



JESUS: The Servant of God

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

The Servant of the Gospel

Mark 1:1-15

Message #1 – S1167

Sermon given on September 28, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Servant of the Gospel

Mark 1:1-15

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 1**
- Today, we begin a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Servant of the Gospel**
- I love teaching through the gospels.
- The gospels give us the clearest picture of Jesus there is in the Bible.
- We get to see the human part of Jesus.
- There are times in our life when we really need that.
- I am in one of those times now.
- Yesterday, I got some news that broke my heart.
- There is something about the Jesus we see described in the gospels that brings me comfort and peace.
- Jesus is my comfort and my peace.
- I know God is going to work it all out for good, but that doesn't take the hurt away from my heart.
- It just allows me to persevere until He does.
- Let's get into our study of the gospel according to Mark.
- **Mark 1:1**
- The word gospel means good news.
- The good news is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the good news that every person on earth needs and needs to hear.
- If you have been a believer for any length of time, you have heard the gospel message a few times.
- Hopefully, you have shared the gospel with others.
- If you will bear with me, I am going to share it one more time.
- In eternity past, God decided to create beings made in His image and to commune with them.

- He created everything in the universe including a place for people to live, this planet.
- God created them male and female and put them together in a beautiful garden which He told them to enjoy as much as they wanted.
- The only prohibition was not to eat of one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Satan slithered onto the scene and tempted Eve, and she gave into the temptation and convinced Adam to do the same.
- In that moment, they were both changed.
- They went from whole, pure, and innocent to broken, corrupt, and sinful.
- They passed that condition down to their children who then passed the broken, sin nature down to every generation since then.
- And there is nothing anyone can do to fix it.
- God created mankind to be in intimate communion fellowship with Him.
- Sin broke that fellowship, not just in this life, but forever.
- No longer could men or women walk with God who created them for that purpose.
- No longer could they hope for an eternity in heaven with God.
- They became spiritually dead, incapable of communing, sensing, or responding to God.
- But because that was not God's desire for humanity, He decided to make a way for men and women to be restored into fellowship with God.
- He sent Jesus, His beloved Son.
- God sent Jesus to draw us back into fellowship with God and to pay the penalty for our sins because it is impossible for us to pay it.
- The price to restore fellowship with God is our life.
- But because of sin, our life is not an acceptable sacrifice for our sin.
- Jesus died on the cross in our place.
- Now, anyone who turns from their sins and trusts in Christ and accepts His sacrifice on their behalf is saved from the eternal consequence of our sin – eternal separation from God.

- The gospel is simple – we have all sinned – there is nothing we can do to save ourselves – Jesus came to save us – if we turn from our sins and believe, we are saved and we are invited into the intimate communion fellowship with God we were created for.
- The gospel is for everyone.
- If you have not put your trust in Christ, do it now.
- We will pray about that at the end of the message.
- Before we move on from verse one, notice how Mark identifies Jesus, as the Son of God.
- Just so that we are clear, Mark is saying Jesus Christ is God, in the person of the Son.
- As a church we believe in the doctrine of the Trinity: God is One in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – Three in One!
- If you have any questions on that you can come see me or Pastor David after the service and we can talk about it.
- Mark then introduces a new character of the account.
- **Mark 1:2-3**
- These are quotes from Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3.
- The Old Testament has hundreds of references to the Savior or Messiah.
- God first promised to send the Savior in **Genesis 3:15** as He was cursing Satan for his role in the Fall of Man.
- ¹⁵**And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”**
- The Seed is the Messiah who would crush the power of Satan on the cross.
- God sent one last prophet to prepare people for the arrival of the Messiah/Christ.
- **Mark 1:4**
- John was born about six months before Jesus was born to Mary.
- Mary and John’s mother, Elizabeth, were related, which means John and Jesus were cousins.
- John was empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the message of God in a powerful way.

