

March 1 – Who Is This Man?

Text: Mark 1:1–15

Big Idea: Jesus is not merely a teacher—He is the promised Son of God and King.

Key Truths:

1. Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promises (vv. 1–3)
2. Jesus is affirmed by God the Father (vv. 9–11)
3. Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God (vv. 14–15)

Read Mark 1:1-3

How did Mark start his letter?

Why would that be important?

Read Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1

Why does Mark use these two prophecies?

Why is that important?

Why would Mark start like this instead of just starting with the birth of Jesus?

How could beginning like this strengthen Mark’s case for Christ?

How is God using Mark’s words to prepare people to receive Christ?

How could God use your words to prepare people to receive Christ?

Read Mark 1:9-11

Mark 1:4, For what purpose was John baptizing people?

If Jesus is sinless, why was He baptized?

1:10, What is being described?

1:11, Why is the affirmation of the Father important?

What does it teach us?

Where do you seek affirmation? (friends, family, co-workers, people in authority)

How can that be dangerous?

Where should you seek affirmation?

Mark 1:7-8, How does John say his baptizing compares to that of what Jesus will do?

Why is that distinction important?

Read Mark 1:14-15

John said, "Repent and believe the good news!" -

What does that mean?

The Kingdom of God has arrived, meaning Jesus, the Advent has come. The arrival of the Messiah requires some sort of response.

The Explanation:

- "The time is fulfilled" → God's plan has reached its moment.
- "Kingdom of God" → God's rule breaking into the world.
- Two responses required:

- o **Repent** – turn from sin
- o **Believe** – trust the good news

The gospel is not just information—it is an invitation that demands a response.

Have you entered the Kingdom of God through Christ Jesus?

If you have:

How would you explain the “Kingdom of God” in simple terms?

Why do repentance and belief go together?

What does living under Jesus’ kingship look like day to day?

If you have not: Will you today submit to Christ?

Who do you say Christ is?

March 8 – The Call to Follow

Text: Mark 1:16–20

Key Truths:

1. Jesus takes the initiative
2. Following Jesus requires surrender
3. Jesus gives new purpose

“What’s the hardest thing you’ve ever had to leave behind?”

Leaving something behind is rarely easy. Yet in this passage, we see men who leave **everything**—immediately—when Jesus calls. Mark wants us to feel the weight of that moment.

Following Jesus always involves leaving something behind—but it also means gaining something far greater.

Read Mark 1:14-15

- Last week we discussed the Kingdom of God coming in the person of Jesus Christ.
 - 📖 Jesus has just proclaimed the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14–15).
 - 📖 Now He begins calling followers—not religious elites but working men.
 - 📖 The call to discipleship is **personal, direct, and costly**.

Read Mark 1:16-17

- How did Jesus gain disciples?

In the first century, Rabbis were sought out by students. But Jesus sought his disciples.

- What were Jesus first disciples doing?
- Why is that significant?

In the first century boys completed school around the age of 12. The best of the best would continue on to Rabbinical school. The rest would go to work.

- What does this tell us about Jesus first disciples?

- What are the primary excuses people use for not proclaiming the Kingdom of God?

- How does the choosing of the first disciples by Jesus debunk those arguments?

Read Mark 1:18-20

To follow Jesus means to let go of what once defined you.

Vs. 18, how long did it take Andrew to put down his nets?

What do those fishing nets represent for Andrew and Simon?

James and John, left behind the family business, what does that represent?

What do you need to leave behind to follow Jesus?

What do you hold onto in your life that keeps you from following Jesus completely?

What nets keep people from following Jesus wholly today?

Read Mark 1:17

What purpose did Jesus give his new disciples?

Was fishing bad?

What would have happened if they did not want to follow Jesus wholly?

The men started as fishermen; they turned into fishers of men.

Jesus took what they knew and transformed it to something greater.

How does Jesus give meaning beyond career and achievement?

How can Jesus use your life circumstance to make you a fisher of men?

Ask yourself:

- Have I responded to Jesus with delay or obedience?
- What am I holding onto that keeps me from full surrender?
- Where is Jesus calling me to trust Him more fully?

Jesus still calls ordinary people—right where they are—to follow Him with their whole lives.

