



# *The Book of Mark*

## The Gospel in Motion

### Week 1 — Jesus' Ministry Begins

#### Introduction — Big Things in Small Packages

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest and fastest-moving Gospel, yet it is packed with powerful moments from the ministry of Jesus. Written by John Mark and closely connected to the testimony of Peter, this Gospel focuses heavily on the actions and authority of Christ.

#### The Four Gospel Perspectives

- **Matthew – The King:** Shows Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- **Mark – The Action Story:** Focuses on what Jesus did.
- **Luke – The Human Story:** Emphasizes compassion and humanity.
- **John – The Identity Story:** Reveals Jesus as the Son of God.

#### Mark's Opening Declaration (Mark 1:1)

- Jesus is declared the **Son of God**.
- His ministry fulfills **Old Testament prophecy**.
- He introduces a new kind of spiritual authority.

#### John the Baptist Prepares the Way (Mark 1:7–8)

- John points people to someone greater than himself.
- He recognizes Jesus' superiority and mission.
- Jesus will baptize with the **Holy Spirit**.

## **The Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:10–11)**

- The heavens open.
- The Spirit descends like a dove.
- The Father affirms Jesus: 'You are My beloved Son.'

## **The Wilderness Test (Mark 1:12–13)**

- Jesus is driven into the wilderness.
- He is tempted by Satan for 40 days.
- Angels minister to Him.

## **The Message of Jesus (Mark 1:14–15)**

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Key themes:

- The arrival of God's Kingdom
- Repentance
- Faith in the Gospel

## **The Pace of Mark**

The word 'Immediately' (Greek: eutheos) appears more than 40 times in Mark, giving the Gospel its fast-moving rhythm.

- Disciples immediately follow Jesus
- Jesus immediately teaches in the synagogue
- His fame immediately spreads

## **Authority of Jesus**

### **Authority in Teaching (Mark 1:21–22)**

- People were astonished at His teaching
- He taught with authority unlike the scribes

### **Authority Over Evil (Mark 1:23–27)**

- A demon recognizes Jesus as the Holy One of God
- Jesus rebukes the spirit and commands it to leave
- The crowd is amazed at His authority

### **Jesus the Healer**

- Peter's mother-in-law is healed
- Crowds bring the sick and oppressed
- Jesus heals many and casts out demons

## **The Pattern of Jesus (Mark 1:35)**

- Jesus rises early to pray
- He withdraws from the crowds
- He reconnects with the Father

## **Who Is Jesus?**

- The Son of God
- The fulfillment of prophecy
- The healer and deliverer
- The one who forgives and restores
- A leader worth following immediately

## **Our Response**

- Will we follow Him immediately?
- Will we trust Him to sustain us?
- Will we take time to pray?
- Will we invite others to meet Him?