- Thousands of people came to hear him preach and then responded by being baptized.
- The nature of his message was simple. **Matthew 3:1–2**
¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”
- Before people can be saved from the consequence of their sins, they must believe and confess they are sinners.
- John’s responsibility was to help people realize they needed a Savior.
- Repentance is the key to the remission, or pardon from the consequence of sin.
- True repentance by faith that acknowledges and confesses our guilt over sin.
- Faith and repentance are inseparable.
- If your faith is real, then you will know that there is always a need to repent.
- And as your faith grows you will grow to realize what a blessing repentance is.
- Everyone makes mistakes and does things they shouldn’t or think things they shouldn’t think.
- If you don’t believe that, the Apostle John has some strong words for you. **1 John 1:8**
- ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- If we confess it, God cleans us up and resets us in our relationship with Him. **1 John 1:9**
- ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- What a blessing.
- John’s preaching ministry was effective.
- **Mark 1:5-7**
- John was a bit of an odd duck, but there is no denying the power of the Holy Spirit was moving in and through him.
- It is estimated that thousands of people came out to be baptized by John and to make a confession of repentance.
- John knew his role was just to get people ready for the Messiah to arrive.
- John knew who he was and who he was serving.

- **Mark 1:8**

- God had revealed to John something new was coming.
- Until Christ came the Holy Spirit was in the world, but he didn't live inside of people.
- Jesus told the disciples that one of the benefits of Him going away was that He would send the Holy Spirit.
- It is the Holy Spirit living inside of us that enables us to live the Christian life.

- **Mark 1:9**

- Jesus didn't need to repent for sin because He had no sin.
- He did this as an example for us all.
- The fact is, unless you are as holy as Jesus is, you need to repent and be baptized.
- And once you are baptized you need to regularly repent of your sin until you are as righteous as Jesus is.

- **Mark 1:10-11**

- Jesus, God in the flesh, performs this ceremonial act of faith and obedience and God the Holy Spirit descends from heaven.
- And then, God the Father expresses His pleasure with what Jesus did.
- All three Persons of the Godhead are present at this event.
- Suggests that it was pretty important.

- **Mark 1:12-13**

- Jesus, in His human nature, interacted with God the Father in the same way we do, through the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit compelled Jesus to go out into the wilderness.
- The greater our faith becomes, the greater the influence the Holy Spirit has in our lives.
- There is a part of us that rebels at that thought.
- God's will for my life is good. In fact, it is perfect.
- A problem arises when my will conflicts with God's will.
- The problem with my will is that it does not lead to good. **Romans 3:12**

¹²**They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."**

- We might believe that our will is good, but if there is no good in us, how can we produce good.
- God's will is always good, even when it leads out into the wilderness to be tested and tempted or when it leads into the valley of the shadow of death.
- Or when it leads to something that breaks our heart.
- It won't always feel good, but if the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding, it will lead to good. **Romans 8:28**

²⁸**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

- After Jesus was baptized and then immediately tested in the wilderness, Jesus began His ministry of declaring the truth of God's kingdom to the world.
- **Mark 1:14-15**
- 'The time is fulfilled.' There is no more time to wait.
- One of the reasons we study the Bible, especially the gospels and prophetic books like Revelation is to stir up a sense of urgency.
- I am a Spirit-filled follower of Christ.
- I know where I am going when I leave this earth.
- There are people around us every day who don't know the kingdom of God is at hand.
- Jesus said He is coming back, but we don't when that is.
- Every day that passes, the likelihood that today is the day gets higher.
- They don't have time to wait to make a decision for Christ.
- We don't have to wait to help them make that decision.
- If you get the opportunity to share the gospel with someone, do it.
- It doesn't matter how much you know or how well you speak.
- It is God the Holy Spirit who will be doing the work in their heart.
- He can take our humblest offering and work a miracle in them.
- Jesus saved me – He saved you. Now He wants to save them.
- The Holy Spirit is in you waiting for you to open your mouth and speak.
- He will do the rest.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us tell people about Jesus.
- **Pray! Last Song!**