

Gospel Gems from Mark



Introduction and Chapter 1

What does the word "Gospel" mean? _____

In what two ways is the word "Gospel" used?

- 1.
- 2.

Note that in length Mark is the _____ of the four Gospel books

Mark was not one of the original 12 _____ of Jesus. He was a cousin of Barnabas and is mentioned in the book of Acts and in letters of Paul and Peter. In 1 Peter 5:13, Peter calls Mark his "son" (spiritual, not physical); there is a strong ancient tradition that Peter was an important contributor to the Gospel that bears Mark's name.

Mark probably wrote for a _____, not Jewish, audience. His Gospel especially emphasizes the _____ and powerful acts of Jesus, but it also contains his teachings.



Gospel Gem #1 - Mark introduces us to the Savior

Unlike the other Gospels, Mark begins immediately with Jesus' adult life. Luke and Matthew both contain accounts of Jesus' conception, birth and childhood. John opens with a majestic paragraph about the divine nature of Jesus (John 1:1-18). What important purpose do those accounts serve in the other three Gospels?

How is Mark going to accomplish the same goal?

Look at the opening chapter of Mark and see how many ways you can find in which Mark demonstrates that Jesus was not a mere man, but God's Son and the Savior. (see if you can find at least eight)



Gospel Gem #2 - Jesus' first words

What are the first words of Jesus recorded in this book?

Jesus spoke these words almost 2,000 years ago. Why are they still true today? (hint: Think about what Jesus meant by the phrase "the kingdom of God" - Luke 17:21 may help)

What do YOU need to remember when you hear these words of Jesus?



Gospel Gem #3 - Jesus cares about both our souls and our bodies

How did Jesus show in his preaching at Capernaum (verses 21-34) that he cared about people's souls and their earthly lives?

Why did the evil spirit at the synagogue speak the truth about who Jesus was?

Why did Jesus leave town to go elsewhere? Look closely at his words in verse 38.

Why is it important for you to remember...

- That Jesus cares about both your soul's salvation and your physical needs
- That our soul's salvation is the higher priority

How can Jesus' ministry and its priorities guide us in the ministry we carry out as a church and as individual Christians?

Bonus questions -

- What do you think of Jesus' decision to call fishermen as his special followers? What can we learn?
- Was the leper that Jesus healed in verse 42 better off after Jesus healed him, or before? Explain.
- Why do you think Jesus told this leper that he shouldn't tell this news to anyone?

Gospel Gems from Mark



Introduction and Chapter 1 - "Cheat sheet" :-)

What does the word "Gospel" mean? _____ *"Good News"* _____

In what two ways is the word "Gospel" used?

1. *The "good news" message of forgiveness and eternal life through the coming of Jesus Christ*
2. *The first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) because they contain the story of Jesus' coming into the world to bring that salvation*

Note that in length Mark is the _____ *shortest* _____ of the four Gospel books

Mark was not one of the original 12 ___ *disciples / apostles* _____ of Jesus. He was a cousin of Barnabas and is mentioned in the book of Acts and in letters of Paul and Peter. In 1 Peter 5:13, Peter calls Mark his "son" (spiritual, not physical); there is a strong ancient tradition that Peter was an important contributor to the Gospel that bears Mark's name.

Mark probably wrote for a ___ *Roman or Gentile* ___, not Jewish, audience. His Gospel especially emphasizes the ___ *miracles* _____ and powerful acts of Jesus, but it also contains his teachings.



Gospel Gem #1 - Mark introduces us to the Savior

Unlike the other Gospels, Mark begins immediately with Jesus' adult life. Luke and Matthew both contain accounts of Jesus' conception, birth and childhood. John opens with a majestic paragraph about the divine nature of Jesus (John 1:1-18). What important purpose do those accounts serve in the other three Gospels?

They demonstrate that Jesus was not a mere human, but God's eternal, divine Son. They describe his virgin birth and miraculous incarnation.

