

SERMON NOTES AND STUDY QUESTIONS



Mark 1:1-13 THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



Mark 1:1-13 THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mark doesn't include an infancy narrative. How does Mark treat the incarnation? 1. Have you ever had to tell 'the genuine' from the 'fake'? Share your story.

2. Read Mark 1:1. How does this set your expectations for reading Mark?

3. Read 1:2-11. What do the different voices tell us about Jesus?

Voice	Message
The author, Mark	
The prophet, Isaiah	
John the Baptist	
The voice from	
heaven	

- 4. What did the Judean people need to repent of?
- 5. Why is John's appearance and diet important detail?
- 6. Why would you want to be washed by the Holy Spirit?

7. How does God's pleasure with Jesus contrast to Israel (Hosea 11:1-2)?

8. What are some tell-tale signs that Jesus is central to your life?



Mark 1:14-20 THE BEGINNING OF THE GALILEAN MINISTRY



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Rico Tice says that Mark can be divided into the **identity, mission and call** of Jesus. Is that a helpful break up? Why? 1. What are some things people consider as good news?

 Read Mark 1:14-15. Why was John arrested? (Stay tuned for Mark 6)
 What might his imprisonment mean for Jesus' future?

3. Read Daniel 2:44, 7:13-14, 12:1-3. What was the Old Testament expectation of the kingdom of God?

4. What then is the good news which Jesus was proclaiming?

5. How were the people of Galilee to respond to the good news?

6. Read Mark 1:16-20. Who does Jesus call to himself? What does Jesus commission them to do?

7. How is the call to follow Jesus today (a) similar; (b) different to that of Jesus' first disciples?

8. Is the kingdom of God still "near" or "here"? How does it shape our expectations of the present and the future?

9. From this passage, how would you summarise to somebody else the person, the mission, and the call of Jesus?



Mark 2:1-17 THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT Who was Mark? 1. Before you believed (or were young in faith), what was your biggest concern?

2. Read Mark 2:1-12. What motivated the men to bring the paralytic to Jesus?

3. What is behind the religious leaders' cynicism?

4. What does this miracle show about Jesus?

5. How do we know that Jesus has the power to forgive sins?

6. Describe the crowd's response.

7. What does it mean to forgive? Why is forgiveness such a powerful idea? Why is it important for you to know God's forgiveness?

8. How have your friends helped to bring you to Jesus?

9. How can we help people to see their need for forgiveness?



Mark 2:18-3:6 THE QUESTION ABOUT FASTING



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mark was probably written before the other gospels (around AD 65). How do we explain verbatim accounts of the same stories in other gospels? (eg. Mark 1:40-42, Matt 8:2-3, Lk 5:12-13) 1. How would you describe Jesus' relationship with the Pharisees?

2. Read Mark 2:18. What is fasting?Why would the people ask this question?

3. Read Zechariah 8:18-23. What is this passage looking forward to?

How will the practice of fasting change?

4. Read Mark 2:19-20. What point is Jesus making here?

5. Read Mark 2:21-22. How have traditions like fasting changed?

6. Is fasting helpful? Why/why not?

7. How does Jesus make our lives new? What does that mean in a practical sense?

8. What is the value of the old covenant to us today?

9. Give an example of how God has renewed your life?

10. Pray for your ongoing renewal.





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The 'Messianic Secret' is unique to Mark (eg. Mark 5:53, 7:36). Why would Jesus command people 'not' to tell? 1. What is your favourite parable? Why?

2. Read Mark 4:33-34. What role did parables play in Jesus' ministry to his disciples?

3. Read Mark 4:21-23. Interpret the parable. What is it about? What clues does the surrounding text provide?

4. How can this set the readers' expectation of Jesus? How can it impact their reading of Mark?

5. What is hidden that Jesus reveals?

6. Read Mark 4:24-25. What is Jesus promising here? What is the measure?

7. How does this introduce Jesus' teaching?

8. How does Jesus stand out among many voices?

9. How should you respond to these parables?





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mark 8:29 and 15:39 are said to be the literary climax of Mark. How are the confessions similar? How are they different? How do they help us to apply Mark? 1. What fuels people's hopes for healing?

2. Read Mark 5:21-24. What fuels Jairus' hope that his daughter will be spared death?

3. Read Mark 5:25-34. How is the woman's situation (1) similar (2) different to that of Jairus' daughter?

4. What led to her healing? How does the woman exemplify faith?

5. Why does Jesus look to see who had touched him?

6. Read Mark 5:35. What led to the death of Jairus' daughter? What hope is left for Jairus?

7. Read Mark 5:36. How must Jairus respond in the face of his daughter's death? What does it mean to, "only believe"?

8. Read Mark 5:37-43. How does Jesus answer the request Jairus had wanted in verse 23? Who then is Jesus?

9. How does this passage make Jesus' journey to the cross all the more remarkable?

10. What does it mean for us today to "only believe" in Jesus?



Mark 6:14-29 THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What relationship did Mark have to the Apostles (Acts 13:5 and 1 Peter 5:13)? Why is this important? 1. Who do people say Jesus is today?

