

Study Questions
The Story of Jesus According to Mark
The Jesus of the Gospel
Mark 1:1-13
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Who is Jesus according to the average person on the street?
2. Do there seem to be some inconsistencies between who people say Jesus is and how they live their daily lives? Why is this?
3. Who do *you* say Jesus is? In what ways does your definition of Jesus affect how you live your life each day?

Bible Study

1. Read Acts 12:1-17.

How might this incident have influenced Mark's commitment to Christ?

Compare 1 Peter 5:13, which seems to indicate Mark was led to Christ by Peter.

2. Read Acts 13:5,13; 15:36-41; 2 Tim. 4:11. In what way might we draw encouragement from Mark's story? Is failure final?

How might this experience have affected Mark's purpose or focus in writing this Gospel?

3. Remember, Mark was the first Gospel written. It was written during the time of Nero's persecution of Christians. He was writing to Gentile believers to encourage them in the midst of their suffering. As we go through the Gospel of Mark keep this audience in mind. We need to keep asking, "What picture of Jesus did these suffering Christians need?"
4. Read Mark 1:1-13. List everything we learn about Jesus from these verses. Who is He?
5. Throughout the Gospel people will struggle to determine exactly who Jesus is. However, for readers the issue is resolved in the opening paragraphs. Why did these suffering Christians, many of whom would be martyred for their faith, need to know who Jesus is?

What difference does it make to us today?

6. Why was Jesus baptized by John?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does this line up with Mark 10:45, which many consider to be the theme verse?

7. Both Luke and Matthew give many more details concerning Jesus' genealogy, birth, John's baptisms, Jesus' baptism and temptation. Mark's purpose is such that he does not feel those details are necessary. What is Mark's purpose in this opening passage?

Why is this important as he establishes the "gospel of Jesus Christ" (v. 1)?

Application

1. If you believe Jesus is who Mark says He is, how should this belief affect your daily life? List three specific ways.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
2. Why is this true picture of Jesus especially important in times of suffering and trials?
3. John called people into the wilderness to symbolize a new beginning as a people. He preached a message of repentance and forgiveness to prepare the way for Jesus. What should we do to prepare our hearts for this study of Jesus in Mark's Gospel?
4. Pray that our hearts will be open to see Jesus and respond to who He is in a new and fresh way.