

Together with Jesus

Gospel according to Mark

Week 1

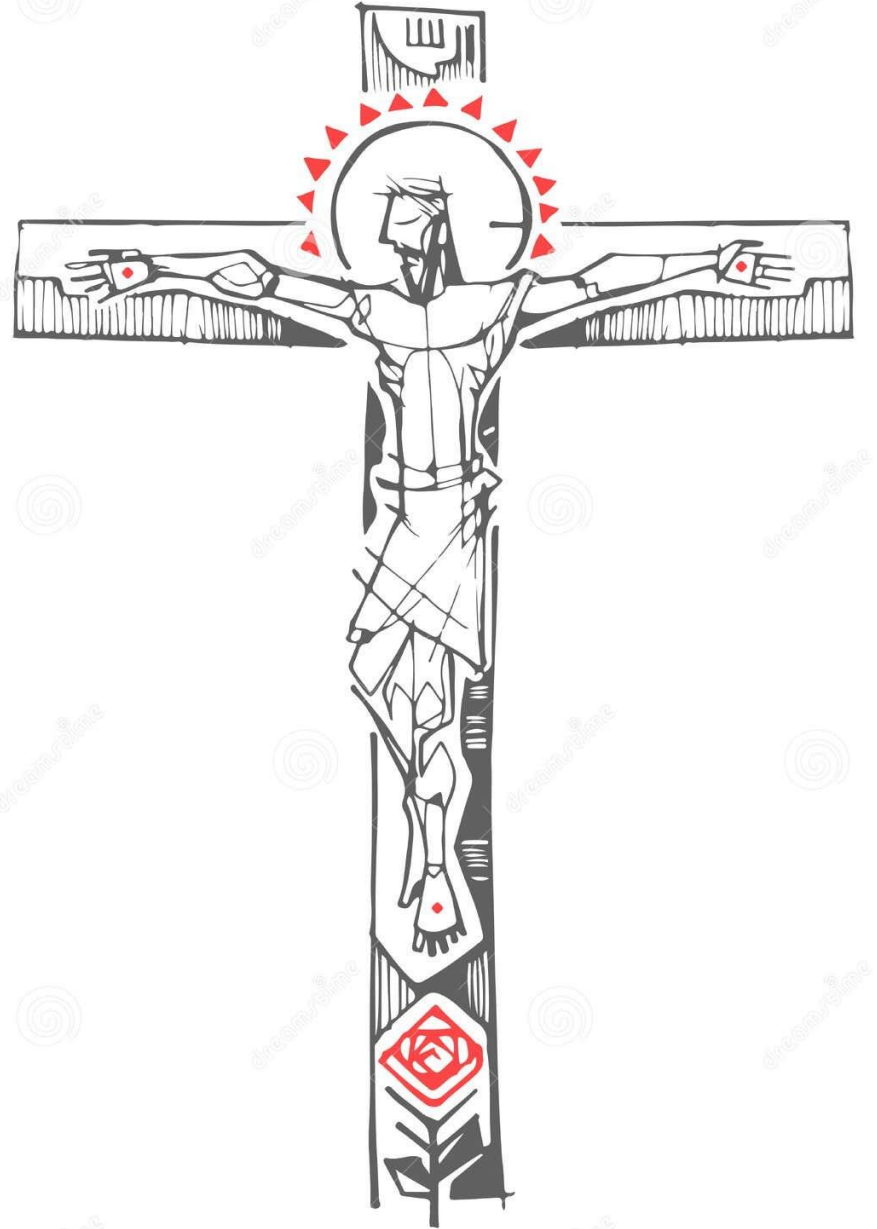
Chapters 1 and 2

The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus
Christ



Warm Up

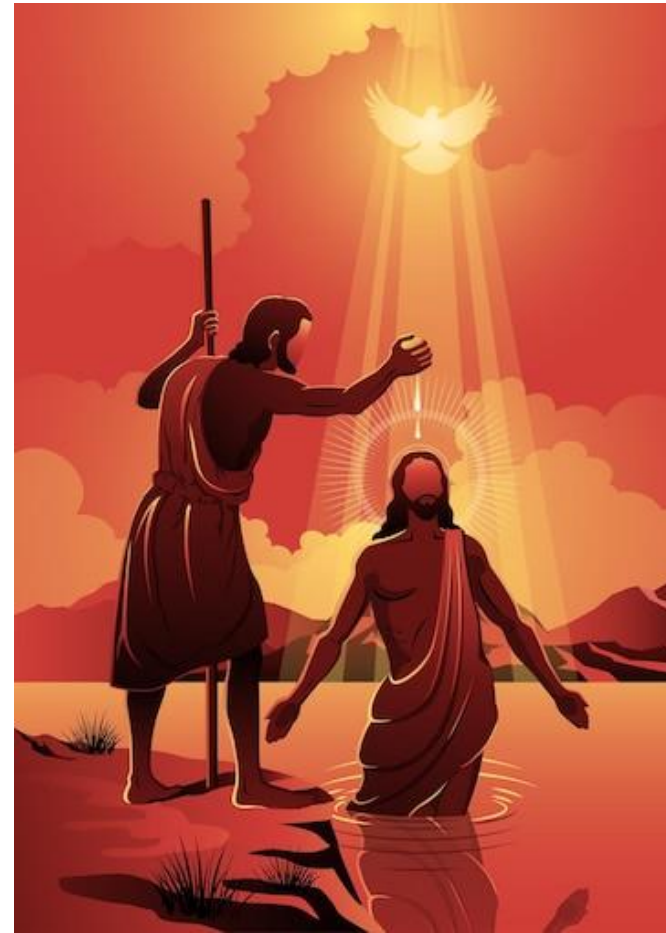
Imagine all of the written copies of the Gospels have been erased or destroyed. You are charged with writing a Gospel from what you remember, what stories do you include?



Mark 1:1-13

John the Baptist

Mark starts off like a splash of cold water in the face. John the Baptist appears in the wilderness calling people to repentance before the coming of a Messiah who is greater than he is, and who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. In 5 verses, Mark covers Jesus' baptism and temptation in the wilderness.



Question: What do you notice about Mark's beginning?



Question: Count how many times the word “immediately” is used in this passage. What do you think that shows us?

Mark 1:14-28

Jesus in Galilee

Mark continues his pace, setting up Jesus with disciples and a teaching ministry in a few verses. He then establishes Jesus in Capernaum with a demon who gives witness to who He is. Mark is very concerned with showing how different people and groups view Jesus throughout His ministry.

Mark 1:29-45

Crowds Healed

Once again, Mark wastes little time in giving us cursory information about Jesus' activities in Capernaum and surrounding Galilee. Mark then displays one of the hallmarks of his text, the "Messianic secret," where Jesus encourages people to "say nothing" about Him.



Question: Why do you think Jesus would have told people to keep quiet about Him?



Question: So far, from what you have noticed, how is Mark different from Matthew?

Interlude

Mark's Gospel

A few things to remember about Mark's Gospel:

