

Mark 1:1 -The beginning of the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- **Gospel** - “Good News.” This is a Roman term to describe the celebration of returning Roman troops for their victory and expanding the Roman Empire: Mark applies “Gospel” to Jesus ministry.

- **Jesus** - The person of Jesus, born in this time in this place. - Who is Jesus?

- **Christ** - is a Jewish term meaning messiah, meaning anointed one of God. Israel was looking for messiah and had certain expectation. We’ll see how Jesus doesn’t meet these expectations. Challenge to the assumptions of temple and Israel.

- **Son of God** - This is a Roman Term applied to Caesar. The coins identified Caesar as Son of God. So Mark is saying that Jesus is making a direct challenge to the claims of Rome/Caesar.

Mark 1:17 - And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you **fish for people.**'

- **Jeremiah 16:16** - Judgement of religious leaders for leading Israel away to false idols.

- **Amos 4:2** - Those that oppress the poor, crush the needy - take you away with fish hooks

- **Ezekiel 29:3ff** - Against Egypt for abusing Israel

In A Hurry

Note how quickly Mark moves through the events in the life of Jesus. Count the number of times "Mark says, immediate or right away or at once."

Focus of Mark is on the Passion of Jesus - 1/2 of Gospel is about Jesus' suffering/death/resurrection.

Who does Jesus challenge?

How does he challenge them?

1:21 - Scribes in the synagogues

1:29 - healing on sabbath in private

1:40 - cleansing and touching a leper

2:1 - healing a paralytic and forgiving his sins

2:3 - Calling a tax collector to be a disciple

2:18 - challenging fasting laws

2:23 - Plucking Grain on the Sabbath

3:1 - Healing man with withered hand in the
synagogue on Sabbath

Review the Purity Code and Debt Code page of last weeks hand out as you read.

Mark 3:6 - The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Questions to Guide Reading

Mark 1:17 - What does it mean to “Fish for men/people?”

Mark 1:21-3:5 - Who does Jesus Challenge and How does he Challenge them?

Mark 3:6 - Why do the religious leaders join with Roman sympathizers to plan to kill Jesus?

Question for Reflection

What surprises me about Jesus in the 1st two + chapters?

So, in the first 2+ chapters, what is Jesus’ messiahship about? What is Salvation?

Am I willing to follow the Jesus revealed in Mark’s Gospel as he is, or will I insist on Jesus being what I’ve always understood or wanted?

Opportunities for Interaction

Online discussion board - simply click on the Padlet discussion board website provided in the email or on the web site.

Thursday January 28 at 6:30 - Optional Zoom discussion you'll receive an email for this as well.

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