those prophecies from Exodus, Malachi, and Isaiah.

- **God made a promise and the answer to that promise was John the Baptizer. He was not like other messengers; he was more like us than we like to admit.**

IN THE WILDERNESS

John was in the wilderness, he wore a camel's hair robe and a leather belt, and ate locusts and wild honey. He was a simple, unworthy man pointing to Jesus.

- **Most ministry is done in the wilderness. Are we afraid of the wilderness? Are we more concerned with HOW WE LOOK than WHO WE CAN REACH?**

PROCLAIMING REPENTANCE AND MORE

John's message of the coming Messiah moved people to action. They confessed sin, sought forgiveness, and were baptized. In humility, John magnified Jesus and not himself.

- **When we share, who or what is magnified? Are we excited about what He has done and will do?**

AFFIRMED (MARK 1:9-13)

JESUS' BAPTISM

John baptized Jesus, but not because Jesus needed to repent. Jesus was baptized to be identified with the sinners He had come to save and so He would be distinguished as the Messiah, the Son of God.

- **Jesus was not baptized for Himself, it was to show us who He is.**

THE SKY, THE DOVE, THE VOICE

The sky was torn because this was an event to be marked in history (like the torn veil in the temple).

The Spirit upon Him reveals His divinity. The voice declared His relation to the Father and His perfect alignment with the Father's will. Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Father are One.

- **Do we see the power of the Trinity?**

DRIVEN TO A PLACE OF TEMPTATION

As fast as we saw the power, we see Jesus headed to the wilderness. There were 40 days of temptation but the battle raged all the way to the tomb.

- **Jesus entered that battle in submission to the Spirit of God.**
- **Do we see this as an example to follow?**

SATAN, WILD ANIMALS, AND ANGELS

The fact that Satan engaged Jesus affirms again that He is the Messiah. He is not just battling Satan's temptations, He is in danger from an environment of wild animals. He is in enemy territory.

- **Do not forget the angels.**
- **Christ was where He was supposed to be, and the angels served Him.**

MESSAGE & MESSENGERS (MARK 1:14-20)

THE TIME IS FULFILLED

By the time John was arrested, Jesus was already proclaiming the good news of God. He was giving the "press release" that prophecy was fulfilled, and that John's message was true.

- **What they had waited for had arrived.**
- **Sadly, they had misunderstood His mission.**

THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME NEAR

The people had been waiting for a conquering king. Jesus would reveal Himself as Messiah-King. The Kingdom was near because Jesus would open the path to the Heavenly Kingdom through His life, death, and resurrection.

- **What should our response be?**

REPENT AND BELIEVE

Jesus shows that when we see Him, we must repent—that is a change in our minds leading to a change in behavior.

- Repentance is complemented by belief in the gospel. To repent is to turn away from sin, and belief is turning to Jesus.

- **This is the unchanging message of the Kingdom of God.**

JESUS CALLS

Jesus is clear: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

- **Jesus looks for people who will commit to Him, who will learn from Him, who will deny themselves, surrender, and follow Him.**
- **Whom will He call?**

THEY WERE FISHERMEN

There is no prerequisite to following Him. This is a grace call. He did not tell them to improve themselves or their social acceptability. He found them where they were, He simply called them. It was simple, radical, and immediate.

- **It is still simple, radical, and timely today.**

KNOWLEDGE

- We know about Jesus.
- **It's just that we think we don't know enough to share with someone else.**
- **We should be faithful to share what we know about Him as we get to know Him better. Then, we get to share the Jesus we know.**

TIMING

- Timing is the key to many success stories.
- **We worry about timing and many times fail because we stop when we should go.**
- **When it comes to sharing the Jesus we know, He says go. He set the example by serving those around Him. Sharing means speaking the truth in love, helping where you can, and praying. When will we go? Where will we go?**

WILDERNESS

- Most people are in the wilderness.
- **As Believers, we know the way out.**
- **Sometimes, we are called to go where brokenness, isolation, and fear can be overwhelming. In Christ, we bring healing, community, and strength to confront circumstances and confusion. Are we willing to go? Who do we know?**