



# The Beginning of the Gospel

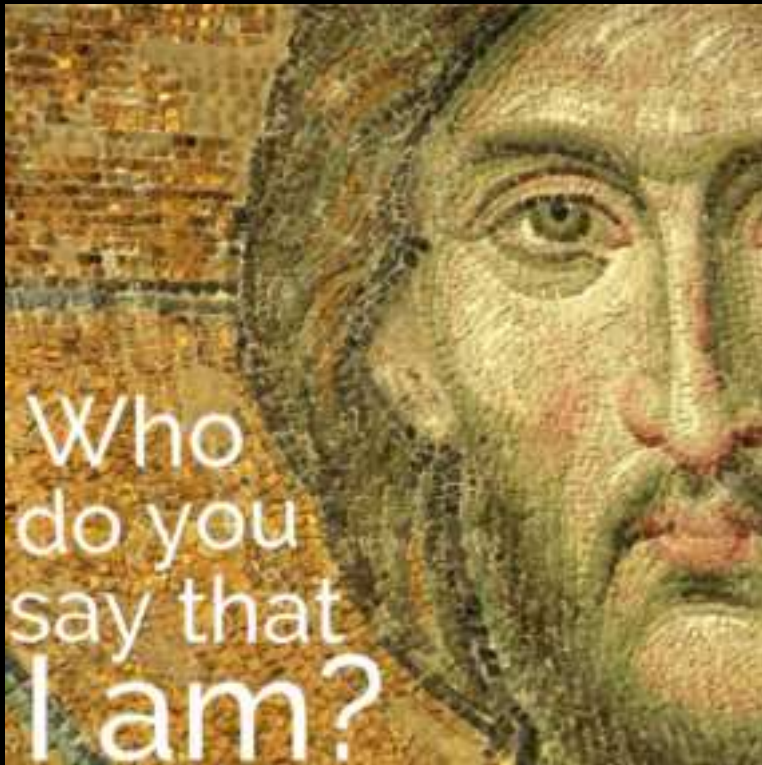
Mark 1:1-13

# Mark

- Shortest gospel
- First one written
- Not much is original
- Sense of movement -  
“immediately” 41 x
- Action-oriented
- Not much teaching
- Birth? Resurrection?



# Structure



- The man: Identity
- The mission: Suffering
- The origin: Galilee
- The destination: Judea
- Pivot point: Who do people say I am? (8:27-30)

# Author

- Anonymous but church tradition ascribes it to Mark
- *“Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately whatever he remembered of the things said and done by the Lord, but not however in order.”*
  - Papias, Bishop of Hierapolis



# Occasion

- *“.. to scotch the rumour that the fire had been ordered by the Emperor himself], Nero substituted as culprits, and punished with the utmost exquisite cruelty, a class loathed for their abominations, whom the crowd styled Christians. Christus, from whom the name is derived, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate. ... vast numbers were convicted, not so much on the charge of arson as for hatred of the human race. Every sort of derision was added to their deaths: they were wrapped in the skins of wild beasts and dismembered by dogs, others were nailed to crosses; others when daylight failed, were set afire to serve as lamps by night...”*

- Tacitus, Annals

# Purpose

- Verse 1: The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God
- **The beginning**
  - Mark is talking about his whole gospel
- **The Good News**
  - *“In the religious world, the good news about Jesus Christ is watered down to good advice. People are told to be kind, to smile a lot, to love all creatures, to think positively, and to feel good about themselves. But the true gospel about Jesus Christ is something far more radical and explosive. It has to do with God’s redemptive action in Jesus, which reveals God’s love for humans and judgement on human sin and satanic evil.”*
    - Garland, David E. (1996). Mark. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

# Purpose

- **Jesus the Messiah**
- “Anointed one”
- *“Sir, [Daniel 7] and similar passages of scripture compel us to await One who is great and glorious, and takes the everlasting Kingdom from the Ancient of Days as Son of Man. But this your so-called Christ is without honour and glory, so that He has even fallen into the uttermost curse that is in the Law of God, for he was crucified.”*
  - Justin Martyr to Rabbi Trypho



# Purpose



- **Son of God**
- Not a title Mark uses a whole lot
- The Messianic Secret
  - Jesus tried to keep his ID a secret for as long as possible to avoid the crowd hijacking his mission or the authorities speeding up his fate



# John the Baptist

- The first divinely appointed prophet for 300 years
- He is very closely identified with

# John the Baptist

- The first divinely appointed prophet for 400 years
- He is very closely identified with Elijah
- *“Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going off to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?”* <sup>4</sup> *Therefore this is what the Lord says: “You will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!”*  
[This was relayed to King Ahaziah.] <sup>7</sup> *The king asked them, ‘What kind of man was it who came to meet you and told you this?’* <sup>8</sup> *They replied, ‘He had a garment of hair and had a leather belt round his waist.’ The king said, ‘That was Elijah the Tishbite.’*

• 2 Kings 1:1-8

# REPENTANCE

- To turn away from our sins
- To turn to God in obedience
- *“Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of your God, and as our knowledge grows at these three points so our practice of repentance has to be enlarged.”*
  - J.I. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit





# ACCEPTANCE

- Before Jesus had healed anyone or begun his public ministry, his Father acknowledged him and expressed his love for him
- One story expresses the idea of acceptance more than any other:
  - The Parable of the Prodigal Son
- God says of us, “I love you, I accept you, you are special just as you are and my Son died for you - receive my unconditional acceptance.”

# This is Me

*Keala Settle, "The Greatest Showman"*

- *I'm not a stranger to the dark  
Hide away, they say  
'Cause we don't want your broken parts  
I've learned to be ashamed of all my scars  
Run away, they say  
No one will love you as you are*
- *But I won't let them break me down to dust  
I know that there's a place for us  
For we are glorious*



- *When the sharpest words wanna cut me down  
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out  
I am brave, I am bruised  
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me  
Look out 'cause here I come  
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum  
I'm not scared to be seen  
I make no apologies, this is me*



# TESTING

- *<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.*
  - Hebrews 4:15
- “Life is a test.” – Rick Warren
- “When he has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”
  - Job 23:10
- Jesus is the obedient son!



# TESTING



- Are you being tested at the moment? Are you been facing temptation? Find a friend - get with God - ask for help!
- Reflect on those three words: REPENTANCE, ACCEPTANCE and TESTING - dealing with sin, living as his child and passing the test.

# More, more about Jesus

*Eliza E. Hewitt*

- *More about Jesus would I know,  
More of His grace to others show;  
More of His saving fullness see,  
More of His love who died for me.*
- *More, more about Jesus,  
More, more about Jesus;  
More of His saving fullness see,  
More of His love who died for me.*

