And he saith unto them,
But whom say ye that I am?
And Peter answereth and saith unto him,
Thou art the Christ.
Mark 8:29
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Introduction to the Gospel of Mark

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Mark 1:1). With this statement, the author of the Gospel of Mark begins his account of the life of Jesus. Traditionally, this Gospel has been attributed to John Mark, who received the material for his work through the Apostle Peter. However, the identity of the author is not known with certainty and is not important. This is a book about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is thought to be the first of the four Gospels to be written (ca. 60-70 AD). In this sense it is a “beginning.” But more than a chronological beginning, the material in this book is foundational in the pursuit of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. This Gospel is not the whole picture of Jesus Christ, but a beginning sufficient for a saving knowledge of Jesus the Son of God. He is the Son of God Who came in the flesh. The purpose of His coming is clearly stated by Jesus Himself:

And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth. (Mark 1:38)

When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Mark 2:17)

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

He is the Son of God Who came to preach the Gospel in which He calls sinners to salvation. This salvation is afforded them by His death as a ransom for their sins.

The Gospel of Mark is unique in several ways when compared with the other Gospels. First of all, there is an emphasis upon the works of Jesus more than His teachings. Only four parables appear in Mark’s writings compared with nineteen in Matthew and twenty-seven in Luke. Only one of the six discourses of Jesus is recorded and that quite truncated. In contrast, Mark records sixteen miracles which is the same as Matthew and Luke contain. Mark wants us to see Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The teachings are limited to the basic essential truths which, though sufficient for salvation, are only the beginning.

The structure and message of Mark turns on the critical question in Mark 8:29: Whom say ye that I am? By the time Jesus asks His disciples this question, we have seen enough of His works and heard enough of His preaching to utter a hearty “Amen” to Peter’s confession: Thou art the Christ. Subsequent to this, the story turns our attention to the implications of this truth. For Jesus, it meant that He must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. (Mark 8:31) For each disciple, it meant that he must deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (Mark 8:34)

Through his Gospel, Mark asks each generation to answer the same question: Who is Jesus? Mark provides the elementary truths about Jesus to enable each to answer this question. The Person and work of Jesus is presented concisely and clearly. This is truly a beginning, but not merely a beginning of information about the life of Jesus in a distant age. It is the beginning of eternal life through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for all who follow Him.
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Scripture Memorization

Mark 1:17

17. And Jesus said unto them,
Come ye after me,
and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Mark 2:17

17. When Jesus heard it,
he saith unto them,
They that are whole
have no need of the physician,
but they that are sick:
I came not to call the righteous,
but sinners to repentance.

Mark 8:27-29

27. And Jesus went out, and his disciples,
into the towns of Caesarea Philippi:
and by the way he asked his disciples,
saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

28. And they answered, John the Baptist:
but some say, Elias;
and others, One of the prophets.

29. And he saith unto them,
But whom say ye that I am?
And Peter answereth and saith unto him,
Thou art the Christ.
Scripture Memorization (continued)

Mark 8:34-38

34. And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37. Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

38. Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Mark 10:45

45. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
Jesus, Thy Name I Love

James G. Deck, 1842

J. D. Müller's *Coral Buch*, 1754; arr. by William H. Havergal, 1860

1. Jesus, thy Name I love All other names above,
2. Thou, blessed Son of God, Hast bought me with thy blood,
3. When unto thee I flee, Thou wilt my refuge be,
4. Soon thou wilt come again; I shall be happy then,

Jesus, my Lord: O thou art all to me; Nothing to please I see,
Jesus, my Lord: O how great is thy love, All other loves above,
Jesus, my Lord: What need I now to fear, What earthly grief or care,
Jesus, my Lord: Then thine own face I'll see, Then I shall like thee be,

Nothing apart from thee, Jesus, my Lord.
Love that I daily prove, Jesus, my Lord.
Since thou art ever near? Jesus, my Lord.
Then evermore with thee, Jesus, my Lord. Amen.
Lesson 1: The Beginning of the Gospel
Mark 1:1-28

SUMMARY: John was sent by God to prepare the way of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. When John baptized Jesus, the Spirit descended upon Jesus and God spoke from heaven of His pleasure in His Son. After His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus began to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. He called people to repentance and faith. He particularly called four men to be His disciples. In the synagogue at Capernaum, the people were amazed at the authority of His teaching and His power over unclean spirits.

