Mark’s Purpose

- Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- Who is Jesus?
- What did He do?
Mark’s Outline

- The beginning: Mark 1:1-13
- The ministry of Jesus: Mark 1:14-10:52
  - Key verse: Mark 8:29
- The work of Jesus: Mark 11:1-16:8
  - Key verse: Mark 10:45
- The continuation: Mark 16:9-20
The initial presentation of Jesus
- He is the Messiah
- He is God
- He came to deal with Satan and sin
- He demands a personal response

Parables (11)
- Brief parables (Mark 2:21-22; 3:23-27)
- First extended parable – the Sower (Mark 4:1-20)
Kingdom of God – the subject of parables
Parable of Sower (4:1-20)
Three Parables of the Kingdom (4:21-34)
Stilling the Storm (4:35-41)
Parables are teaching Kingdom truth
Subject of initial preaching (1:14-15)
Parables teach about the Kingdom of God.
- Mark 4:11
- Matthew 13:19
- Mark 4:26, 30
What is the Kingdom of God?

Hope of the Old Testament
- Ezekiel 37:21-28
- Isaiah 24:23
- Zechariah 9:9-10
- Zechariah 14:9
- Daniel 7:13-14
What is the Kingdom of God?

- Hope of the New Testament
  - Mark 14:25
  - Revelation 11:15
  - Revelation 20:1-6
  - Matthew 25:30-46
What is the Kingdom of God?

- God’s sovereignty over His creation
  - Psalm 47
  - Psalm 93, 95-97
  - Psalm 145:13

- God’s sovereignty over kingdoms of the earth
  - Daniel 4:17 – a holy one speaks
  - Daniel 4:34-35 – Nebuchadnezzar speaks
What is the Kingdom of God?

› **A Kingdom to come**
  - Olivet Discourse – Matthew 24-25
  - A heavenly Kingdom – John 18:33-38

› **A Kingdom now**
  - John 3:3, 5 – the new birth
  - Matthew 19:23-26 – enter Kingdom of God = to be saved
  - Luke 17:20-21 – Kingdom of God within
What is the Kingdom of God?

- **forme fruste**
  
  Stedman’s Medical Dictionary – A partial, arrested, or unapparent form of disease
  
  (French: unfinished form)
  
  (BABEL FISH: rough form)

- **The dominion of Satan**
  
  - 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19

- **The dominion of sin and the curse**

- **A future hope**
What is the Kingdom of God?

- A preliminary stage
  - The Millennial reign of Christ – Revelation 20
  - Remnant of sin
  - Satan bound – later to be released
What is the Kingdom of God?

- Salvation – personal
- Millennium – partial in the earth
- New Heaven and Earth – complete

- The parables address the “forme fruste” of the Kingdom of God
Parables of the Kingdom

- Parable of the Sower (4:1-20)
  - Primacy of the Word
  - Opponents of the Gospel
  - Efficacy of the Word
  - The Kingdom lesson
Parables of the Kingdom

- Parable of the Lamp (4:21-25)
  The parable – a lamp brings light

- Interpretation
  Purpose of God is to reveal
  Revelation now is particular

- The Kingdom Lesson
  Take heed what you hear
Parables of the Kingdom

- Parable of Growing Seed (4:26-29)
  The parable – mysterious growth

- Interpretation
  Luke 17:20 – Kingdom comes not with observation
  Providence of God
  Harvest will come

- Kingdom Lesson
  We live by faith, not sight
Parable of Mustard Seed (4:30-34)
The parable – smallest seed yields greatest plant

Interpretation
A small beginning does not predict the Kingdom
The Kingdom will be greater than our expectations

Kingdom Lesson
The certainty of a coming universal kingdom.
Mysterious ways of God
“Hail thou once despised Jesus”
The Sea is Stilled (Mark 4:35-41)

- A parable in real life
  - Jesus leads into the storm
  - Jesus sleeps in the storm
  - The disciples fear in the storm
  - Jesus rebukes the wind and calms the sea
  - Jesus rebukes the disciples
  - The disciples fear the Lord
The Sea is Stilled (Mark 4:35-41)

- The lesson of the miracle
  - The Word of God is safe
  - The storm – a trial of faith
  - Jesus is sleeping – a false perception
  - The sin of the disciples
    - Fear – fear of what?
    - Lack of faith – faith in what?
  - Faith in Jesus – that He cared if they perished
  - The fear of God
Parables for Hearing Ears

The kingdom of God – our hope
The ways of God – our test
Jesus Christ, the Son of God – our faith