

## God Kept His Promise to Send His Son | Mark 1 | 9.23.18

**Main Idea of Mark:** *The gospel is the good news that God has kept his promise to send a Messiah, who is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

**Psalm 119:18** *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.*

Matthew writes to Jews telling them Jesus is the King.

Mark writes to the Romans telling them Jesus is the suffering servant.

Luke writes to the Greeks telling them Jesus is the perfect Son of Man.

John writes to the world telling them that Jesus of the Son of God.

Mark gave special attention to the cost of discipleship, persecution and the possibility of martyrdom.

“Taken together, the evidences strongly suggest that Mark wrote this chronicle of Jesus’ ministry to encourage and challenge believers during the persecution of Nero (AD 64-68), which claimed the lives of innumerable Christians, including Paul and Simon Peter.” Chuck Swindoll

**Acts 15:39-40** *Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God*

### **Four Principles of Serving God Together (Paul and Barnabas)**

1. **Disagreements are inevitable** – Opinions come from thinking, and there will always be differing opinions on any given issue. Note the difference between having personal expectations unmet and actually being sinned against. Note the difference between opposing viewpoints and sinful words.

2. **Even the godly will not always agree** – Disagreement is not necessarily a sign of carnality. People on both sides of an issue may be walking faithfully with the Lord.

3. **In every disagreement there are at least two ingredients:** at least one issue and at least two points of view. We all come from various backgrounds; when we are faced with various issues, we will react in distinct ways. We merely look at the same issue from different points of view.

4. **In many disagreements each side is valid.** Often there isn’t a right and wrong side; there are simply different ways of looking at the same issue. We must accept this fact and respond to it in a way that honors our Lord. (adapted from Chuck Swindoll)

**2 Timothy 4: 11** *Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.*

Mark wants his readers to know that the message of the gospel provides assurance of a much bigger promise and gift than physical healing: Jesus fulfilled God's covenant to reconcile sinful man to Himself.

God has a plan for spiritual recovery. It's called taking responsibility for our words and actions, and through confession and repentance, getting back in line as a follower of Jesus Christ and finishing well!

- **Proverbs 28:13** *He who covers his sins will not prosper, **But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.***
- **Romans 5:20** *Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more***
- **Mark 1:1-2** *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the Prophets:*

**God is both just and loving.** His love provided a means to have our judgment removed. Enter Jesus Christ into the sacred courtroom prepared to be the Savior of anyone who calls on Him.

**Titus 1:2** *In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began*

**Mark 1:2-8** *"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."<sup>3</sup> "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'"<sup>4</sup> John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.<sup>5</sup> Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.<sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.<sup>8</sup> I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

**Baptized is to immerse,** Jesus *does not* cover us with water at salvation but gives us the Holy Spirit that indwells every genuine believer. Mark's message could not be any clearer – what an honor, what an immeasurable privilege to be a servant of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:15-16** *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*

### **My Personal Commitment to God in my study of Mark**

1. I will invite the Holy Spirit to help me in my study (Psalm 119:18).
2. I will keep notes of my journey through Mark.
3. I will review the Study Guides on a faithful basis.

### ***Dear gracious Father,***

*I recognize my inability to keep any spiritual commitment in my own power. I am at the mercy of your grace to enable me to be disciplined and faithful. Reveal any and all excuses and help me to be a student of Jesus Christ. Create within me a hunger and thirst to know, love and serve Him. Open my spiritual eyes, Holy Spirit, to see the wonderful promises and truths of God's Word and may I faithfully apply what I see and learn. Amen – Lord Jesus come soon!*