1. What did the Prophet write?

2. Who was John, and what did he do?

3. What did John say about “the Coming One?”

4. What happened when John baptized Jesus?

5. What happened after the baptism of Jesus?

6. How is the beginning of Jesus’ ministry described?

7. What did Jesus say to the fishermen at the Sea of Galilee, and what did they do?

8. What happened when Jesus met the man with the unclean spirit in the synagogue?

9. What amazed the people in the synagogue at Capernaum?
Lesson 2: The Power of the Son of Man
Mark 1:29-2:12

**Memory:** Mark 2:17 and review

**Hymn:** “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

**SUMMARY:** Jesus went about preaching. He had come for this purpose. He also healed the sick and cast out demons. Great numbers of people came to Him from every quarter. On one occasion, when four men had lowered their paralyzed friend through the roof of a house in which He was teaching, Jesus surprised and offended the scribes when He forgave the man’s sins. Then, to show His power to forgive sins, He healed the man.

1. What happened to Simon’s mother-in-law?

2. What happened that evening?

3. What did Jesus do the next morning?

4. What did Jesus tell Simon?

5. How did the leper approach Jesus, and how did Jesus respond?

6. What instructions did Jesus give to the healed leper, and how did he respond?

7. How did the four men get their paralyzed friend to Jesus, and what did it show?

8. What offended the scribes?

9. How did Jesus answer the scribes?
Lesson 3: New Wine in New Wineskins  
Mark 2:13-3:12

Memory: Mark 8:27 and review  
Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

SUMMARY: The opposition of the scribes and Pharisees showed their own spiritual bankruptcy and the beauty of Jesus. They opposed His association with publicans and sinners and questioned the religious practices of His disciples. They accused Him of breaking the Sabbath. Jesus came to bring spiritual healing for sinners. He is the Lord Who came to save sinners and show mercy, not to fit into the corrupt religion of the Pharisees. The Pharisees plotted His death. The people followed Him. Demons acclaimed His Deity.

1. Who was Levi, and what happened to him?

2. Why did the Pharisees criticize Jesus, and how did He answer them?

3. How did the disciples of Jesus differ from those of John?

4. What explanation did Jesus give for this difference?

5. Why did Jesus speak of new wine and new wineskins?

6. How did Jesus answer the Pharisees’ criticism about Sabbath observance?

7. What happened when Jesus met the man with the withered hand?

8. How did the Pharisees react to this miracle?

9. What happened when Jesus withdrew to the sea?
Lesson 4: Disciples and Family
Mark 3:13-35

Memory: Mark 8:27-28 and review  Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

SUMMARY: Jesus appointed twelve men to be with Him that He might send them out to preach. Of the twelve, one would betray Him. Later, His own people thought He was out of His mind. The scribes said He was working by the power of Satan. Jesus refuted them by showing that a house divided cannot stand. He further warned them of the eternal consequences of their blasphemous words. When His family came to Him, He taught that those were truly His family who did the will of the Father.

1. How did Jesus get His twelve disciples?

2. Why did Jesus want these disciples?

3. Who were the twelve disciples?

4. What happened when the multitude came together again?

5. What did the scribes say about Jesus’ power over demons?

6. How did Jesus answer their accusation?

7. What warning did He give?

8. Who came to see Jesus?

9. What did Jesus say about being His brother, His sister or His mother?
Lesson 5: The Sower and the Seed  
Mark 4:1-20

Memory: Mark 8:27-29 and review  
Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

**SUMMARY:** Jesus told them a parable of a sower who sowed seed on four types of soil. Only one of these soils was productive. Later, He taught them that the soils were four different responses to the preaching of the Word of God. Many hindrances existed to the reception of the Word, but some would receive it, accept it, and bear much fruit.

1. What were the four types of soil onto which the sower sowed his seed, and what happened in each case?

   First:

   Second:

   Third:

   Fourth:

2. Why did Jesus speak in parables?

3. What is the interpretation of the four types of soil into which the seed was sown?

   First:

   Second:

   Third:

   Fourth:
Lesson 6: Parables for Hearing Ears
Mark 4:21-41

SUMMARY: Jesus taught with parables whose meanings were intended for those blessed with “hearing ears.” Later, He explained the meanings of these parables to His disciples. One evening, He asked to go across the Sea of Galilee. On the way, a fierce storm arose. Jesus slept through it. His disciples awakened Him and rebuked Him for indifference to their peril. He stilled the storm by His Word and rebuked their lack of faith.

