

Mark 1

Lesson for Sunday, June 4, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Today we begin a new series through the Gospel of Mark.
- ⇒ Use the intro of your lesson to introduce the book. Idea: Make it like trivial pursuit – see what they know and what they don't know!
- ⇒ Who wrote the book? *John Mark. He was the son of Mary who lived in Jerusalem and whose home was one of the meeting places of the early church (Acts 12:12). John was his Jewish name, and Mark, his Roman name.*
- ⇒ What else do we know about Mark? *He joined Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. Mark went along to minister to them in the capacity of a servant (Acts 13:5).*
- ⇒ What is Mark infamous for? *On that missionary journey, Mark abandoned the enterprise which resulted in a serious disagreement between Paul and Barnabas at a later time. Later, Paul actually commended Mark indicating that Mark had made some serious changes in his life.*
- ⇒ Thoughts on the book of Mark: *Most believe that Mark was strongly influenced by Peter. As a result, many consider Peter as Mark's primary source for this writing.*
- ⇒ What is the key verse? *Mark 10:45. Mark presents the Lord Jesus as God's perfect Servant.*

NOTE: *We will follow a pattern in this series of lessons. The first point of each lesson will be a simple outline of the chapter. The rest of the lesson will be diving deeper into one of those sections. This is key in your preparation: We are not trying to teach the entire chapter! A good idea is to provide your class members a weekly handout so they can keep the outlines of the chapters as a future resource in their personal study.*

CHAPTER OUTLINE:

Chapter 1 Summary: John the Baptist preaches the coming of the Messiah. John baptizes Jesus, and Jesus is tempted for 40 days by Satan in the wilderness. Jesus calls His first four disciples and begins His ministry of teaching and healing.

1. The Events **Prior** to Jesus's Ministry (vs. 1-13)
 - a. The **witness** of the Old Testament (vs. 1-3)
 - b. The **work** of John the Baptist (vs. 4-11)
 - c. The **wrath** of the Devil (vs. 12-13)
2. The Events **Early** in Jesus's Ministry (vs. 14-45)
 - a. The **promise** of the Savior (vs. 16-20)
 - b. The **preaching** of the Savior (vs. 14-15, 38-39)
 - c. The **praying** of the Savior (vs. 35-37)
 - d. The **power** of the Savior (vs. 21-34, 40-45)

CHAPTER FOCUS: Mark 1:21-28

- ⇒ Everyone has a source of authority in their life that determines how we think and live.
- ⇒ For some it is REASON: I live the way I live because think!
- ⇒ For some it is EXPERIENCE: I live the way I live because I feel!
- ⇒ For some it is TRADITION: I live the way I live because we have always done it this way!
- ⇒ For some it is REVELATION: I live the way I live because God says so!
- ⇒ For those that live by revelation, their authority is the written Word of God that points us to the living Word of God (Jesus Christ). For the Christian, Jesus is Lord!
- ⇒ Here's the question we want to consider: Why should Jesus have absolute lordship in your life? This text gives us at least two reasons to consider.

1. Because of His **Teachings** (vs. 21-22, 27)
 - a. Taking along His new followers, Jesus goes to Capernaum, located on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee.
 - b. Immediately upon His arrival, Jesus begins to teach the crowds, and they learn several things about this new teacher.
 - c. First, they learn Jesus's teachings are **astonishing** (vs. 21-22).
 - i. Jesus began to teach on the Sabbath in the Jewish Synagogue.
 - ii. Interestingly, Mark doesn't tell us anything about the content of Jesus's teaching. Mark's focus is on the One who is teaching, His authority, and the astonishing response of the hearers.
 - iii. Verse 22 says the audience was astonished, or amazed or alarmed. We might say, "They were blown away!"
 - d. Second, they learn that Jesus's teachings are with **authority** (vs. 22, 27).
 - i. The people immediately saw a contrast between the teachings of Jesus and those of the scribes – or teachers of the law.
 - ii. The religious leaders of the synagogue were highly respected men. However, they stood in opposition to Jesus.
 - iii. Later, Mark will contrast the authority more deeply. In chapter 7 he points out that the scribes received their authority from the tradition of men.
 - iv. In 1:11, Jesus receives His authority directly from God, His Father.
2. Because of His **Power** over Demons (vs. 23-28)
 - a. In these verses we are introduced to a man "with an unclean spirit." This is a reference to a demon. Mark uses "unclean spirit" 11 times and demon 13 times in this book.
 - b. Demons are fallen angels under Satan's control.
 - c. Notice that the demons **recognize** Jesus (vs. 23-24).
 - i. In verse 24, the demon recognizes Jesus in terms of His **humanity** (the Nazarene) and His **deity** (the Holy One of God).
 - ii. The demon is chiefly interested in Jesus's intentions (come to destroy).
 - iii. From the very arrival of Jesus, the forces of evil are there to confront Him.
 - d. Notice that the demons **obey** Jesus (vs. 25-28)
 - i. Jesus issues a direct command, "Be quiet!" It doesn't take much from the source of ultimate authority to get the demons to obey.
 - ii. Once Jesus commanded the demon to come out of the man, Jesus didn't have to ask twice.
 - iii. As a result, the people were amazed (vs. 27) and Jesus's fame began to spread (vs. 28).

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Mark wastes no time introducing us to the One who demands our complete loyalty. Jesus is Lord! Do you recognize the Lordship of Christ in your life?
- Is He first in your priorities?
 - Is He first in your finances?
 - Is He first in your family?
 - Is He first in your _____?
- ⇒ We will be covering one chapter each week. Take the time this week to study Mark 2. Read it several times, look over a good study Bible, etc. You will get more out of next week's lesson if you prepare before you come.