



To the left is Mantegna's St. Mark.

Above is the first page of Mark in Minuscule 544, a Greek manuscript on parchment, +/- 14 Century.

# The Gospel of Mark

## Jesus' Manhood, Motion, and Mission

### *Day 1 – Chapter 1 Overview*

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to this day, this time of study! Let's pray: Abba Father, thank You for Your wild plan of rescuing us from our sin. Holy Spirit, please open up our minds so that we may understand what we're reading today. Thank You so much! Amen.

#### **Read the Chapter**

Read the entire chapter in one sitting. Try to summarize each event briefly; I stick with 10 words or less to help me keep to the main point. Here's an example:

- 1:1-8 John the Baptist comes, fulfills Isaiah's prophecy, prepares the way.
- 1:9-11 Jesus is baptized by John, Spirit descends, God affirms love.
- 1:12-13 Jesus is tempted 40 days by Satan.
- 1:14-20 Jesus calls the Core Four (fishermen): Simon, Andrew, James, John.
- 1:21-28 Jesus teaches, heals demon-possessed with authority on Sabbath; people happy.
- 1:29-34 Jesus heal's Peter's mother-in-law, then sick, possessed of town.
- 1:35-39 Solitary Jesus prays early, preaches in nearby villages.
- 1:40-45 Healed leper blabs; therefore Jesus stays far, but is found.

## *Day 2 – Jesus and J the B*

### **Map It**

Do you think you're busy? Map out Jesus' Sunday. Note what He did and where He went.

Taught at the synagogue-->

### **John the Baptist (J the B)**

Do a character sketch of John the Baptist, noting his appearance, his mission, and his message. For more information, check Matthew 3:1-17; for the astounding story of the circumstances around his birth, read Luke 1:5-25 and 57--80.

## *Day 3 – Temptation*

### **Sweet Words**

Have you ever had anyone say words like God said to Jesus? These are soul-level words of identity and affirmation. The Message translates this verse as, "You are My Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life." Re-write this verse in your own words:

Let God speak to you His words of affirmation. Look up Zephaniah 3:17; John 15:9-11. Soak up His affection.

### **Temptation**

Jesus was tempted by Satan; we will be too. Reading the more detailed account in Matthew 4:1-11, how does Jesus answer Satan every single time He is tempted to curb His identity as the Messiah? What book does He quote?

Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Eugene Peterson describes the Word "as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey."

Identify ways you are being tempted now. Then find Scriptures to quote to counter that temptation. Use a concordance or get online; look up key words to find what you need. You'll be so glad you put in the time to do this! Make a note below about how God meets your needs through His strong word:

## *Day 4 – Fishing*

### **Jesus Fishes First**

Just as we cast a net to hook or contain a fish, Jesus casts His line out to the Core Four. Who are they, these burly men of the water who become His best friends?

## *Day 4, continued – Fishing*

### **Kingdom**

What do you think Jesus means by “the Kingdom of God”?

### **Rapid Response**

What do verses 18 and 20 say about the timing of their response to Jesus’ request that they follow Him?                      What or whom did they leave?

Take this personally: What or whom holds you back from following Jesus? What or whom do you need to leave behind as you pursue Him?

## *Day 5 – Lord!*

### **Authority**

Contrast someone who speaks with confidence and authority with someone who does not.

Fairly quickly, if I notice someone is not competent about their subject, I tune out. But if they are sure and passionate and smart and circumspect, I focus in. How about you?

### **Identity, verses 21-34**

Who did the demon say Jesus is?

Why do you think the demon knew that?

In what ways was Jesus Lord over these situation? List several from the entire passage:

Picture Jesus as a King (Lord), walking through your life: morning routine, work day, associations, conversations, evenings, media, entertainment, bedtime. Ask Him what He would like to change—and then remember, He is Lord! Even the demons know and tremble. Anything He asks of you if for your good and His glory, so trust Him and do whatever He says.

## *Day 6 – Ministry*

### **Prayer**

Follow Jesus’ example in verse 35 for the next 10 days. I dare you. Write about your experience:

### **Purpose**

Jesus alludes to His purposes in verse 38 and verse 41. Write out what you think they are:

Look at Jesus’ interaction with the leper: did He touch him?                      Was He repulsed? (v.41)  
Jesus not only lovingly, intentionally heals the leper with a healing touch and command, but He also reaches out to the religious community. In your experience, are religious people a tough mission field? Why/Why not?