

Date: February 1, 2026
Series: Mark: The Sovereign, Suffering Servant
Title: Preparing for the Journey
Text: Mark 1:1



PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY!

“The importance of the four Gospels to Christianity is incalculable. The Gospels furnish the only trustworthy account of the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself wrote no documents. Only in the canonical Gospels do we find the true portrait of the historical Christ.” (Homer Kent, Jr.)

1) Mark has been nicknamed “*The Go-Gospel!*” because everything happens quickly in it! Jesus moves rapidly from one situation to the next! One of the most frequently recurring words in this book is the word “immediately”; it appears over 40 times!

(Mark 1:12, 18, 20, 21, 23, 29, 30)

2) The Gospel of Mark shows us JESUS ON MISSION!!!

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
(Mark 1:15)

“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17)

“Mark pictures Christ as an active, energetic, swiftly moving, warring, conquering King.”
(William Hendriksen)

3) We should worship and follow this Sovereign, Suffering Servant who TRIUMPHS even in the most difficult circumstances!

“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” (Mark 9:35b)

“The logic is: If the One who created both the supernova and the firefly and holds them together by the word of His power (Colossians 1:15-17) became our servant, our waiter, how can we do less?” (Kent Hughes)

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1)

4) Jesus is the Son of God who, in breathtaking humility, became the Son of Man. This Son of Man—who was hated and despised, who loved and served in grace and power—WILL BE EXALTED; He will be praised and honored FOR WHO HE IS!

(Mark 1:11; Mark 3:11-12; Mark 15:37-39; Mark 2:27-28; Mark 14:61-62)

5) Mark was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this account of Jesus' life after he had spent much time with the Apostle Peter! Both Peter and Mark had personally experienced public failure and restoration, and they both had received the healing, life-giving, courage-fueling GRACE OF GOD!

(1 Peter 5:12-14; Acts 13:13; Acts 15:37-41; 2 Timothy 4:11)

Note: Mark's sinful, human frailty met the glorious sufficiency and sanctifying power of Jesus!

6) Mark, most likely, wrote this account of Jesus' life sometime between A.D. 55 - 65, and it seems that Mark wrote not to a Jewish audience but a Roman one!

Note: The Gospel of Mark is a direct assault on the Romans' pantheon of gods! Mark pleads with us to abandon every idol, to forsake every idol, and to follow Jesus!

(Mark 4:41 and Mark 1:1)

7) This book proclaims “good news” because it proclaims Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. SO, BE VERY CAREFUL WITH THE TRUTH CONTAINED IN THIS BOOK!!!

(Mark 8:34-37 and Acts 10:38-43)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why is Mark sometimes called “The Go-Gospel”? What word is frequently repeated? Why?
2. How is Jesus portrayed in The Gospel of Mark? What is emphasized about His life?
3. What do the titles “Son of God” and “Son of Man” mean? Why are they both used in Mark’s Gospel?
4. What do we know about Mark’s life? How can his life, example, and growth give us hope?
5. To whom was this book written? Why does that matter?