

WHO IS THIS MAN?

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GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

PART 1

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

- Mark 2:17 -

WHO IS THIS MAN?

To answer the question of “who is Jesus?”, we need not look any further than the Christmas story itself. We are told clearly that this Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us. That he is the eternal Word of God who took on flesh and came to dwell amongst us. So I guess the obvious question as we begin this study is, “do we need to bother reading past chapter 1 of the gospel accounts?” If we know who Jesus is from the Christmas story, “Do we need anything more?” Well yes, I think we do... The Christmas story does tell us who Jesus is. But as we read on, as we’ll see this year in the gospel according to Mark, we are told some vital things about who this man Jesus really is - more than just his name.

By studying through the stories of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection we get to know him deeper; his personality, what he loves and hates, his passions, whether or not he is a man of integrity, etc. And so, these things tell us about Jesus’ character. But we also learn about his purpose. Each of the gospel authors use variations of the same idea to describe Jesus’ purpose, but Mark quotes Jesus as saying, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (2:17). This tells us that Jesus has come to heal, restore, and make things right. We grow in our understanding of these truths on each page of the story - as Jesus shows us again and again that he has torn heaven open and brought it to earth. But we only grasp these truths with clarity if we follow the story through, as we see him go to the cross, conquer death, and rise to new life. In these things we discover whether or not he really is Emmanuel - God with us.

This study will offer many insights into whether Jesus is who his name claims to be. But ultimately the only way to get to know Jesus deeply is by spending time with him. And so I pray that as you study, you would allow Holy Spirit to draw you close and reveal Jesus to you afresh.

God bless you,

*Rev’d Scott Windred
Sunnybank Anglican*



WEEK 1

WHO'S PREPARING THE WAY?

Warming up:

What are the various ways that people form an understanding of Jesus? What is the best way to form an understanding of Jesus?

Read: Mark 1:1-13

1. What are the various names attributed to Jesus? What do they mean?
2. Why do you think Mark might have used this passage from Isaiah to explain John the Baptist's ministry?
3. Who was going to John for baptism? Why is this important?
4. How would you summarise John's message from verses 7-8?
5. What might the people in the 1st century have thought / how might they have understood – baptism with the Holy Spirit? (Remember that Pentecost had not happened yet)
6. What is the significance of verse 10? (see Isaiah 64:1, Mark 15:37-39, Genesis 8:6-12, Luke 2:22-24)
7. In verse 11, God says 3 things about Jesus. Why is each one significant?
8. Why would the Spirit send Jesus into the wilderness to be tested? What does this tell us about Jesus?
9. What is the symbolism of Jesus being in the wilderness for 40 days? (see Gen 7:12, Ex 34:28, 1 Kings 19:8)

Rubber hits the road: .

How will you help someone see Jesus more clearly this week?

How will you ensure that you continue to see Jesus more clearly throughout 2024?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Jesus, you are the best news! You are what the world waited for from Adam and Eve to John the Baptist. And you are what the world needs right now. As we seek to make you known this year, please start by helping us to see you clearly ourselves. Rend and shape our hearts that they might become like yours, and fill us with your Spirit that we might be transformed into true image bearers of your name. Amen.



WEEK 2

WHO'S ANSWERING THE CALL?

Warming up:

What are the What's the best team that you've ever been a part of? What made it such a great team?

Read: Mark 1:14-20

1. What has happened to John? What do we know about why this has happened to him? (see Matthew 14:1-5, Mark 6:14-20, Luke 3:18-20)
2. What was Jesus proclaiming?
3. What do each of the following sentences mean? "The time has come." "The kingdom of God has come near." "Repent and believe the good news"
4. What are the similarities and differences between John's message and Jesus'?
5. Who does Jesus call as his first disciples? How does he call them? How do they respond?
6. Why do you think Jesus called these fishermen and not well-learned people in Jerusalem?
7. What does all of this tell you about Jesus and his ministry?
8. What does all of this tell you about our call to mission?

Rubber hits the road:

How is Jesus calling you to 'fish for people' in your day-to-day life? What can you be asking the Holy Spirit for to help you in this important ministry and calling?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Jesus, we are humbled and honoured that you would not call us to follow you as your disciples. And we find it a great privilege that you would ask us to partner with you as you seek to fish for people and save the lost. Help us to follow you with sincerity and diligence. Please forgive us when we stumble and when we get proud. And fill us with your life-giving Spirit as you send us out into your kingdom to bring your people home. We ask all of this in your precious and mighty name Jesus. Amen.



WEEK 3

WHO'S DRIVING OUT EVIL?

Warming up:

If you could eradicate one disease from the world, which one would it be? Why?

