

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KING
A Study of the Gospel According to Mark
Mark 1:14–45

Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011

"The kingdom of God has come. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15

Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to his word.

Read through this week's passage and jot down some thoughts and questions you may have.

Read Mark 1:14–20.

1. Jesus begins His ministry in Galilee, the region where He grew up. What message does He proclaim?

v. 15a (📖* Galatians 4:4–5)

v. 15b (📖 Matthew 1:22–23; 11:2–5)

v. 15c (📖 2 Chronicles 7:14)

The Kingdom of Jesus

"The kind of kingdom [Jesus] had come to establish [is]: a kingdom that would bring healing, liberation and good news—but not necessarily political power."¹

2. In this simple, stark account of the call of four disciples, Mark distills the essence of what it means to follow Jesus.
- a. What do we know about these disciples? (vv. 16–20; Acts 4:13)
 - b. What did Jesus' call mean for these men? (vv. 18, 20; Mark 10:28–30)
3. Jesus calls all of us to "repent and believe the good news" (v. 15).
- a. How has this call changed your life?
 - b. What holds you back from following Jesus wholeheartedly?

Read Mark 1:21–28.

4. Jesus preaches an entire sermon at the synagogue and yet Mark does not record what Jesus said. What is Mark's focus in this passage? (vv. 22, 27a)
5. What does the possessed man cry out? (v. 24)
6. This impure (or unclean) spirit hasn't felt threatened by the teachers of the law in the synagogue until now. How does Jesus take control of the situation? (vv. 25–26, 27b)

Read Mark 1:29–34.

7. How does Jesus respond to the concern that Simon and the others tell him about? (v. 31)

8. After the events in the synagogue earlier this day, “news about [Jesus] spread quickly over the whole region” (v. 28). As a result, what happens later that evening? (vv. 32–34)

9. Consider the interactions between the demons and Jesus in verses 23–26 and 34. Why do you think Jesus “would not let the demons speak” and tell “who He was” (v. 34)?


Read Mark 1:35–39.

10. Look back over the exhausting activities of the previous day in Mark 1:21–34.
 - a. What does Jesus still get up early to do? (v.35)

 - b. Why is prayer so important for Jesus? (Luke 4:13; John 12:49–50)

 - c. Why is prayer important for us? (Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:10–12, 18)

11. While Jesus is praying, Simon and his companions search for Him (v. 36).
 - a. Why do you think everyone in town wants to know where Jesus is?

 - b. What does Jesus say is more important for him to do? (v. 38;  Isaiah 61:1–3)

Read Mark 1:40–45.


12. What strikes you about Jesus’ interaction with the leper?

13. The miracles in this chapter reveal the authority of King Jesus over His kingdom. How do His actions demonstrate the truth of His message, “the Kingdom of God is near” (v. 15)?

Leprosy

Skim Leviticus 13–14 to learn about how skin diseases were addressed in the Old Testament. “Leprosy was considered a primary source of uncleanness. Like a corpse, the leper could impart impurity to objects found within the same enclosure. As a result, he or she was viewed as a living corpse, and a cure was likened to raising the dead.”² Jesus’ command “show yourself to the priest” had the dual purpose of reinstating the man fully back into society and testifying to the priests of Jesus’ authority to heal.³

This lesson on Mark’s Gospel is adapted from “Life of a Servant” by New Life Glenside Women’s Bible Study, 2002–2003.

* indicates the passage is for further study.

¹ *The NIV Student Bible, Revised*, with notes by Philip Yancey and Tim Stafford (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2022), 1018 (highlight on Matthew 11:2).

² David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary: Mark* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), 75.

³ *The ESV Study Bible*, with notes by Hans F. Baylor (Wheaton: Crossway, 2008), 1895–1896 (highlight on Mark 1:44).