

Together with Jesus

Mark - Week One - Chapters 1 and 2 - The Beginning of the Gospel

Mark 1:1-13

John the Baptist

Mark opens up abruptly with the appearance of John the Baptist, moving quickly through Jesus' baptism and wilderness temptation.

- **What do you notice about Mark's beginning?**

Mark 1:14-28

Jesus in Galilee

Keeping the breakneck speed of the earlier section, Mark moves us quickly through Jesus' initial preaching and ministry.

- **Count how many times you see the word "immediately" in this passage (or the whole chapter). What does that show you?**

Mark 1:29-45

Crowds Healed

Mark records the initial set of healings that bring Jesus notoriety, while showing us a feature of Mark's Gospel – the "messianic secret" where Jesus tries to keep people quiet about who He is.

- **Why do you suppose Jesus tries to keep things secret?**

Mark 2:1-13

The Paralytic Healed

Mark seems to slow his pace just slightly to show us a special miracle that Jesus performs which draws the attention of the religious elite.

- **Why was Jesus' claim to forgive sins so divisive?**

Mark 2:14-22

Questioning Jesus

Jesus recruits Levi, a tax collector. Afterwards, he eats with Levi's friends which draws many questions from both the Pharisees and John's disciples.

- **What do you think the Pharisees were saying about Jesus? John's disciples?**

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Mark 2:23-28

Questioning on the Sabbath

Jesus receives more questions as He allows His disciples to “break the Sabbath” by eating grains that they pick and “thresh” with their hands before they eat.

- **What does Jesus’ response tell us about who He is?**

Welcome to Mark!

Thanks for joining us on this 8 week journey walking through the Gospel of Mark, 2 chapters at a time. Mark was likely written by John Mark, a disciple of Peter, who may have been dictating the content to him. Mark’s favorite word is “immediately,” and is a quick-paced Gospel. Mark only tells us what he, himself, thinks of Jesus in the beginning section of the Gospel. The rest of the Gospel we are left to see how others respond to Jesus’ story, leaving us to respond ourselves.

Red Letter Challenge this week – Be Merciful

This week, take Jesus’ words from Luke 6:36, “Be merciful” to heart. Being merciful can take all kinds of forms – it can be forgiving someone, showing a kindness to someone, or helping someone with a need. This week we’re asking you to look for or make opportunities to be merciful to others.