Mark was probably the first Gospel written, establishing the genre in Christian literature.

Mark only shows you his own opinions about Jesus in the first few verses, the rest is gleaned from the reactions of others.

Mark is "fast paced" and his favorite word is "immediately".

Mark's ending seems odd to us, but it may have been meant to draw the reader into the present experience of the Church.

Mark 2:1-13

Paralytic Healed

Mark brings Jesus back “home” to Capernaum and there gives us details of a miracle that causes people to respond to His offer of forgiveness to this man. After this, Jesus continues to be on the move, going out to the seashore and teaching people there.



Question: How do the scribes respond? How do the rest of the people respond?

Mark 2:14-22

Questioning Jesus

Mark shows us the calling of Levi (Matthew) in quick order, seemingly to provide the basis for the questions that come to Jesus as a result. The scribes and the Pharisees ask Jesus about the company He is keeping and then John's disciples ask Jesus about His leadership of His disciples.



Question: How do Jesus' responses in these two situations show what Jesus believes about His own ministry?

Mark 2:23-28

Question of the Sabbath

Mark records the Pharisees questioning Jesus about allowing His disciples to pick heads of grain in order to eat them on the Sabbath. This would have been a normal thing for travelers, except for on the Sabbath. Jesus uses a specific term here, the “Son of Man,” to address Himself which no doubt would have raised some eyebrows.



Question: How does Jesus' response to the Pharisees show us something about Him?



Wrap Up

What does it seem that Mark is trying to show us about Jesus in this Gospel so far?

Next week – Mark 3 and 4