

- I) V1-3 INTRO: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
 - a) We are beginning a series on Mark, written before 70 AD and probably around 55-65 AD
 - 1) Each week I will take one portion of each chapter, giving a snapshot of the book
 - 2) I will begin with a brief introduction

- II) THERE ARE FOUR GOSPELS: And each was written to a different readership for a different purpose
 - a) When taken together, each adds a different dimension to Jesus' life, giving a more full picture
 - 1) Matthew was written to a Jewish audience, revealing that Jesus is the promised Messiah
 - 2) Luke was written to Greeks by a Gentile writer emphasizing Jesus' perfect humanity
 - 3) John was written as an apologetic because heresy was beginning to enter the church

- III) MARK: Was written to Romans in order to reveal Jesus as the perfect submitted *servant*
 - a) In Roman culture, this would make Jesus an example of the ideal Roman citizen
 - 1) Notice V12 Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness (CF Mt 4:1-1ed)

- IV) THE KEY VERSE: Gives the sense of Mark's purpose of writing
 - a) Mk 10:45 The Son of Man did not come to be served, *but to serve*, and to give his life...

- V) WHO WAS MARK: He was the cousin of Barnabas, a man introduced to us in the Book of Acts (Col 4:10)
 - a) He was probably converted under Peter's ministry: Peter referred to him as his *son* (1 Pe 5:13)
 - 1) This would lend itself to his credibility because this gospel was likely dictated to him by Peter

- VI) MARK: Was a traveling companion of Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary tour
 - a) He deserted them, returning to Jerusalem: This caused a great problem for Paul
 - 1) Paul later refused to take him on a subsequent missionary journey (Ac 15:36-40)

- VII) MARK: Becomes a great example of a man who was mentored into maturity by an encourager
 - a) Barnabas undoubtedly disciplined him and encouraged his maturity in the Lord
 - 1) LATER: Paul reconciled with Mark (John Mark) and referred to him in an uplifting way
 - 2) 2 Ti 4:11 Get Mark and bring him with you, because *he is helpful* to me in my ministry.

- VIII) V1-3 THE *BEGINNING*: Of *the gospel* of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written *in the prophets*
 - a) NOTICE: The beginning of the Gospel (good news) *of* Jesus Christ
 - 1) THE GOSPEL: Is centered on Jesus Christ and salvation through Him
 - 2) Ro 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- IX) V2-3 AS: It is written in *the prophets* Behold I send My messenger before Your face who will prepare
 - a) Mark's gospel is built on the foundation of the prophets of the OT
 - 1) WHY: Because he desires to demonstrate that the Messiah of the OT is *Jesus Christ*
 - 2) In the life and ministry of Jesus, no less than 300 specific OT prophecies were fulfilled

- X) HE QUOTES: Two Old Testament prophets, Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3
 - a) This is referring to John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin and the one going before Him
 - 1) JOHN: The forerunner of the Messiah was to *prepare* the way of the Lord
 - 2) QUESTION: Who is the man known as John the Baptist

- I) JOHN: Was a miracle child, born to an aged couple named Zacharias and Elizabeth

- a) Lu 1:36 informs us that Elizabeth was Mary's cousin and that John was 6 months older than Jesus
 - 1) This also makes John a cousin to Jesus

- II) JOHN: Was an uncompromising believer worthy of admiration and imitation
 - a) I would like to look at some of the aspects of his life that made him a great man of God
 - 1) We can see several of these elements in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1:5-6,15-17
 - 2) IN THAT PASSAGE: I have isolated *7 traits* that can help us to become people of God

- III) LUKE 1:5-6: There was in the days of Herod the king of Judea a certain priest named Zacharias
 - a) *FIRST*: Notice that John had a *godly heritage*: He had believing parents
 - 1) Both his father and mother were of priestly descent, making John of priestly origin

- IV) KEY: What a tremendous advantage, being born into a home that feared the Lord
 - a) To be raised in an environment of God's Word, worship, prayer and service to God and man
 - 1) SOME: Do not seem to see the value of such an upbringing

- V) THIS MAY NOT BE OUR OWN HERITAGE: Many of us were not raised in Christian faith
 - a) WE MAY NOT: Have been raised with godly examples, passing on the torch of faith

- VI) IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN BORN AGAIN: You need to be today
 - a) WHY: Because you cannot pass anything on to your family that has eternal benefits
 - 1) QUOTE: It is a blessed thing for some of us that we can look back on a father's example and a mother's example with nothing but genuine gratitude to God for both. But there are others among you who, in looking back, must say, "I thank God I was delivered from the evil influence to which I was subjected as a child." *Do not let your child ever have to say that of you*, but ask for grace that in your own house you may walk with a perfect heart.

