

## 'Follow Jesus: Your Stunning Savior & Son of God

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

### **Intro:**

- [Image] **Q – How many of you over Christmas had the privilege of spending time with your mother-in-law? ☺**  
**E.g. I will never forget the very first time my mother in law came to visit our house in NI ...**
- [Need] **Who's at the center of your world?**  
- **Is it your self or your Savior?**  
- If I was to look at your time / finances / passions & pursuits / deepest longings & hopes & dreams ...
- [Subject] **Mark is going to plead with the Roman believers to which he writes ...**  
**Put Jesus @ the center of your life & follow him, for He alone is your stunning Savior & Son of God**
- [Text / Preview] Turn with me to Mark 1:1-13  
- **Stunning Declaration & 3 Scenes showing why Jesus is worthy to sit at the center of your world & follow**
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### **I. [DECLARATION] Stunning Savior & Son of God [Mark 1:1]**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Christ, the Son of God,

- **Jesus ...** Gr. Equivalent of Hebrew Joshua = “Yahweh is Salvation” or “God Saves”
  - **Savior ...** Christos = Gr. Equivalent of Hebrew title Masiah / Messiah = Anointed 1 on a Mission to Save
    - Sin is like a death sentence / disease / deadly destructive force on the planet
    - 5 fold separation sin at the Fall = Man v God / Man v Man / Creation v God / Creation v Man / Creation v Creation
    - Jesus is your stunning Savior who has come to save us from the penalty of sin / power of sin / presence of sin
  - **Son of God ...** If you could see the angels in heaven bowing down before this son – you'd be lost in wonder, love & praise
    - Supremacy ... Exact Representation of the Father – Essence & Equality [Phil 2]
    - Servanthood ... Personal Representative of the Father – As a Perfect Son, Submissive to His Will, Mission & Cross
- \*\* Mark 1:1 is a summary sentence of the whole book = confession of Peter in Mark 8 + Centurion in Mark 15!! \*\***

**MTR - E.g. Story of Boy (Stephen Olford) Sinking in Quick Sand in Forest / Servant of the Father Runs on Mission to Save**

### **II. [SCENE 1] Greater Than All Powers, Principalities & Prophets [Mark 1:2-8]**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Christ, the Son of God,<sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way’<sup>3</sup> ‘a voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.<sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the River Jordan.<sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.<sup>7</sup> And this was his message: ‘After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.<sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

#### **- Greater than All Powers & Principalities**

- Q – Have you ever used terms that are specific to a culture that people in that culture know but others don't?**
- E.g. When I first came to Texas – ‘I'm fixin to do something’ / ‘All Y'all’ / Carrie going to the ‘book makers’ in NI
  - Mark is specific term here, culturally bound to Rome, & by which he is making a massive claim ...
    - Euangellion = herald good news / Used of Announcing Birth of Heir, Accession to Power / Awesome Victory
    - Son of God = Julius Caesar = divi Julius (divine Julius), son Octavian divi fillias (son of the divine) ... by the time of Nero (son of God)
    - Lord = ‘One who exercises [supreme] supernatural authority over all mankind – ruler, commander, master’
    - Mark is saying – Nero aint got nothing on our stunning Savior & Son of God = Jesus
  - **Perfectly Fulfilled Prophecy** = ‘It stands written’ (v2) / ‘Isaiah the prophet (v2) ... 700 years / 352 prophecies, 1 in 13 trillion!’
    - Is 40:3 – Messenger = John (v2) / Min. = Preparing (removing) way (v2b) / Message = Repent, Trust, Devote (v3-4)

- **People Preparing to Meet Him & Get Right with Him** = Takes them back to wilderness / Turns them Back to God in Jordan
  - Metanoia = turning, changing of mind, but in NT means changing one's whole course of life & returning to God
  - Wilderness = symbolic here of *new exodus*, being set free / Jordan = *entering again into covenant* with God
  - Confessing their sins = "Confession of sin is more than a mere acknowledgment of sin in life. It is an agreeing with God as to all the implications of sin. It is looking at sin from God's perspective and acting accordingly. It means the putting away of that sin, and the determination to be done with that sin." Kenneth Wuest
  - MTR = Do you need to repent? Return? Reorient your world / revolve around JC? "The end of pride is forgiveness"
- **Proclaimed to be Greater than the Greatest of All Prophets** – Greatest of Prophets = Unworthy / Pour out, submerge HS
- **MTR = Who will your heart & life give allegiance to this year? Who will you follow? Who will you enthrone at the center?**
  - He's the one who ... [NAMES OF CHRIST]
  - He's the one who will ... [ACTIONS OF CHRIST]

### **III. [SCENE 2] Heavens Gift, Anointed With the Spirit & Declared to be God's 1 and Only Son [Mark 1:9-10]**

<sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

Nb. 'At that time / Immediately' (v9) / Identifies with Jewish people / 1 Important differed – no confession of sin (v9)

#### **- Heaven's Gift**

- 'heaven being torn open' = 'to rip' / answer to Isaiah 64:1 – rend the heavens & come down
- Used in Jewish lit. (LXX) of God ripping Red Sea in Ex 14:21 / Appears again in Mark 15:38 for curtain being torn in 2
- He comes to us / So we can come to Him!
- E.g. Me running towards Hannah at PHX airport, only to find glass barrier between us / God rips heaven/curtain, removes the barriers so that through him he can come to us and we can come to him

#### **- Spirit Descends**

- Gr. Literally says 'descended into Him', i.e., descended = upon him, into him = within him
- Like a dove – is the Spirit a dove? Coming to rest on him at the start of public min. / dove = symbol of sacrifice

