

Mark 1:1-15 – 28 March 2021

“What’s God Ever Done For You?”

Introduction

*The Gospel according to John Mark: he had wealthy mother Mary of Jerusalem & famous cuz Barnabas

*He received many of his details for his book from his close friend the Apostle Peter (I Pet 5:13)

*4 Gospels from 4 people w/ different perspectives

They were all inspired by the Holy Spirit to write of the life of Jesus Christ

They all want you to know what God has done for them

*Anyone every challenged you with that statement?

“What’s God ever done for you?”

*Could God possibly interact with our lives to bring meaning, value & purpose to my existence?

Today, we’ll see **3 things God has done for you that gives everything else true meaning**

1st thing God has done for you – He’s planned your redemption; completing the promises of Abraham (Vs 1)

Even in the beginning of sin; God began to unveil His plan of redeeming mankind back to life everlasting

1. Adam & Eve, like any of us would do, fell into selfishness, pride and sin...but God was there.
2. God spoke directly to the enemy, Satan, telling him that his judgement & our redemption was coming! (Read Gen 3:15)
 - a. The virgin born Savior of God would come to break sin and Satan’s control over us

Before Israel was even a nation, God planned for Abraham’s redemption & salvation

1. Read Gen 15:6 – believed & counted for....
2. B/c Abe believed God; God made 3 promises
 - a. 1st Promise - A Nation – Gen 15:5
 - b. 2nd Promise - A Land – Gen 15:18
 - c. 3rd Promise - A Messiah – Read Gen 22:18, Read Gal 3:16

Paul was being judged b/c his hope in THE promise of God has been fulfilled!

1. Paul stood accused by the Jews before the king & put the focus on what really stirred the trouble
2. Read Acts 26:6-8
3. Paul believed that God had fulfilled His 3rd promise to the world!

Consider Mark's story a bit

1. He had rare privilege of accompanying Paul on his 1st Missionary trip but bailed out 1/2 way thru!
 - a. Paul refused then to have Mark for 2nd trip
 - b. Took about 12 yrs, but they got back together (Col 4:10, II Tim 4:11)
2. Mark's story proves that failure isn't the end of the story.
 - a. Failure doesn't have to end in uselessness
 - b. Your life can be redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ the Messiah

Mark inspired by the H.S. writes of the Messiah's coming to fulfill God's plan to redeem you from slavery to sin

Read Vs 1

1. Mark opens simply by saying that his intention is to write about the good news that Jesus brings
2. What's missing is the back story to Jesus

Have you noticed the genealogies in the 4 Gospels?

1. Matthew – Portrays Jesus as rightful king of Israel
 - a. Lineage thru Joseph shows Jesus' legal right to the throne
2. Luke – Portrays Jesus as the Man
 - a. Lineage thru Mary shows Jesus' spiritual right to the throne
3. John – Portrays Jesus as God Himself
 - a. Lineage is from the beginning
4. Mark – Portrays Jesus as the Servant
 - a. There's no genealogy for a servant
5. These portraits of Jesus are seen in the cherubim around the throne of God in Rev 4:7

2nd thing God has done for you – He’s awakened you to see beyond your physical temporary life (Vs 2-8)

Read Vs 2-3

1. 400 years before, Malachi had prophesied the coming of a *messenger* – who would be called JtB
2. Read Mal 3:1-2 – He’ll cause you to take an internal look at your own sinfulness

Read Vs 4-5

1. John taught the need to confess sin & *repent* or turn your life away from it
2. John’s work of awakening us see our own sinfulness is how he’s preparing the way for Jesus
 - a. This is exactly what’s needed before you can accept the good news of the salvation
 - b. Good news only makes sense when you understand the bad news.
3. The preparation was to confess/repent of sins

Read Vs 6

1. John was a bold wilderness man – prob Essene

Read Vs 7

1. John always pointed to Jesus' might, not self
2. John always pointed to something bigger
 - a. There's purpose beyond self-preservation
 - b. Something out there worth being devoted to

Read Vs 8

1. John's water baptism was a physical picture of their confession of an inward repentance
2. But John said that Jesus would baptize them, not w/ a physical substance but w/ the Holy Spirit!
3. John did something physical, Jesus would do something spiritual
4. Even in absence of knowing all the right answers about Who God is & what He desires, we can still come to Him...
 - a. Admitting sin and guilt, asking for His help
 - b. Awakened to spiritual life beyond this one!

3rd thing God has done for you – He’s brought relationship w/ Himself near to you (Vs 9-15)

Intro

1. It was prophesied in Isa 7:14 that the Messiah would be “God dwelling with us”
2. That’s why the angel told Joseph at Jesus’ birth that His name would be “Emmanuel” (Matt 1:23)
3. Make no mistake Jesus is God Himself

Read Vs 9-11

1. The Trinity of God at the **baptism** affirming the righteousness of Jesus the Son (well pleased)
2. Matthew tells us that John wasn’t going to baptize Jesus until Jesus said, “allow it to be so”.
3. Jesus didn’t ‘need’ to be baptized, He did it to show us the perfect example
4. God allowed all to see a physical example of the spiritual reality that there’s union between Father and Son
 - a. When we come, we gain union w/ the Father

Read Vs 12-13

1. Spirit drove Jesus to be **tempted** of the devil
 - a. Notice temptation isn't sin, even Jesus was
 - b. Don't allow Satan to trip you into sinning just b/c you feel guilty simply from temptation
2. Matthew elaborates on the 3-fold temptation
 - a. *Physical* Tempt – turn these stones to bread
 - b. *Mental* Tempt – cast yourself down
 - c. *Spiritual* Tempt – bow & I'll give You all
 - d. This is why (Read) Heb 4:15 can say that Jesus was tempted yet without sin
3. Jesus defeated each temptation using the Word
 - a. Why not just say, “be gone Satan”? After all, He is the Word of God incarnate.
 - b. He defeated temptation to be our example of how to draw near & acquire God's power!

Read Vs 14-15

1. Jesus preached repent: means to turn from futility and believe the good news

2. Jesus has brought the Kingdom of God close to each one of us
 - a. We need only accept Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that pays for our sins
 - b. This is what allows us to be born into the Kingdom

So for Jesus and for us...

1. Proclaim relationship w/ God is near by baptism
2. Prove relationship w/ God is near by overcoming temptation
3. Preaches relationship w/ God is near by believing the good news

Conclusion

So, the next time someone says, “What’s God ever done for you”, you can say.... a lot!

1. He planned my redemption from the beginning of time

- a. Since the Garden of Eden, He know I would fall into trouble and need rescue
- b. He has always planned for your rescue!

2. He awakened my heart to see beyond this physical, temporary life

- a. Just as God sent John to awaken their hearts, he’s sent people & circumstances into your life
- b. He’s reminding you, life is temporary
 - i. There’s something bigger!!

3. He brought relationship w/ Himself near to me

- a. Jesus came to lead the way & be the way to salvation
- b. Jesus Himself is knocking on the door of your life...let Him in.