- VII) V15 FOR: He will be great in the sight of the Lord
 - a) *SECOND*: His desire was to please God, NOT MAN: This made him great in God's sight
 - 1) He was not *spineless*, but strong: He even confronted Herod for his adultery
 - 2) People, even believers can misunderstand men like John thinking them harsh
 - 3) Mt 11:11 Among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist

- VIII) V15 *THIRD*: He shall drink neither wine nor strong drink
 - a) John didn't cater to the desires of his flesh because he was separated to God
 - 1) Some believers really don't care if they are sold out: they want *fire* and *life* insurance only
 - 2) Their half-hearted devotion to God only results in miserable, unproductive lives
 - 3) QUOTE: I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so *little influence* over the world is because *the world* has so much influence over *the church*.

- IX) FACT: To be great in the sight of God, we must establish our priorities correctly
 - a) ONE: Love God with all that is within you
 - 1) Dt 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength

- X) TWO: Seek God's Kingdom first: Mt 6:33
 - a) I was considered legalistic because I actually started wanting to seek God's kingdom first

- I) ALSO: Wake up each morning telling the Lord that today you will serve Him completely

- a) Lu 9:23 If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.
- II) *FOURTH*: He was *filled w/the Holy Spirit*: Empowered and led by God: Ac 1:8
a) His sinful flesh was under the control of God's Spirit: *He did what pleased God*
1) Gal. 5:16 *Live by the Spirit*, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature
- III) V16 *FIFTH*: He will *turn many* of the children of Israel to the Lord their God
a) He was an evangelist and called people back to God: *He had an eternal framework*:
1) Phil 2:10-11 At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- IV) V17 *SIXTH*: He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers
a) He preached the remedy for a broken family
1) WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THIS: Not the schools, not the church, but us
2) Eph. 6:4 Fathers, do not frustrate your children; instead, *bring them up* in the training and instruction of the Lord.
3) KEY: Instead of demanding prayer and Bible reading in schools let's do this *in our homes*
- V) V17 *SEVENTH*: To make ready a people prepared for the Lord
a) AGAIN: How did he go about doing this? By preaching a message of repentance
1) LET'S RETURN TO MARK CHAPTER 1:3
- VI) V3 *THE VOICE*: Of one crying in the wilderness: *Prepare* the way of the Lord make His paths straight
a) *PREPARE*: Sending workers before a king to clear and level the road before he comes through
1) *APPLICATION*: His preaching encouraged people to give Jesus a fit reception
2) *POINT*: John's message is for individuals to clear the debris of sin out of their lives
- VII) V4 *JOHN*: Came baptizing in *the wilderness* and preaching a *baptism of repentance* for the remission of
a) John came baptizing in the wilderness: The first prophet in 300 years to come to Israel
1) *HE BAPTIZED*: With a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins
- VIII) *KEY*: Baptism did not produce repentance, but was its result
a) It involves a changing of mind, a turning from sin and a righteous life of faith in God
1) 1 Th 1:9 They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God
- IX) V5 *THEN*: All the land of Judea and those from Jerusalem went out to him and were baptized by him
a) Instead of rejecting his message the people respond to what he was saying
1) *THE RESPONSE*: They confessed their sins, but not to John but before people
2) Their receiving of baptism was an outward recognition of their need for cleansing
- X) V6 *JOHN*: Was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist and he ate locusts
a) His clothing reminded the people of Elijah and his diet revealed a selfless life
- XI) V7-8 *AND*: He preached saying There comes One after me who is mightier than I whose sandal strap
a) *FINALLY*: Look to Jesus, not to me! Do not enter into competition over who I am
- I) *I INDEED*: Baptized you with water but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
a) *FINALLY*: Jesus will give you living water to drink

1) Jn 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.