

We are **starting** a **New Series** today -  
going **Vs-by-Vs** thru the **Gospel** of **Mark**

We've had **two small groups** go thru **Mark** in the past year  
The **Men's** Tues night group & the **Wed** Night Group

& if **you've been** in one of **those** groups – **have no fear**

because the **Sunday morning** approach  
will be much **different** - than **either** of those small groups

So **Don't be like** the **tourist** in the movie **SPEED** – Who finds himself  
on a **Bus** about to **blow up** - & his **life** is **hanging** in the balance

& when **Keanu Reeves** Heroically **gets** the **bus**  
**onto** the **airport tarmac** - to **save** all the **people**

**All** this **tourist guy** can say is, ***“but I've already seen the airport”***  
**Don't be like that guy**

If **you've** gone through The **Gospel** of **Mark** - **before**

just **get ready** to **experience Jesus MORE**  
in this **Sunday Morning Approach**

Our **Desire** in this study is  
to **DIVE DEEPER** into **WHO Jesus Christ Is**  
& **DIVE DEEPER** into **WHY we Need him So Much**

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Thru his Gospel – Mark gives us SHORT & Concise Pictures  
of Jesus Christ - - in Rapid-Fire format

& so we'll be able to take these Snap-Shots (or vignettes) of Jesus

& use them to really get to know Jesus better  
AND really understand our NEED for him more

OK? - - Let's Pray

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In Mark 1:1 – Mark begins with  
NO background - NO introduction - NO lead up

& so – since Mark does it that way – so will we  
(*& then I'll come back in future msgs & fill you in on Mark*)

Mark 1:1 is a perfect example – of HOW this book is written  
In Concise – Rapid-Fire Approach

Mark STARTS OUT – in his very 1<sup>st</sup> Vs  
with the Most Important POINT of our Eternal Life

Mark 1:1 (NLT)

*1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God . . .*

THAT is ultimately the Whole Point of the Bible –  
. . . in the very FIRST Vs of Mark's Gospel

that's what we're going to LOVE about the Gospel of Mark

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**This Message** is about *the GOOD NEWS* (the gospel)  
*of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God*

**The word** Gospel **MEANS** – “*Good News proceeding from God*”

So this is – *the Good News Proceeding from God, about Jesus the Messiah, son of God*

The **Literal translations** - write here  
. . . *about Jesus Christ, the Son of God*

But – we **MIGHT** have a **bit** of a **problem** thinking that **CHRIST**  
**MIGHT BE** Jesus’ **last name** . . . **BUT - it is not**

**CHRIST** is a **TITLE** – Like saying “*Dave the Pastor*”

**Christ** (in Greek) - is **Messiah** in Hebrew

& **when** used as a **TITLE**

Jesus “**The Christ**” – or Jesus “**The Messiah**”  
**BOTH mean** the **same** Thing

**Both Titles** mean - “*The One come from God, to SAVE*”

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& the **Bible** makes it **clear** - We **NEED to be Saved**  
- **Specifically** from the **eternal consequences** of **sin**

We **may think** we **can** become “*Pretty Good People*”  
Maybe “*Good Enough*” for God to let us into heaven

But – We CAN'T - - - THAT is a LIE  
one perpetuated especially by Man's Religion

Because God is a perfectly HOLY, RIGHTEOUS, and JUST –  
& sin CANNOT be in his Presence – ANY amount of SIN

& we – (by nature and by choice) – Are Sinners

### Romans 3:23 (NLT)

*23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*

### Romans 6:23 (NLT)

*23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Bible says we were BORN with a Sin Nature  
& we have certainly ALL chosen sin

& Sin CANNOT be in the presence of a Holy God

THAT is why we need a SAVIOR  
“*The One come from God, to SAVE*”

& THAT is the Hope that Jesus Christ came to offer the world

To SAVE us – from the consequences of our Sin

SO THAT we an spend Eternity in God's FULL Presence

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& Mark is saying – in the very FIRST words of his Gospel

Jesus IS that SAVIOR (Messiah)

Sent from God to SAVE US from the effects of SIN

& THAT - Is The GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL MSG

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But – Mark is not finished with his opening sentence yet

There is still – a 2<sup>nd</sup> MASSIVE Truth – in just this 1<sup>st</sup> Sentence

Again - Mark 1:1 (NLT)

*1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God*

...