March 15 – The Power of the King

Text: Mark 4:35–41

What are life events that cause people to panic?

Have you ever had a life event that has caused you to panic?

What was that like?

Why do people panic?

Read Mark 4:35-41

Look back over verses 3-6 - What was going on in those verses?

Now look at verses 7- 9 – What was going on in those verses?

What did Jesus ask his disciples to do? Why?

All through this section Jesus has been teaching and preaching to groups great and small.

Verse 33, why do you think Jesus spoke privately to his disciples?

Were the disciples being disobedient to Jesus?

Why would Jesus choose this moment to send his disciples into the storm?

Do you think Jesus knew the storm was coming to those men?

Do you think Jesus knows when the storms come for you?

Why were the disciples afraid (terrified)?

Vs. 38 – What was asked of Jesus?

Why did they ask that?

Have you ever asked that?

Why? Why not?

What do we learn from this?

If the disciples were not being disobedient to Jesus, then why did he send them into the storm?

Verse 40 – What questions does Jesus ask?

Do you sometimes think Jesus is asleep on you?

Do you ever feel like he doesn't care?

Where does that come from?

Verse 39 – Jesus rebuked the wind.

Verse 40 – How do you think their faith changed?

Why did Jesus allow them to go through the storm?

Why does Jesus allow you to go through the storm?

Key Truths:

1. Obedience doesn't eliminate storms
2. Jesus is present even when He seems silent
3. Jesus' power reveals His identity

Application:

Fear fades when we remember who is in the boat.

March 22 – The Greatest Command

Text: Mark 12:28–34

Why do people crave power?

What causes people to manipulate God's word?

How would you summarize the Christian life in one sentence?

Why is it important for us to study, and apply God's Word to our life?

Read Mark 12:28-34

Verse 28 – Why did the scribe ask Jesus this question?

Was he seeking truth or seeking something else?

The teachers developed a system to make some "Laws" less important and other "Laws" more important.

Why would they do that?

By asking Jesus which law was the most important, they were trying to trap Jesus into breaking a code created by men.

Have you ever done that? Tried to judge someone based on your ideas verses what is truly in the Bible?

Read Matthew 5:19

What did Jesus say about the least of the "Laws"?

Read James 2:8-11

What does James say?

Where did he get it from?

Read Leviticus 19:18

The Scribe would have known the law of Leviticus already.

So why ask it, what was he trying to do to Jesus ?

How does Jesus respond?

Vs. 32-33 – How did the scribe respond?

Why is this important?

Vs. 34 – How does Jesus respond?

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Why is this statement by Jesus so important?

Why would Jesus say this is the greatest command?

31 The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself, There is no other command greater than these.”

Why is this statement by Jesus so important?

Why is having an understanding of Biblical love so important with this statement?

Application:

What areas of your life do you need to surrender completely to God?

Why is it dangerous for you to assign what sin is worse than others?

Which “Law” did Jesus say was the most important?

Do you love something more than God? (Are you sure?)

March 29 – The King Enters (*Palm Sunday*)

Text: Mark 11:1–11

Big Idea: Jesus enters Jerusalem as the promised yet misunderstood King.

Key Truths:

1. Jesus fulfills prophecy
2. Jesus comes in humility

Teaching Outline:

- **Introduction:**

What kind of kings do people want today?

What kind of god do people want?

Do you think people want leaders who are better than they are or leaders that make them feel better about themselves?

What did the disciples and the people of Israel want Jesus to do?

Read Mark 11:1-11

How did Jesus enter Jerusalem?

Did he come with an army?

Why is important that Jesus came on a donkey colt?

Read Zechariah 9:9

Why should people shout that Jesus came on a donkey and not a horse?

Read 19:11-16

Who is the rider?

What would be different if Jesus came the first time like this?

Why is important for us to understand how Jesus came the first time?

Why is important for us to understand how Jesus will return?

Does this image of Jesus differ from the way many people view Jesus now?

What does this teach us about people and their view of Christ?

Do we want Jesus to fit into our ideas, rather than we fitting into the will of God?

Rather than us understanding the will and ways of God?

Application:

What can you do to better understand the will and ways of God?

What steps can you take to be sure you are not trying to make Jesus fit into your ideas and thoughts?