1. What is the meaning of the parable of the lamp?

2. What principles did Jesus teach about the ability to hear?

3. How is the kingdom of God like a man scattering seed?

4. How is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed?

5. What did Mark write about Jesus’ use of parables?

6. What did Jesus ask them to do that evening?

7. What happened on the way?

8. How did the disciples respond to this situation?

9. How did Jesus respond?
Lesson 7: Amazing Grace  
Mark 5:1-43

Memory: Mark 8:34-35 and review  
Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

**SUMMARY:** The power of Jesus elicited amazement and fear. Demons recognized Him as the Son of the Most High God. The man from whom they were cast out wanted to stay with Jesus. The people of the area feared and begged Him to leave. The woman healed of her bleeding disorder feared and trusted Him. When He raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead, the people were overcome with amazement.

1. What did Jesus find when He came to the country of the Gadarenes?

2. How did the demons respond to Jesus?

3. What happened after Jesus cast out the demons?

4. How did people respond to this miracle?

5. What did Jairus want from Jesus?

6. Why did the woman who met Jesus on the way to Jairus’ house touch Jesus?

7. What happened after the woman touched Jesus, and what did He say about it?

8. Why did the people at Jairus’ house laugh at Jesus?

9. What did Jesus do at Jairus’ house, and how did the people respond?
Lesson 8: A Prophet Without Honor
Mark 6:1-29

Memory: Mark 8:34-36 and review  Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

**SUMMARY:** When Jesus ministered in His Own country, the people were astonished by Him but did not believe. As Jesus continued His ministry, He sent His twelve disciples out with power over demons to preach repentance. When Herod heard of Jesus’ ministry, he thought He was John the Baptist whom Herod had beheaded.

1. How was Jesus received in His home country?

2. How did Jesus respond to this reception?

3. How were Jesus’ disciples equipped when He sent them out?

4. What did Jesus say about those who rejected them?

5. What did the disciples do?

6. What did Herod think when he heard of Jesus?

7. Why did Herod put John in prison?

8. What did Herod think of John?

9. Why was John beheaded?
Lesson 9: The Lesson of the Loaves
Mark 6:30-56

Memory: Mark 8:34-37 and review  Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

SUMMARY: When the multitude followed Jesus to a remote area, He was moved with compassion and taught them. When they hungered, He fed them with five loaves and two fish. Later, He sent His disciples by boat to cross the lake. When they got caught in a storm, He walked to them on the water and stilled the storm.

1. What happened after the disciples of Jesus returned from their ministry?

2. How did Jesus respond to the crowd that followed Him?

3. What problem did they have at the end of the day?

4. How did Jesus solve the problem?

5. What did Jesus do after they ate?

6. What happened to the disciples?

7. What did Jesus do?

8. How did the disciples respond to what happened, and why?

9. What happened after Jesus returned to the shore?
Lesson 10: Defilement from Within
Mark 7:1-37

Memory: Mark 8:34-38 and review

Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

**SUMMARY:** When the Pharisees criticized Jesus’ disciples for failing to properly wash their hands, Jesus rebuked them for setting up their traditions against the commandment of God. They were hypocrites who concerned themselves with appearances, but failed to see their inner defilement. Later, He cast a demon out of the daughter of a Gentile woman and enabled a deaf man to speak.

1. What fault did the Pharisees find with the disciples of Jesus?

2. Why did Jesus call them hypocrites?

3. How had they nullified the fifth commandment?

4. What did Jesus tell the multitude they must hear?

5. What explanation did Jesus give to His disciples?

6. Why did Jesus not want to heal the demon-possessed girl?

7. Why did Jesus cast the demon out of the girl?

8. What did Jesus do to the deaf mute?

9. What happened after the miracle?
Lesson 11: Jesus is the Christ
Mark 8:1-38

Memory: Mark 10:45 and review
Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

**SUMMARY:** For a second time, Jesus fed the multitude with only a few loaves and fish. Then He warned His disciples about the sin of the Pharisees. He also rebuked them for their lack of understanding of the sign of the loaves. Later, He made a blind man see. When His disciples confessed Him as the Christ, He began to speak of His death and the need for them to take up their own cross and follow Him.