What does that mean – That Jesus is “*The Son of God*”

Does it mean the same thing that WE MEAN when we say  
that someone is the Son of their father

If I say “*I am the son of Don Shepardson*”

is it the same meaning as Jesus Christ being “*the Son of God*”

No – it is not

Our use of the word “Son” = implies a BEGINNING

When I was born I became a SON

& my dad became a FATHER

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**BUT – John 1:1–2 says (NLT)**

**1 *In the beginning the Word (Jesus Christ) already existed. The Word (Jesus) was with God, and the Word was God.***

**2 *He existed in the beginning with God.***

**This title – “*The WORD*” that John uses for Jesus means – “*God in Expression*”**

& we **see clearly** – thru **ALL the N.T.**  
That **Jesus** Christ is **God in Expression**

**Hebrews 1:3 (NLT)**

**3 *The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God . . . (God in expression – do you see it)***

**& Colossians 2:9 says (NLT)**

**9 *For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.***  
*(God in expression)*

**In John 14:9 Jesus said (NLT)**

**9 . . . *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father . . .***  
*(God in expression)*

**The Bible is clear – that Jesus Christ & God the Father are **ONE**  
**ONE in Glory – ONE In Character****

& that **Jesus Christ** is – **God in Expression**

**So – The Title: Son of God – cannot imply the same thing  
That **we imply** when we say “**Son”****

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When the Bible uses the phrase “*Son of God*” for Jesus

It MEANS: *Jesus is everything that God is – In the Flesh*

& he came into this world – to save us from our sin

& to ultimately Free US – AND All Of Creation  
from the effects of sin

### Romans 8:19–21 (NLT)

*19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.*

*20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.*

Its not just US – that Jesus came to set free  
from the curse of sin – but also ALL of creation

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& - Listen to me right here please

Jesus Christ, Being *everything that God is, in the flesh*, MEANS:

There is NO POWER, NO AUTHORITY, in all creation  
That is ABOVE him

& that MEANS:

*If Jesus saves you – You ARE SAFE – IN HIM*

BECAUSE there is NO Power – NO Authority – Above him

**Which is WHY Hebrews 7:25 says of Jesus (NLT)**

***25 Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him . . .***

***IF you are SAVED in Christ – You are SAFE in Christ***

So – **Mark Begins** his **Gospel** with a **Very Concise**, Direct **Statement** of Exactly **WHO Jesus Christ IS**

& **then** he **tells** – Quickly – **HOW Jesus** Christ **entered** the **scene**

**Mark 1:2-3 (NLT)**

(with the last 2 words from v.1)

***1 . . . It began 2 just as the prophet Isaiah had written: “Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. 3 He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him!’ ”***

**John** the **Baptist** - Had **ONE Message**

**The LORD is COMING**

***“Get ready, to MEET GOD!!”***

& that is **STILL** the **Message** – from **God’s Word** Today  
***The LORD is COMING - Get ready, to MEET GOD***

**& HOW DID - John the Baptist**

**Prepare the people – To MEET GOD?**

**Mark 1:4 (NLT)**

***4 This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.***

**John's baptism – was a Baptism of Repentance**

**& - AS people came to John, to be Baptized**

This baptism was a SIGN

**that the people were TURNING FROM their sin,  
and TURNING TO God – to be Forgiven**

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**& something similar still happens today**

As we continue to CALL people

To make that same Commitment

To TURN FROM their sin, & TURN TO God

To Be Forgiven – Just As V.4 says

**THIS IS HOW – YOU Prepare the way for the Lord**

In your OWN Life

**THIS IS HOW - YOU – Make way for the Lord**

To not only forgive you – but to give you new life – In Him

**Everything STILL starts – with us making a commitment**

To **TURN** from **SIN** - &

To **TURN** to the **Lord**, By Faith

For **FORGIVENESS** - & **NEW LIFE**

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& **HOW MANY PEOPLE** - **Came** to John - to **demonstrate**  
their **COMMITMENT** - to **Get Ready To Meet God?**