2. Read Mark 6:14-16. What conclusions had Jesus' miracles led people to?

3. If Herod was correct, what would be the implications for him?

4. Read Mark 6:17-29. Do you find this story shocking? Why?

5. Why was John imprisoned? Why was he beheaded?

6. Jesus warns of the 'yeast of ... Herod' (8:14-21). How would you describe this yeast? How can we watch out for it?

7. What sort of a king was Herod? What sort of a king was Jesus? (Mark 15:2)

8. Jesus was raised to life. What does this prove about his identity?

9. How do we show that we have listened to Jesus?



Mark 7:1-23 THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Who can you read the Gospel of Mark with, 1 to 1? 1. How fastidious are you about cleaning hands?

2. Read Mark 7:1-5. What would be the purpose of these traditions?

- 3. What were the Pharisees essentially asking Jesus?
- 4. Read Mark 7:6-13. What role did the man-made rules play?
- 5. How did they negate God's commands?

6. Read Mark 7:14-23. What makes a person unclean? Why would Jesus want the crowd to know whether they are unclean?

7. If the problem is internal, what must the solution be? What can't it be?

8. How does Jesus clean his people?

9. Read 1 John 1:8-9, James 4:7-10, 5:16. What role should confession play in a believer's life?

10. How have you been challenged by today's study? How would you like to change?

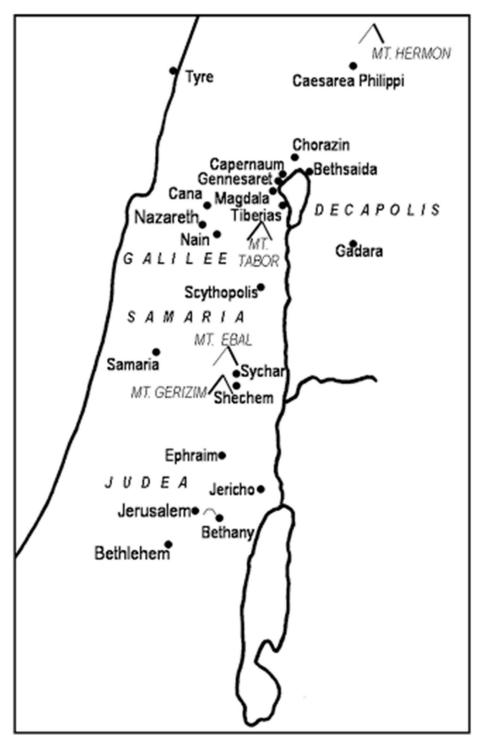


Mark is a great book to read with another person. They may be a believer or not, but imagine the difference you could make to a person's life starting with one simple question, *'Would you be interested in meeting to read a part of the Bible?'* It may be in your home or a coffee shop. You don't need to give profound insight into the passage. Simply read it, discuss what you thought about it and what it means. You could follow the reading plan below.

- **Week 1** Mark 1:1-28
- **Week 2** Mark 1:29-2:12
- **Week 3** Mark 2:13-3:6
- **Week 4** Mark 3:7-35
- **Week 5** Mark 4:1-41
- **Week 6** Mark 5:1-20
- **Week 7** Mark 5:21-43
- **Week 8** Mark 6:1-29
- **Week 9** Mark 6:30-56
- **Week 10** Mark 7:1-37
- **Week 11** Mark 8:1-38
- Week 12 | Mark 9:1-32
 Week 13 | Mark 9:33-10:16
 Week 14 | Mark 10:17-52
 Week 15 | Mark 10:17-52
 Week 15 | Mark 11:1-33
 Week 16 | Mark 12:1-44
 Week 16 | Mark 12:1-44
 Week 17 | Mark 13:1-37
 Day 18 | Mark 14:1-52
 Day 19 | Mark 14:53-15:15
 Day 20 | Mark 15:16-47
 Day 21 | Mark 16:1-8



Mark provides geographical detail of where Jesus was and his journey from **Galillee (North)** to **Jerusalem (South).** Use the map below to pinpoint the locations of Jesus and the disciples as you read along.



From www.generationword.com





St Mark's Anglican Church Corner Franklin and Victoria Street **Malabar** NSW 2036

www.malabar.church

P +612 9311 0309

office@malabar.church

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