1. What problem did the compassion of Jesus make for His disciples?

2. How did Jesus feed the multitude of 4,000?

3. What did the Pharisees want, and how did Jesus answer?

4. About what did Jesus warn His disciples?

5. Why did Jesus rebuke the disciples?

6. How did Jesus heal the blind man?

7. How did the disciples answer Jesus about Who He is?

8. Why did Peter rebuke Jesus?

9. What does it take to follow Jesus?
Lesson 12: The Transfiguration  
Mark 9:1-29

**Memory:** Review  
**Hymn:** “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

| SUMMARY: Peter, James and John witnessed Jesus as He appeared in glory with Elijah and Moses on the mountain. Peter thought it would be good to make tabernacles for the three on the mountain, but was interrupted when the Father spoke from heaven of His delight with the Son. Afterward, Jesus told the three disciples not to speak of this until after His resurrection. Later, Jesus cast out a demon that His disciples could not cast out. |

1. What happened to Jesus on the mountain?

2. What did Peter propose, and why?

3. What happened after Peter spoke?

4. How did Jesus answer their question about Elijah?

5. Why were the scribes disputing with the disciples?

6. What did Jesus say about this situation?

7. What did the father tell Jesus?

8. What did Jesus tell the father?

9. What did Jesus do?
Lesson 13: A Servant of Christ  
Mark 9:30-10:12

Memory: Review  

SUMMARY: As Jesus anticipated His death, His disciples disputed about who would be greatest in the kingdom. Jesus taught them to be servants to all. Their service must be for the honor of Christ. They must be willing to bear injury to themselves rather than cause injury. They must live in peace with each other as salt in the earth. He then spoke of marriage as a union made by God.

1. What did Jesus say that frightened and confused His disciples?

2. What did the disciples dispute on the way to Capernaum?

3. What did Jesus say about this dispute?

4. What did Jesus say about the one who cast out demons, but was not with them?

5. Why did Jesus speak about drowning and self-mutilation?

6. What did Jesus teach about salt?

7. What did Moses teach about divorce?

8. What did Jesus say about divorce?

9. What did Jesus say about remarriage after divorce?
Lesson 14: One Thing Lacking
Mark 10:13-45

Memory: Review

| SUMMARY: The great question of this text is how to enter the kingdom of God, or how to obtain salvation. The answer surprised the disciples. Doing good is not enough. You must abandon all other hopes and follow Jesus. You must come with the meekness of a child. You must follow the example of Jesus Who came to serve and to give His life a ransom for all. |

1. What did the disciples do that displeased Jesus?

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples about children?

3. What did the rich man lack in his pursuit of eternal life?

4. What did Jesus say about riches and the kingdom of God?

5. What is the answer to the disciples’ question about salvation?

6. How did Jesus answer Peter’s claim to have left all to follow Jesus?

7. What did Jesus say about Himself as they went on to Jerusalem?

8. How did Jesus answer the request of James and John?

9. What did Jesus say about greatness?
Lesson 15: Jesus, Son of David
Mark 10:46-11:26

Summary: Blind Bartemaeus appealed to Jesus, the Son of David, for mercy. Because of his faith, Jesus restored his sight. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt and was acclaimed the Son of David by the multitudes. The next day, He cursed a barren fig tree and it died. He also drove the merchants from the temple.

1. How did Bartemaeus address Jesus, and what did he want?

2. How did Jesus respond to Bartemaeus?

3. What instructions did Jesus give to two of His disciples as He approached Jerusalem?

4. How did Jesus enter Jerusalem, and what did the crowd do?

5. What did Jesus say to the fig tree, and why?

6. What did Jesus do in the temple?

7. Why did Jesus do this?

8. What did Jesus say about the dead fig tree?

9. What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?
### Lesson 16: The Chief Cornerstone
**Mark 11:27-12:17**

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<th>Memory: Review</th>
<th>Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMARY:</strong> The Pharisees demanded to know the authority by which Jesus acted. Jesus perceived their hostility and refused to answer. Rather, He told a parable that portrayed their opposition to Him as opposition to God. The ancient prophet also spoke of their rejection of the Christ when he spoke of the rejected cornerstone. Their question about taxes revealed their disrespect for both Caesar and God.</td>
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1. What question did the chief priests, scribes and elders ask of Jesus?

2. How did Jesus answer their question?

3. Why did they refuse to answer Jesus’ question?

4. In the parable, what did the man do for his vineyard?

5. How were the servants treated who were sent to receive fruit for the owner?

6. How was the owner’s son treated?

7. What application did Jesus make of this parable?

8. How did the Pharisees and Herodians try to catch Jesus in His words?

9. How did Jesus answer their question?
Lesson 17: The Wisdom of Jesus
Mark 12:18-44

Memory: Review

SUMMARY: The Sadducees tried to make Jesus appear foolish by a question about the resurrection. His answer showed their ignorance of the Scriptures. A more sincere question was asked by a scribe about the greatest commandment. He accepted Jesus’ answer as truth. Then Jesus showed that the scribes were ignorant of the Christ. He condemned their pride. In contrast, He commended a poor widow’s devotion to God.

Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

1. What question did the Sadducees ask Jesus?

2. What answer did Jesus give to their question?

3. How did Jesus address their rejection of the resurrection?

4. What is the first commandment?

5. What is the second commandment?

6. How did the scribe show that he was “not far from the kingdom of God?”

7. What point did Jesus make by His question about the teaching of the scribes?

8. What did Jesus warn about the scribes?

9. Why did Jesus commend the gift of the poor widow?
Lesson 18: Watch and Pray!
Mark 13:1-37

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<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMARY:</strong> When Jesus spoke of the destruction of the temple, the disciples asked Him about the sign of the end times. Jesus warned of the coming tribulation which would be eclipsed in intensity by a time of great tribulation that would immediately precede His return in power and glory. He warned them to watch and pray so that the day of His return would not find them sleeping.</td>
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1. What did Jesus tell His disciples about the temple?

2. What are the beginnings of sorrows?

3. What personal dangers did Jesus warn His disciples about?

4. What sign would announce the coming of a time of greatest tribulation ever?

5. What warnings did Jesus give about the days of great tribulation?

6. What will happen at the end of the days of great tribulation?

7. What is the lesson of the parable of the fig tree?

8. What did Jesus tell them about when the return of the Son of Man would occur?

9. How were the disciples supposed to respond to this teaching about the end times?
Lesson 19: The Last Passover
Mark 14:1-31

Summary: The chief priests and scribes plotted to kill Jesus. After Jesus was anointed by Mary and then defended her devotion to Him, Judas went to the chief priests to betray Jesus for money. On the first day of Passover, Jesus sent His disciples to prepare for the Passover meal. As they ate, He spoke of His betrayal and then instituted the New Covenant memorial supper. Later, He predicted their coming confusion and Peter’s denial.

1. What plans did the chief priests and scribes make for Jesus’ death?
2. What happened at the home of Simon the leper?
3. What did Jesus say when the woman was criticized for wasting the fragrant oil?
4. What did Judas do?
5. How did Jesus tell His disciples to prepare for the Passover meal?
6. What did Jesus say about His betrayal?
7. What did Jesus do with the bread, and what did He say about it?
8. What did Jesus say about the cup?
9. What predictions did Jesus make about His disciples and particularly about Peter?
SUMMARY: In the Garden, Jesus prayed to the Father about His coming death. His disciples slept. While there, Judas led a contingent of Jews and betrayed Jesus into their hands. His disciples fled. Jesus stood falsely accused before the chief priest and his council and was physically abused by them. Peter denied Him.

1. In Gethsemane, who did Jesus take with Him, and what did He tell them?

2. What did Jesus pray to the Father?

3. What did his disciples do, and what did Jesus say to them?

4. How was Jesus arrested?

5. How did Jesus and His disciples react to His arrest?

6. What kind of treatment did Jesus get before the high priest and council?

7. How did Jesus answer the high priest's question about Who He was?

8. How did they react to Jesus' answer?

9. Why did Peter weep?
Lesson 21: Delivered to be Crucified  
Mark 15:1-41

Memory: Review  

| SUMMARY: Jesus was taken before Pilate who could find no cause of death in Him. He weakly tried to release Him and then, to gratify the crowd, delivered Jesus to be crucified. Jesus was mocked and struck before being led to Golgotha where they crucified Him. On the cross, their taunts continued. Jesus only cried out to the Father and then died. |

Hymn: “Jesus, Thy Name I Love”

1. What happened when Jesus stood before Pilate?

2. Why did Pilate offer to release Jesus, and how did the Jews react to his offer?

3. What did Pilate do with Jesus, and why?

4. How did the soldiers treat Jesus?

5. What happened on the way to Golgotha?

6. What did they do to Jesus at Golgotha?

7. How did they treat Jesus as He was hanging on the cross?

8. What happened after the three hours of darkness?

9. What happened after Jesus died?
Lesson 22: He is Risen!
Mark 15:42-16:20

Memory: Review

SUMMARY: That evening, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus which he buried in a tomb with a large stone at its entrance. The next day, when some women came early to anoint His body, an angel met them and announced that He had risen. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to His disciples. He rebuked their unbelief and then commanded them to go and preach the Gospel. Afterward, He was taken into heaven.

1. Who was Joseph of Arimathea?

2. What did Joseph do?

3. Who came to the tomb the next morning, and why did they come?

4. What did they find?

5. What did the angel say to the women?

6. Who were the first witnesses of the resurrection, and how was their testimony received?

7. Why did Jesus rebuke His disciples?

8. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

9. What happened after Jesus finished speaking to His disciples?