**Mark 1:5 (NLT)**

*5 All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.*

**Confession** is - **Agreeing with God**

that you **ARE** a **SINNER**, & that you **NEED** a **SAVIOR**

& in the **1<sup>st</sup> century** – **just like today**

**When people** are **Preparing** to **MEET GOD**

**They become** much **more aware** of their **SIN**

**Which is a SIGN** – that we **understand** the **Holiness of God**

& that we **understand** our **NEED for a SAVIOR**

**When you are Preparing to Meet God**

You become **More Aware** of your own **sinfulness**

Which leads to **Repentance**

Which leads to **receiving Forgiveness**

Which leads to **New Life - in Christ**

**This** is how **John the Baptist**

was **preparing people** to **meet** the **Lord** - in the **1<sup>st</sup> Century**

& **this** is still how **WE** **prepare people** to **meet** the **Lord** - **TODAY**

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& **then Mark** gives us – a **SHORT, VIVID description** of John  
(*& he is NO Regular, Religious guy*)

### **Mark 1:6 (NLT)**

*6 His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.*

### **Enough Said**

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& **then** – in **Vs's 7-8** – we have the **Final Announcement**

that **God** is **Coming NEAR**

In the **person** of **Jesus Christ**

& **WHEN** he **DOES** – **Believers** will be **baptized**

**NOT ONLY** with **WATER**

But with **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **Mark 1:7–8 (NLT)**

*7 John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals.*

***8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!***

Listen – **we CANNOT** Sell Salvation **SHORT**

**TOO MANY** people **think salvation** is  
***repeat this prayer, get forgiven, & go to heaven, right?***

**NO – WRONG**

**Salvation** is us **being IMMERSED INTO** Jesus Christ  
**By** us **putting** our **Full Faith** in **Him Alone** – for **salvation**

& **when** we **ARE Immersed** into **Christ - thru FAITH**

Then **HE IMMERSES US**  
**in** the **Person** & the **Power** - of **the Holy Spirit !!**

**Jesus Baptizes US** – in the **Holy Spirit !**

**& The PERSON of the Holy Spirit**

is the **LIFE**, & **PEACE**, & **POWER** of God  
**Living INSIDE of US !!**

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- The **Holy Spirit** is the **PEACE** that **Passes** understanding - **IN US**
  - He **IS THE SOURCE** of the **Abundant Life** - Jesus gives us
  - & He is the **POWER** to Live a **Transformed life** – **TODAY**
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**John Baptized** people – for **Repentance**  
To **get** them **READY to MEET God**

& **then** – when **we put** our **full Faith**  
in **Jesus** Christ as **SAVIOR & LORD**

**We** are **Forgiven of our Sin**  
& **made ready** for **Heaven**

& **then** – **Jesus Baptizes us** – **WITH** the **Holy Spirit**  
**To give** us **Power** to **Live a Transformed life** today

**THAT is the GOSPEL MESSAGE!**

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The **only Question** left is

**Who do YOU say Jesus Christ is?**

**THE WHOLE OF THE NT** – From **MATTHEW** to **REVELATION**

says **clearly** – Jesus is The **Savior of the World**  
& the **Son of God**

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**BUT** – **each of US** – **Individually**  
**MUST** answer the **same question**

**Who do YOU say Jesus Christ IS?**

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**This is what it came down to in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century  
& this is what it comes down to - TODAY**

**Just before Jesus made his way to Jerusalem  
For the LAST time – in his earthly life**

**After the majority of the Training of the Disciples  
had been done**

**He took them away by themselves  
& he asked them this SAME Question**

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& PETER – Answering for the group – said in

**Matthew 16:16 (NLT)**

***16 . . . “You are the Messiah (Savior), the Son of the living God.”***

**I pray that TODAY  
*or thru this study***

**EACH of us will be able to say to Jesus  
*You ARE The Savior – The Son of the Living God***

**Let's Pray**