

# WHO IS JESUS?

The Introduction of Jesus

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



TOONGABBIE  
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# THE INTRODUCTION OF JESUS



## The short version of the shortest gospel...

Mark wants us to respond to the question "Who is Jesus?". Mark tells us straight away: He is the Christ, the Son of God (1:1). Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ (8:29), but it's not until the end that (of all people) the centurion confesses Jesus as "the Son of God" (15:39).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, reveals himself as the suffering servant who "came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many" (10:45)

We are to respond by "taking up our cross and following him" (8:34-35).



## How Mark structured his gospel

While Mark tells us immediately who Jesus is in verse 1, he wants us to see the drama of people discovering who Jesus is. He does this to prompt us to really think for ourselves about Jesus and respond accordingly.

Galilee

1:1

**Mark's introduction: "Jesus Christ, the Son of God"**

People responding to Jesus' new kingdom:

- following, amazement, rejection



8:29

**Peter's confession: "You are the Christ"**

Jesus the suffering servant

Jerusalem

15:39

**Centurion's claim: "This man really was the Son of God!"**

The end: Will Jesus' followers proclaim Christ?



## Why I'm excited about working through Mark's gospel...

I want as many people to encounter Jesus as possible! Mark sets up his gospel to be read by a range of people; there are many people in his gospel and by showing us how they responded to Jesus we are prompted to ask how we will respond. His gospel is full of drama and surprises. Consider the main groups of people in Mark

- The pharisees and religious leaders couldn't see who Jesus was; they were blinded by their opposition to him and the protection of their own power and religiosity.
- The crowd and "randoms" are full of right responses; e.g. the Syrophenician woman who responds in faith, Jairus, and ultimately the Roman centurion who confesses Jesus as "the Son of God".
- The disciples, despite following Jesus and being closest to him are all over the place! Peter does confess him as the Messiah but also gets it really wrong and denies Christ 3 times.

Jesus is merciful and present and powerful as he walks amongst all of these people. My hope is that all kinds of people would even have a chance to see Jesus in the hope that we all would be profoundly moved by Jesus' ransom for us and that we'd respond rightly: in faith and repentance!



## How to use the studies

Each study is broken into 3 parts that tease out the key aspects to Mark. Some of the studies might be too big to do it all so prioritise accordingly:

- Getting into the Word (understanding the text)
- Responding to Jesus (the main point of Mark)
- Proclaiming the Good News (doing what Jesus came to do)

Note that the "Proclaiming the Good News" will be an important part of pressing into our TAC focus over the next few months.

*I hope this gospel refreshes you in appreciation of Jesus.*  
*Mike Hastie (Lead Pastor)*

# THE GOOD NEWS



## Getting into the Word

1. What do you think motivates Mark to write his gospel (v1)?
2. What is the purpose of introducing this gospel about Jesus with John?
3. What do you think 'baptism of the Holy Spirit' (v8) refers to? Look at the references to the Spirit in the following few verses.
4. Jesus' first recorded words in this gospel are profound and gripping (v15). What does he mean?
5. Jesus came to preach (v38).
  - What was his message?
  - How does he want us to respond?
  - Why does he silence the seemingly correct response of the demons (v34)?
  - How does his healings relate to his preaching ministry (v39-45)?



## Responding to Jesus

1. How would you describe Jesus from this passage?
  - Look at how he is described (titles)
  - Look at what he says
  - Look at what he does
2. How do Jesus' words and actions reveal the 'good news' of the kingdom?
  - What about this do we long for?
  - What do we doubt?
3. How might we respond to him?
  - What does Jesus say about 'discipleship'?
  - How do others respond to him in the passage?



## Proclaiming the Good News

1. What does it mean to 'fish for people'? How might we do that? (This sounds creepy... tease out what Jesus means and what it means for us.)

# THE SON OF GOD



## Getting into the Word

1. Why is it controversial that Jesus said 'Son, your sins are forgiven'? (v5-6)
2. Jesus asks an interesting question in v9. What do you think people would have thought the answer was?
3. Tax collectors were well known for their allegiance to Rome and their selfish (even corrupt) ways. Why did Jesus ask Levi to follow him?
4. Jesus faces opposition on the issue of fasting. What does Jesus' answer mean? See how God drawing near to his people in marriage is not a new idea: Isaiah 62:5 and Hosea 2:19-20).
5. Jesus also faces opposition on the Sabbath. He refers to an incident in 1 Samuel 21:1-6 where Ahimelek the priest gives David and his men consecrated bread since they were both hungry and doing the Lord's work. How does the 'so then' work in v28? What's the point Jesus is making?



## Responding to Jesus

1. How would you describe Jesus from this passage?
  - Jesus describes himself as the 'Son of Man' in v10. Check out Daniel 7:13-14 to see how big a deal that is!
  - The same title is also used in v28. How does the use in that context add to our understanding of who Jesus is?

- And yet this all powerful, divine 'Son of Man' 'eats with sinners'. How so?

2. How do Jesus' words and actions reveal the 'good news' of the kingdom?

- What about this do we long for?
- What are you unsure about?

3. How might we respond to him?

- What does Jesus say about 'discipleship'?
- How do others respond to him in the passage? (Note the beginnings of opposition)



## Proclaiming the Good News

1. Wedding guests didn't fast when they were with the groom because they were celebrating! We live in a time now where we are both longing for Christ to return and with Christ. How might we live a life of celebration and longing? How might people see that?

# A HOUSE DIVIDED



## Getting into the Word

1. The opposition to Jesus comes from both religious leaders (v1-6) and spiritual powers (v7-12). What is it that Jesus is doing that is creating such conflict?
2. What is the significance of Jesus gathering 12 to 'preach and have authority to drive out demons'? (See also Rev 21:12-14)
3. The Holy Spirit enables us to respond rightly to Jesus as 'the Christ, the Son of God'. To blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to attribute that which is God's to Satan (v22). How might we see such blasphemy against the Spirit today?
4. How does Jesus reframe the family as a community of faith? Does this mean any disrespect to one's immediate family (cf 7:10)? How do we do this well and maybe less so at TAC?



## Responding to Jesus

1. How would you describe Jesus from this passage?
  - Do you notice anything in the character of Jesus in the rising conflict?



2. How do Jesus' words and actions reveal the 'good news' of the kingdom?

- What about this do we long for?
- What are you unsure about?

3. How might we respond to him?

- What does Jesus say about 'discipleship'?
- How do others respond to him in the passage?



## Proclaiming the Good News

1. Jesus knows he was sent to preach the good news. He calls his followers to be part of that (v13-19).
2. The more public we are the more opposition we might expect. Whatever we do, we ought to do with gentleness (1 Peter 3:15, and let's not be proud of conflict coming from foolishness 1 Peter 2:20). How do you feel about being drawn into the drama of proclamation?

**PRAYER POINTS OR  
NOTES**

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