#### **- Father Declares**

- You are my one (and only) Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased
- I wouldn't let my son die for anyone ... E.g. Captain in British Army in Falklands War – 1 Died in place of Rest
- Father declares – this is my son, heaven's gift, anointed with the Spirit, on a mission – to die in your place

### **IV. [SCENE 3] Surrendered to the Spirit & Faithful to Follow His Father No Matter What**

<sup>12</sup>At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup>and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

- Surrendered to the Spirit – 'Immediately' (v12) / 'Sent' = hurl, drive / 'Wilderness ... 40 days' = Where Israel failed
- Tested = word here for tempted in positive sense = to put someone through trial to demonstrate his character
- Targeted = in negative sense = Satan (adversary) seeking to entice, tempt JC away from mission / with wild animals
- Faithful to follow – 1 long, 40 day temptation, harsh, hell-like environment, angels attending = FAITHFUL TO FOLLOW

Contrast the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam – Adam fell in beautiful environment, Jesus stayed faithful in a hell like environment / Contrast the sons of Israel with the Son of God, Israel wandered 40 years, grumbled and fell in wilderness, Jesus in wilderness 40 days stayed faithful / Christians in Rome v Christ one in Desert – Rome = harsh, enduring Satan, wild animals, Jesus is their hope = Follow Him

**HP / Conclusion – Who's at the Center of Your World? Who will you follow & orient your whole world around in 2024?  
Make Jesus the Center of Your World & Follow Him –**

**Mark declares He is Your Stunning Savior & Son of God / Greater Than all Powers, Principalities & Prophets / Heaven's Gift, Anointed with the Spirit, & Declared to be God's 1 & Only Son / Surrendered to the Spirit & Faithful to Follow No Matter What**





ARCTIC OCEAN

ARCTIC OCEAN

NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

ASIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

SOUTH AMERICA

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

The World  
Smithsonian  
JOURNEYS  
SmithsonianJourneys.org

SOUTHERN OCEAN

SOUTHERN OCEAN

ANTARCTICA







**(1) JESUS IS OUR STUNNING SAVIOR & SON OF GOD**

"The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Christ, the Son of God ..."

**MARK 1:1**



## **(2) JESUS IS GREATER THAN ALL POWERS, PRINCIPALITIES & PROPHETS**

**1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way' –3 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." 4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the River Jordan. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'** (Mark 1:1-8)



## JESUS IN MARK 1-8, HE'S THE ONE WHO ...

1) The Spirit is Poured Out Upon @ the Beginning of His Public Ministry	Mk 1:10
(2) The Father Declares to be the Son of God	Mk 1:11
(3) Went to War with Satan And Could Not be Deterred from His Mission	Mk 1:12-13
(4) Taught with Authority No One Had Ever Seen Before	Mk 1:22-23
(5) Terrified Demons & Drove Them Out with One Word	Mk 1:23



## JESUS IN MARK 1-8, HE'S THE ONE WHO ...

(6) Healed the Sick & Those Slammed on their Beds with Fever	Mk 1:29-31
(7) Set the Miserable & Those with Strongholds Free, Serving Late into the Night	Mk 1:32-34
(8) Touched & Healed a Leper as He is Filled with Compassion	Mk 1:40-45
(9) Healed a Paralytic & Forgave Him of His Sins	Mk 2:11
(10) Transformed the Tax Collectors	Mk 2:13-17



## JESUS IN MARK 1-8, HE'S THE ONE WHO ...

(11) Healed a Man with a Shriveled Hand & Brought Complete Restoration	Mk 3:1-6
(12) Before Whom Evil Spirits Fell Down & Declared "You are the Son of God"	Mk 3:7-12
(13) Stands Victorious over Beelzebub, the Prince of Demons, & Came to Bind Satan	Mk 3:20-30
(14) Scattered the Seed of God's Word So Human Hearts Could be Completely Transformed	Mk 4:1-20
(15) Is the Light of the World, Whose Kingdom like a Mustard Seed Starts Small but will Grow to Take Over the Whole World	Mk 4:21-34



## JESUS IN MARK 1-8, HE'S THE ONE WHO ...

(16) Calmed the Storm & Told the Wind & Waves to be Still	Mk 4:35-41
(17) Set the Demoniac with Legions of Demons Free, Driving Them into a Herd of Pigs	Mk 5:1-20
(18) Raised Jairus's Daughter from the Dead & Healed a Bleeding Woman Who Had Suffered for 12 Years	Mk 5:21-43
(19) Fed 5,000 People with Just 5 Loaves & 2 Fish	Mk 6:30-44
(20) Walked on Water Towards His Struggling Disciples & Says "It is I"	Mk 6:45-51



## JESUS IN MARK 1-8, HE'S THE ONE WHO ...

(21) Crowds Rushed to Lay the Sick Before & With 1 Touch of the Edge of His Cloak They Were Healed	Mk 6:53-56
(22) Drove out the Evil Spirit from a Syro Phoenician Woman's Daughter	Mk 7:24-30
(23) Healed a Deaf & Mute Man	Mk 7:31-37
(24) Fed 4,000 People from 7 Loaves & a Few Small Fish	Mk 8:1-13
(25) Healed a Blind Man, at First Partially, Then with Crystal Clear Sight ... Leading to Peter's Confession – "You are the Christ!"	Mk 8:22-26; 27-30



### **(3) JESUS IS HEAVEN'S GIFT, ANOINTED WITH THE SPIRIT & DECLARED TO BE GOD'S SON**

**9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'**

**MARK 1:9-11**



**(4) JESUS SURRENDERED TO THE SPIRIT & WAS FAITHFUL TO FOLLOW HIS FATHER NO MATTER WHAT**

**12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13 and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.**

**MARK 1:12-13**



**MAKE JESUS THE CENTER OF YOUR WORLD ... & FOLLOW HIM!**