Read: Mark 1:21-34

1. Where did Jesus go on the sabbath? What does this tell us about his ministry?
2. What do you think Jesus might have been teaching?
3. Where was the man with the impure spirit? What's the significance?
4. What does the possessed man say about Jesus? Is there any truth to his claim?
5. What does Jesus do/say in response to the impure spirit? What does this tell us about the authority of Jesus and the Kingdom of God?
6. Whose house does Jesus go to? What do they see? What do they do? What does this tell us about Jesus & the closeness of his relationship with his followers?
7. These verses describe Jesus healing many different diseases and driving out many demons. What does this teach us about the kingship of Jesus and the nature of his kingdom?

Rubber hits the road:

What areas of the world and what areas of your life will you ask God to heal and restore this week?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you that your kingdom has come, and that it will come in its fullness when on that final and glorious day. Please help us to be faithful disciples and grant us courage as we seek to share your good news with others. We ask for your grace to be upon us as we pray for the healing of those known to us. Please pour out your Spirit and show your glory that many might come to know and worship you. We pray all of this in your mighty and powerful name Jesus. Amen.



WEEK 4

WHO'S PRAYING WITH POWER?

Warming up:

Do you find it easy or hard to pray? What would you like to understand more about prayer?

Read: Mark 1:35-45

1. What does verse 35 tell us about the time that Jesus made for prayer?
2. If Jesus regularly made time for prayer, what does that mean for the importance of prayer in our lives?
3. In verse 38 Jesus tells us why he has come. What does he say, and what might he mean by it?
4. What did Jesus' ministry in Galilee look like? (see verse 39)
5. How does the man with leprosy approach Jesus? What does he say to Jesus? What does this tell us about this man?
6. What emotion does Jesus have in verse 41?
7. People with leprosy were considered 'unclean' and 'untouchable'. Why is it significant that Jesus touches the man as he heals him?
8. Why might Jesus have told this man to "not tell anyone" about this miracle?
9. How does the man respond in verse 45?

Rubber hits the road:

Knowing that you are a child in God's Kingdom, how does that shape the way that you approach Jesus? How does it shape the way you pray and work with him?



WEEK 5

WHO'S FORGIVING SINS?

Warming up:

What is the kindest thing a friend has done for you? What did it mean for you?

Read: Mark 2:1-12

1. What happened last time Jesus was in Capernaum? (See Mark 1:21-24)
2. Why had so many people come to see Jesus?
3. What was Jesus doing in the house? What do you think he was telling them?
4. What must have been going through the minds/hearts of the four friends to make them do what they did?
5. What might have been going through the paralysed man's mind in verse 5 when Jesus said "Son, your sins are forgiven" rather than "Be Healed. Get up and walk"?
6. Why did the teachers of the law have a problem with Jesus?
7. Which one is the bigger miracle – the forgiveness of sins or the healing from paralysis? Why?
8. What does Jesus want the people to know in verse 10?
9. How do the people respond in verse 12?

Rubber hits the road:

Spend time this week thinking on the greatness of God to heal bodies and forgive sins. Allow those thoughts to lead you into worship. Also, as you consider the kindness of the man's friends, who is one friend that you could seek to bring to Jesus?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Loving God, your kingdom has truly come. Holy Spirit, we ask that you would help us to see the blind spots we have to our sin and help us to recognise our need for forgiveness. But Lord, we also ask that you would help us to grasp the truth of you having paid the price for our sin. Help us never to forget this truth. By your grace, help us to bring our friends to know you too. There is no one like and we worship you with all that we have. Amen.



WEEK 6

WHO'S EATING WITH SINNERS?

Warming up:

What aspect of God's Kingdom has stood out to you the most so far in these studies?

Read: Mark 2:13-28

1. What are the similarities/differences between Levi's calling & the other disciples (Mark 1:16-20)?
2. What does the calling of Levi (who was a tax collector) tell us about Jesus and his kingdom?
3. Why do you think Levi was prepared to leave his career to follow Jesus?
4. What do you think Jesus means in verse 17?
5. What do you know about fasting? What is its purpose? Why might these guys have been fasting?
6. What is Jesus saying about himself in verses 19-20?
7. What is Jesus illustrating in verses 21-22?
8. What is the Sabbath? Why were the disciples doing something unlawful?
9. Why does Jesus respond the way he does in verses 27-28? Why is it significant that Jesus says, he is "Lord even of the Sabbath"?

Rubber hits the road:

What things hinder you from engaging in true worship on a daily basis? Ask God to teach you what it means to truly worship him this week.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

King Jesus, you call all sorts of broken people – even people like us. We pray that as we ponder the fact that you know us fully and still love us completely, that it would draw us into deep worship. We pray that in the coming week, that you would teach us how to be worshippers of you. And that by your grace we might be able to throw off every hinderance that holds us back from allowing your kingdom to reign in our lives. Amen.



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