How is Mark going to accomplish the same goal? *In many ways (see below) but especially through the many miracles of Jesus that he will describe.*

Look at the opening chapter of Mark and see how many ways you can find in which Mark demonstrates that Jesus was not a mere man, but God's Son and the Savior. (see if you can find at least eight)

- *Calls him the Son of God (verse 1)*
- *Had a special messenger (John the Baptist) sent ahead of him, just as was prophesied (v. 2-8)*
- *John the Baptist declared that he was far more powerful than John was, and could baptize with the Holy Spirit (v. 7-8)*
- *At his baptism the Father called him his Son and the Spirit descended on him (v. 9-11)*
- *Engaged in a unique battle with Satan in the wilderness (v. 12-13)*
- *Taught with far more authority than human teachers and rabbis (v. 21-22)*
- *Had power over evil spirits (v. 25, 34)*
- *Healed every type of sickness and disease (v. 29-33)*
- *Showed his total devotion to God in a life of prayer (v. 35) rather than caring about personal fame*
- *Others?*



Gospel Gem #2 - Jesus' first words

What are the first words of Jesus recorded in this book? *"The time has come...the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (v. 15)*

Jesus spoke these words almost 2,000 years ago. Why are they still true today? (hint: Think about what Jesus meant by the phrase "the kingdom of God" - Luke 17:21 may help)

The kingdom of God is the expanding rule of God in the hearts of sinners. It comes when people come to faith in Jesus as their Savior. Those who see God's love and are washed clean joyfully serve God and have been snatched out of Satan's kingdom.

Jesus' words are still true because now is still the time for this kingdom to grow in people's hearts! Every day is a day for sinners to repent and believe the good news about Jesus.

What do YOU need to remember when you hear these words of Jesus?

They remind us to repent of our sins each day. They remind us of the joy that we have been brought into God's wonderful kingdom. They remind us that God's truth is good news. They also remind us that now is the time for us to be reaching out with the same message that Jesus did, that every day is the opportunity to spread the message of the kingdom.



Gospel Gem #3 - Jesus cares about both our souls and our bodies

How did Jesus show in his preaching at Capernaum (verses 21-34) that he cared about people's souls and their earthly lives? *He preached God's powerful word but also healed those who were sick and possessed.*

Why did the evil spirit at the synagogue speak the truth about who Jesus was? *Since the man was known to be possessed, when the others at the synagogue heard him acclaim Jesus this would actually have the effect of causing others to doubt Jesus or to wonder if he was somehow in league with these evil spirits (as some would accuse Jesus of later in this book).*

Why did Jesus leave town to go elsewhere? Look closely at his words in verse 38.

He wanted to preach in other places. The most important part of his ministry was the teaching, not the miracles.

Why is it important for you to remember...

- That Jesus cares about both your soul's salvation and your physical needs
We can be glad that Jesus cares about our physical pains and sicknesses because it shows us the full scope of his love. We can take all our needs to him in prayer--both physical and spiritual.
- That our soul's salvation is the higher priority
Even if we are sick or suffering, we know that in Jesus we have the greater treasure of salvation of our souls that no one can take away. We should also remember to make the care of our faith a higher priority than things like career goals or personal ambition.

How can Jesus' ministry and its priorities guide us in the ministry we carry out as a church and as individual Christians?

As a church, our focus is the preaching of the Word of God. Our mission efforts are always focused on people's souls and salvation above all else. However, we certainly do also care about people's earthly welfare, and so we can undertake charitable efforts as a bridge toward leading people to hear our teachings.

Bonus questions -

- What do you think of Jesus' decision to call fishermen as his special followers? What can we learn?
The "ordinary" background of these men showed that Jesus and his church are not focused only on the wealthy or elite.

- Was the leper that Jesus healed in verse 42 better off after Jesus healed him, or before? Explain.
Before he was healed, he looked in faith to Jesus, but afterward he forgot about Jesus' word and disobeyed him. Could this be a reminder to us of why God doesn't always answer our prayers in quite the way we had hoped for?
- Why do you think Jesus told this leper that he shouldn't tell this news to anyone?
As we noted above, Jesus didn't want to be known just as a miracle worker when the greatest emphasis of his ministry was on its message of repentance and faith in him.