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## LESSON NOTES (EXPLORE THE BIBLE)

### MARK: *THE EFFICIENT GOSPEL*

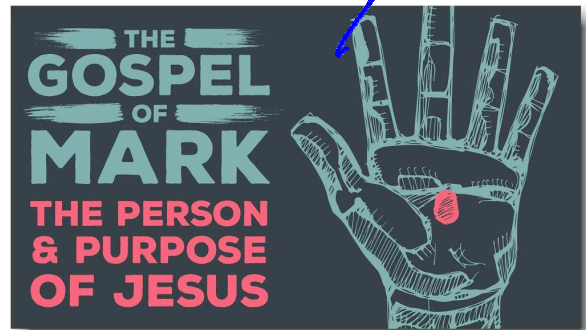
Lord's Day, March 10, 2019

Teaching and Study Preparation

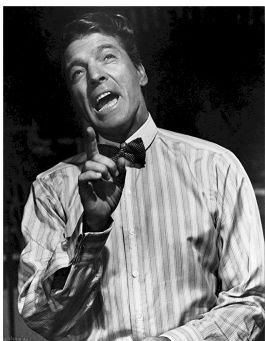
### OVERVIEW

Preparation for Session "2" Beyond the Call of the Desert...

How do we know this Jesus of Nazareth, of all people, was the Messiah? Could this dude from Gentile country actually be the Wonderful One, the Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, just as Isaiah prophesied? The government will rest on His shoulders? Seriously?



We've seen Messiah's come and go before. What makes this latest one, the Messiah? Mark's thesis, his contention, his *raison d'être* for writing his version of the good news—Jesus of Nazareth, was indeed the Son of Man, the Son of God, and yes, Messiah. When we read Mark, we read his heart. Note how he points again, and again, to the unique acts, thoughts, and feelings of this Jesus of Nazareth. They're easy to overlook, for much of what we "know" about this Jesus has been taken for granted. It was not taken for granted when Mark penned his gospel. Note how Holy Spirit moves him to get to the bottom line. Immediately is one of Mark's favorite words. Note how Mark points to Holy Spirit as the power of Jesus the Christ when on earth. Note how readily Mark dispels the notion that this Jesus is just a son of Joseph, the contractor.



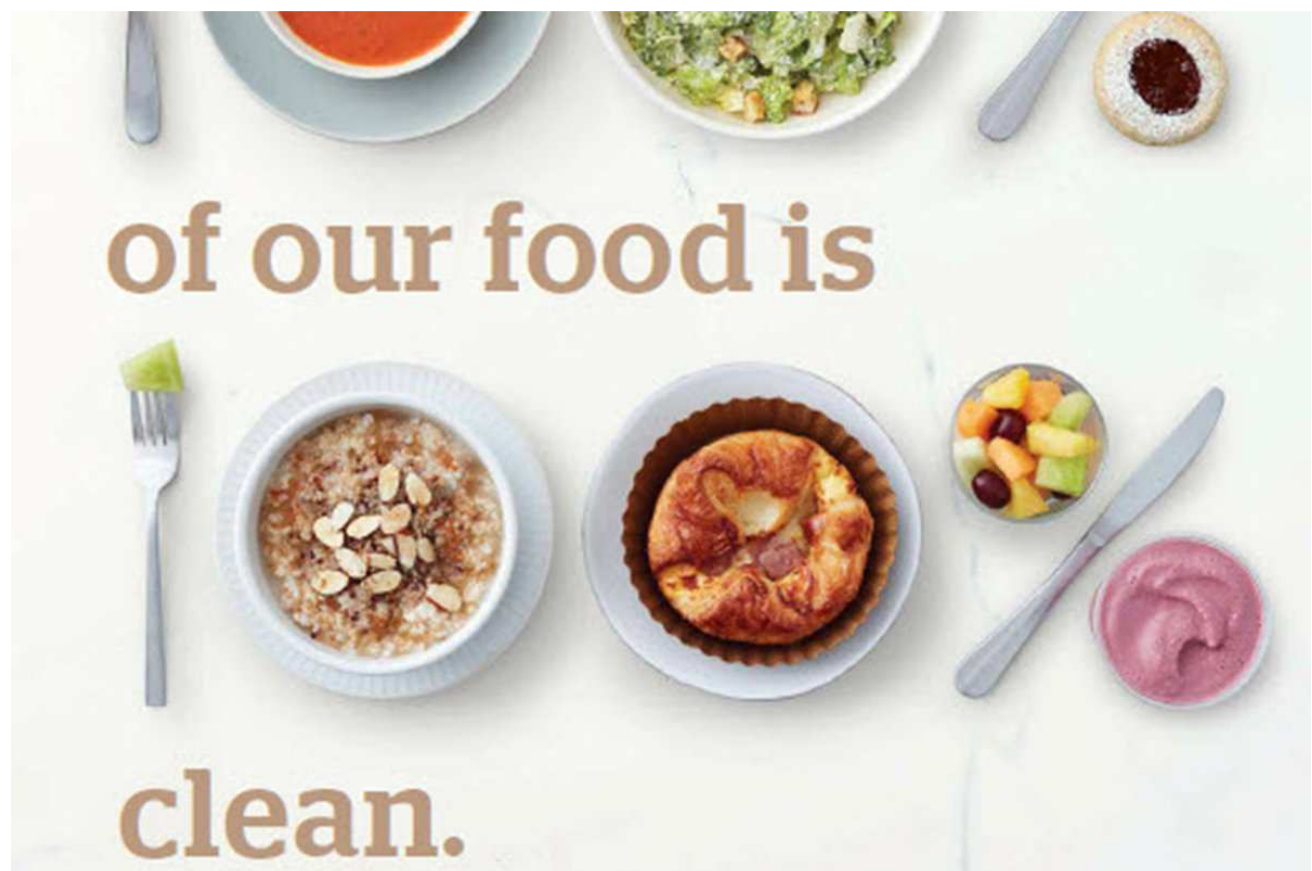
As we study Mark, your biggest challenge will be to challenge what you've taken for granted. How do you know Jesus is indeed the Son of God? What's your evidence? How do you know Jesus was not just another religious leader, another engineer on the train of attention driven by one of the Elmer Gantry's of their time? Jesus—con man, or Son of Man? That is the question. Mark has some answers. Learn. Listen. Lean.

## CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT (MARK 1)

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### KEY MESSAGES/THINGS TO REMEMBER FROM CHAPTER 1—

1. Who foretold Messiah would be foretold by a messenger who would prepare the way for the Lord? Malachi & Isaiah. So?
2. Why wouldn't John the Baptist be accepted at Carrollwood Baptist?
3. With what did John immerse people? And the One to come?
4. So why did Jesus the Christ, the Son of God need to be immersed/ baptized? See Matthew 3:15
5. Who sent/took Jesus to the desert to be tempted?
6. What distinguished the teaching style of Jesus? (verse 22)
7. What gave Jesus a cool rep beyond His teaching style? So what? Where?
8. What was the implication of Jesus healing the man with leprosy? Clean.



### KEY VERSE—MARK 1:8

I [John the Baptizer] baptize you with [εὔ] water, but He [Jesus the Christ, (i.e., Jesus the Messiah)] will baptize you with [εὔ] Holy Spirit.”

Mark 2:1-12. *Walking or Forgiving.* So a little later, the people of Capernaum heard Jesus had returned home. What a mess. So many gathered around His home that there was no room for Him to preach.

One guy, with four really good friends, was brought on a stretcher mat so Jesus could heal him of his paralysis. Lowering him through roof because of the crowd, Jesus was impressed — “Your sins are forgiven, My son.”

The establishment was not impressed; in fact they were downright ticked. “Where does this fellow get off blaspheming? No one can forgive sins but God.” (They had no idea who they were kvetching about, nor the implications of their kvetch!)

Of course, Jesus is not stupid for He knew what they were thinking and said rather straightforwardly — “Hey bubs! What’s easier to say “Your sins are forgiven” or “Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk?” You need to know there’s a new sheriff in town, the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins. Turning to the guy on the mat, He said get up, take your mat with you. Go home! Sure enough, he took his mat and walked out in full view of all the knuckleheads, believers and unbelievers alike. They were amazed; praising God, they said “We’ve never seen anything like this!”

Q Where was the Christ’s ministry centered? Why there? See Isaiah 9:1-7

Q Why was this guy paralyzed?

Q Why did Jesus call Himself the “Son of Man?” Why not Christ/Messiah? Or, Son of God?

Q How many inches off the ground were the four guys walking after the dude picked up his mat?

Q Why did Jesus the Christ heal the paralytic? And, why only “just on earth?”

Q Why hadn’t the folk seen anything like this before?

### MARK 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

<sup>6</sup>Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

<sup>8</sup>Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?" <sup>10</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . . ." He said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup>"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup>He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:13-28. Healing & Eating; Fasting & Celebrating; Working & Eating. Again Jesus returned to the lakeside where a bunch of folk came and He taught. Among them was Matthew Levi—Jewish, but hated nonetheless, if not more so, for he was a tax collector. While still seated at his collection booth, Jesus told him to follow. Yes, Jesus had dinner with the knucklehead and his other collectors and sinners. The professors of Scripture and the conservative believers, the Pharisees, were not impressed. Why does He eat with such low class folk?

Neither was Jesus impressed—Hey, it's not the healthy who need a physician, it's the sick. Get off your high horse—I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. They looked at each other, feeling very proud—He didn't call on us—we must be righteous. They weren't the sharpest knives in the drawer.

When folks noted that John the Baptizer's students and the Pharisees were fasting, they asked Jesus—What's up? Why are your students fasting? Jesus responded—oh please, how can the guests of the bridegroom fast when the bridegroom is still with them? When the bridegroom is taken away, then they will fast? Remember, it's important to match the solution to a problem to the problem; otherwise, your tears will be worse and your wine will be ruined.

Then, Jesus made the mistake of traveling through some grain fields and His students were picking heads of grain to eat. Of course, conservative believers, the Pharisees, were quick to point out that the followers of Jesus were working on the Sabbath.

## MARK 2:13-28

Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. <sup>14</sup>As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

<sup>15</sup>While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

<sup>16</sup>When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

<sup>17</sup>On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

<sup>18</sup>Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. <sup>20</sup>But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

<sup>21</sup>"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. <sup>22</sup>And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins."

<sup>23</sup>One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

<sup>25</sup>He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need?"

<sup>26</sup>In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Jesus was not impressed with their critique; He reminded them of the time King David himself ate the holy bread in the temple, bread that only priests were supposed to eat. David even gave some to his companions. So what? The celebration and observance of the Sabbath was made to bless people. People were not made for the Sabbath. So? The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.

- Q Why do you suppose Jesus kept going out beside “the lake?”
- Q Why were tax collectors hated so much?
- Q Who are today’s tax collectors?
- Q Why weren’t people to fast in the presence of the bridegroom? What’s up with that?
- Q Why don’t we fast, given the bridegroom hasn’t returned?
- Q Why did the use of consecrated bread by David serve to bolster Jesus’ argument?
- Q What’s the philosophical/ethical connection between working on the Sabbath (gathering grain) and David eating “holy bread” in the temple?
- Q Why was following Sabbath so important to believers in Christ’s time? Why isn’t it now?

