

Mark Series: Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel

A RECAP OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

LEARNING THE JESUS WAY

**JESUS KINGDOM'S ARRIVAL DEMANDS WE TURN FROM OTHER WAYS,
TRUST HIS PERSON AND PROMISES, AND FOLLOW HIM TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO FISHERS OF MEN.**

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 1:14-18

4 August A.D. 2013

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ESV

Three week mini-series on **Learning the Jesus Way**: Week 2, *The Way of the Spirit as the Way to/of the Way*; Week 3, *Jesus is the way to understanding flesh and Spirit*.

Week 1: Eugene H. Peterson's *The Jesus Way: a conversation on the ways that Jesus is the way*, Eerdmans, 2007.

John 14:6 (ESV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

We spend a lot more time focusing on Jesus as the truth and Jesus as the life, than on Jesus as the way. The Jesus way not only defines the end, Jesus himself defines the means. The church is the place, the people, the new community where we find not only truth and eternal life in Jesus, but meeting with Jesus learn the way of Jesus.

Dick Lucas: (*paraphrase*) the weakness of many commentaries and with them of much expository preaching is so concentrating on verses or paragraphs that they miss the *melodic line* of the book they are in, not to mention the melodic line of Scripture.

This morning we are going to base our teaching firmly in Mark 1:14-18 to hear a (the?) major melodic line (theme) of the Gospel according to Mark

Jesus announces that time's up; God's reign and rule has now come near in Jesus 1:14-15a

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;

The Aramaic term behind the Greek for *kingdom* emphasizes more *kingly rule, sovereignty, reign*. Jesus speaks 19 times in Mark of the kingdom of God, cf., Mark 9:1, *And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."* ESV Likely speaking of Pentecost where by Spirit and Word Jesus' rule through his church radically expands in his way.

Think not WWJD (*What Would Jesus Do?*) but rather HWJD (*How Would Jesus Do?*). The Gospel is not merely a list of truths and rules; the Gospel is God's coming to us in Jesus who is our way and radically changes the way we see God and see others.

Therefore, actively betray the others kingdoms you serve Mark 1:15b Repent

Repent: change one's mind, turn, be converted. Turn from the ways you've been going and the reasons you've been going and turn to the Jesus way.

Turn from Herod's way, the way of wealth and power and authority taken from humankind.

Mark 13:1ff. the disciples are impressed with the temple buildings.

Mark 1:12ff. the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness and Satan tempted him to use his powers in an earthly way.

Turn from earthly wealth (rich young ruler, the tax gatherer...)

Mark 5:1ff. the man in bondage among the tombs set free, but the locals are concerned with poultry disruption.

Mark 10:13ff. bring the children to me

Mark 10:23ff. "there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel who will not receive a hundredfold in this time,...and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 12:1ff. parable of the vineyard: beat the messengers, kill the son; we retain possession and keep the fruits. Mark 12:38-44 scribes seeking honor, devouring widows houses v. the widow who gives her two small coins

Turn from the kingdom of the religious (Scribes, Pharisees)

Mark 1 John the Baptizer calls to wilderness not corrupt Temple, even the righteous must come for forgiveness
Mark 7:1ff not ceremonial washings/not Corban, but what comes out of a man or woman is what defiles
Mark 7:24ff. insiders v. outsiders: Gentiles (Syrophenean woman ff. by 7:31ff opening ears/mouth to hear/praise
Mark 14:1ff disrespected woman breaks conventions to pour love and praise onto Jesus.

Turn from earthly fame/honor (crowd builders, famous for being famous...)

We honor not only Hollywood, but athletes, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, etc. We want their mark, the symbol, their rep. Jesus moves on from the crowds, treats hemorrhaging woman before leader, approaches Jerusalem on a donkey.

Turn from the kingdom of earthly families

Mark 3:20ff. earthly family often think we are out of our minds v. whoever does the will of my Father (Jesus' mothers and brothers merged with disciples in Acts 1!)

Turn from our private kingdoms of self

Mark 10:1ff. Jesus teaching on divorce and remarriage

Mark 14:10ff. Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus instead of everything else. Mark 8:38 *For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes...*

Believe in the Gospel

Mark 1:15b

Don't simply acknowledge God bring the best news in Christ, believe, rest in, live by this gospel of the arrived kingdom.

Mark 1: The Spirit has come in fullness on Jesus who baptizes in the Spirit

Mark 1:14ff. Jesus lives by the Spirit as he refuses the world's ways of achieving as he's tempted.

Mark 1:21-2:1ff. Unclean and sick made well; only Jesus can forgive sins.

Mark 2:18ff. New Wineskins, Lord of the Sabbath

Mark 4: parable of the seeds and distractions that hinder belief. 4:35ff. the God who stills storms is among us!

Mark 4:35ff/6:30ff a greater than Moses is among us...

The upside down gospel way: Mark 8:27-38 *who am I?* Christ must suffer, be rejected and killed; take up your cross...

Mark 10:32ff. Disciples are afraid as he speak of his death; they grasp for kingdom seats, but are told those who believe know they need to be servants *FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.*

Mark 11:12ff Fig tree: one greater than Israel and temple is here; judgment comes on fleshly Israel; temple thrown down to make his way straight, but *forgiveness is here: Father forgive them for they know not what they do.*

Follow me and be shaped into fishers of men

Mark 1:16-18

- As dramatic as any healing, cleansing, storm-stopping or dead-raising is Jesus' call and disciples who rise and follow!
- Mark 3:13ff. He calls those he desires to be with him and to follow and learn as they watch him work; then he sends.
- RE: fishers of men: cf. Jeremiah 16:14-17
- Greatness is servanthood, welcoming children, giving cups of cold water, leading out of weakness (Gethsemane/cross)
- Mark 15: crucifixion and burial: like Mary his mother he submits himself to the Father's will
- Husbands [and all] take up the cross (Eph 5: love your wives as Christ loved the church—this is the gospel!)
- Mark 16:9-20 The original ending may have been lost OR Mark may intend to emphasize the Jesus way: repent, believe, follow: Mar 16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. **There you will see him, just as he told you.**" ESV
- Individually and together as his church we can take the next steps because we believe him and his promises. He takes us in our weakness and teaches us to love out our trust in him. We do not domineer, control, beat down, we speak bold truth as we treat people Jesus way.