April 5 – Easter Sunday – The Empty Tomb

Text: Mark 16:1–8

Big Idea: Jesus is risen, just as He said.

Key Truths:

1. Death is defeated
2. God keeps His promises

Read Mark 16:1-8

Why is the most pivotal moment in eternity? (the resurrection)

What if Jesus did not raise from the dead, what does that change?

Vs. 1 , What were they going to do? Why?

Read Matthew 16:21 , Mark 8:31

What did Jesus tell them?

Why do you think Jesus was so clear about His suffering and resurrection?

How are we similar to these people?

Do you think they did not believe Jesus,

or they were not ready to receive what Jesus said?

Why is important for us to strive to understand and apply the Word of God?

Mark 16:3 – What problem issues did they think they would have?

Why are we so quick to imagine obstacles before we see God's power?

How does worry reveal what—or who—we are trusting?

Why were they alarmed when they arrived?

What did they find when they arrived?

Why does God's work sometimes unsettle us before it comforts us?

Have you ever been surprised by God doing something bigger than expected?

Application:

How does shallow engagement with Scripture affect our faith in hard seasons?

If the tomb is empty, what fear, habit, or burden no longer has the right to control you?

How should the resurrection shape the way we walk into this week?

April 12 – Living in Resurrection Power

Text: Mark 16:15–20

Big Idea: The risen Christ empowers His people to live on mission.

Key Truths:

1. The mission continues
2. Jesus empowers His followers
3. Christ reigns and works through His church

- **Introduction:**

What is our mission as believers

How would you explain the Christian mission in one sentence?

Why is it easy to confuse the mission of the church with good activities rather than gospel purpose?

Read Mark 16:15-20

Vs. 16 - does not mean that baptism is a necessary requirement for personal salvation. The second half of the verse indicates by contrast that one who does not believe the gospel will be condemned by God (implied) in the day of final judgment

***Vs. 18** - This does not warrant voluntary snake-handling or drinking of poison, practices not attested in the early church. Since Paul's encounter with a snake at Malta was unintentional (cf. Acts 28:3–5), the New Testament records no actual instance of either of the experiences described here.*

Jesus does not call us to stupidity – picking up snakes, drinking poison. If we do that, we should expect consequences.

Clearly these people who Jesus spoke this to would die and would face persecution. Death did not have victory.

The church has nothing in this life to fear; we can go in boldness knowing that God is with us.

Read Matthew 28:19-20

What did Jesus tell them he would do?

It is up to us to decide if we believe him.

Mark 16: 15 – What did Jesus tell them?

Who is responsible for carrying out this mission—only pastors and missionaries, or every believer?

What does “all the world” look like in your daily life?

Where has God already placed you to be a witness?

What fears or excuses most often keep you from sharing the gospel?

How does remembering the resurrection change the way we view obedience to this command?

Mark 16:16

If salvation is not dependent upon Baptism (the thief on the cross), why does Jesus place so much emphasis on it?

Why is Jesus assuming those that are saved will be baptized?

What does that imply about the person sharing Christ with them?

How does that relate to **Matthew 28:20**?

What does Jesus say about those who do not believe?

Read Matthew 7:16-20

What did Jesus say?

Mark 11, Jesus cursed a fig tree because it did not obey him. The tree did not submit to the master. In verse 14, Jesus said you will never produce fruit.

Optional texts to read: Mark 11:20-22, James 2:14 , Ephesians 2:8-10

Read John 13:35

How did Jesus say they will know you are his disciple?

In Matthew 28 and Mark 16 – what is our primary job ?

Mark 16:17-18

What promise does Jesus give alongside the command?

Why is it important that empowerment follows obedience, not comfort?

How do we sometimes focus more on our limitations than Christ's power?

In what ways do we depend on our ability instead of the Holy Spirit?

What would bold obedience look like if you truly believed Christ goes with you?

Mark 16:19-20

Why does Mark emphasize that Jesus reigns *and* still works?

How does Christ's authority give confidence to ordinary believers?

Where have you seen God work when His people stepped out in faith?

Application:

What is one step of obedience God may be calling you to take this week?

Who is one person God has placed in your life that needs the gospel?

How can our church better reflect a people sent on mission?

