CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Mark Chapter 1 —
The Beginning of the Gospel

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels.

It is also the fastest moving.

Mark does not begin with a family tree like Matthew.

He does not begin with the birth of Jesus like Luke.

He jumps right into action.

One of Mark's favorite words is **“immediately.”**

It appears again and again in this chapter.

Jesus is always on the move.

Teaching.

Healing.

Casting out demons.

Calling disciples.

Many early Christian writers say Mark wrote down the preaching of the apostle Peter.

This may be why the Gospel feels so much like an eyewitness report.

Mark shows Jesus as the powerful Son of God who came to serve.

Chapter 1 introduces Jesus with a burst of activity.

John the Baptist prepares the way.

Jesus is baptized, and the Father speaks from heaven.

Jesus is tested in the wilderness.

He begins preaching the kingdom of God.

He calls fishermen to follow Him.

He shows authority over demons and disease.

He rises early to pray.

And He touches a man with leprosy that no one else would touch.

The chapter moves through eight movements:

- The Ministry of John the Baptist (verses 1–8).

- The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus (verses 9–13).
- The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry (verses 14–15).
- The Calling of the First Disciples (verses 16–20).
- Jesus' Authority and Power (verses 21–28).
- Healings at Simon's House (verses 29–34).
- Jesus Prays and Continues Preaching (verses 35–39).
- Jesus Heals a Leper (verses 40–45).

The central truth of Mark 1 is:

Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God, came announcing the kingdom of God, calling people to repent and believe, and proving His authority over sin, Satan, and sickness with compassion that reaches even the untouchable.

I. THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS

Mark 1:1 — Jesus Christ, the Son of God

“This is the beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

Mark's first sentence is like a title for the whole book.

“This is the beginning.”

These words remind us of Genesis 1:1.

God is beginning something new.

“Of the good news.”

The word **gospel** means good news.

It was used for announcements of victory or the birth of a king.

“About Jesus Christ.”

Jesus means “The Lord saves.”

Christ means “the Anointed One,” the promised Messiah.

“The Son of God.”

From the very first verse, Mark tells us who Jesus is.

He is not just a teacher or prophet.

He is the Son of God.

Cross References

Genesis 1:1

> At the very start, God made the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1

> Before anything else existed, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Matthew 1:1

> This is the family record of Jesus the Messiah, who came from the family line of David and Abraham.

Spiritual Principle

The good news is not first about what we do, but about who Jesus is.

Key Truth

The gospel begins and ends with Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

II. MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU

Mark 1:2 — The Prophets Foretold It

“As it is written by the prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way.””

Mark shows that Jesus' coming was not an accident.

God had planned it long before.

“As it is written by the prophets.”

Mark quotes Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament.

“I send My messenger ahead of You.”

God promised to send a messenger before the Lord came.

That messenger was John the Baptist.

“Who will prepare Your way.”

In ancient times, a messenger went ahead of a king to prepare the road.

John would prepare people's hearts for Jesus.

Cross References

Malachi 3:1

> The Lord who rules over all says, “Look, I am sending My messenger to clear the road ahead of Me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to His temple.”

Matthew 11:10

> Jesus said, “John is the one the Scriptures speak about: ‘I am sending My messenger ahead of You to prepare the road for You.’”

Luke 7:27

> John is the man the Scriptures had in mind when they said God would send His messenger ahead to get the way ready.

Spiritual Principle

God always keeps His promises, even when they take centuries.

Key Truth

The coming of Jesus was planned by God and announced long before.

III. A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Mark 1:3 — Prepare the Way of the Lord

“A voice of one calling out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.””

Mark now quotes Isaiah.

“A voice of one calling out in the wilderness.”

John was only a voice.

He did not point to himself.

He pointed to the One coming after him.

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

The word **Lord** in Isaiah refers to God Himself.

Mark applies it to Jesus.

This is a strong statement that Jesus is the Lord.

“Make His paths straight.”

Crooked roads were straightened for a king's arrival.

People needed to straighten out their lives through repentance.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:3

> A voice is shouting, “Get a road ready in the desert for the Lord. Make a straight highway through the dry land for our God.”

Matthew 3:3

> Isaiah the prophet was speaking about John when he wrote of someone shouting in the desert, “Clear a way for the Lord. Make the road straight for Him.”

Luke 3:4

> It happened just as Isaiah the prophet had written: “Someone is calling out in the wilderness, ‘Get the road ready for the Lord. Straighten out His paths.’”

Spiritual Principle

God calls His people to prepare their hearts for Jesus.

Application

Is there anything crooked in your life that needs to be made straight?

IV. JOHN APPEARED

Mark 1:4 — A Baptism of Repentance

“John appeared in the wilderness, baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

“John appeared in the wilderness.”

After four hundred years of prophetic silence, God's messenger appeared.

Not in the temple.

Not in a palace.

In the wilderness.

“Baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance.”

Repentance means turning around.

Turning from sin and turning toward God.

John's baptism was an outward sign of that inner change.

“For the forgiveness of sins.”

People needed forgiveness.

John prepared them to receive it from the One who was coming.

Cross References

Matthew 3:1

> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the desert of Judea.

Luke 3:3

> John went all through the area around the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show they had turned from their sins, so they could be forgiven.

Acts 19:4

> Paul said, “John's baptism showed that people had changed their hearts. He told them to believe in the One who would come after him, that is, Jesus.”

Spiritual Principle

The way to Jesus begins with turning from sin.

Key Truth

Repentance is not just feeling sorry; it is turning around.

V. CONFESSING THEIR SINS

Mark 1:5 — Crowds from Judea and Jerusalem

“People from all over Judea and Jerusalem went out to him. They confessed their sins and were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”

“People from all over Judea and Jerusalem went out to him.”

Huge crowds came.

They walked miles into the wilderness to hear him.

God was stirring hearts.

“They confessed their sins.”

They openly admitted their wrongdoing.

Confession is the honest first step of repentance.

“And were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”

The Jordan was the river Israel crossed to enter the promised land.

Now God's people stood at the Jordan again, preparing for something new.

Cross References

Matthew 3:5

> People came to him from Jerusalem, all of Judea, and the whole area around the Jordan River.

Luke 3:7

> Crowds kept coming out to be baptized by John.

Acts 19:18

> Many of those who believed came forward and openly admitted the evil things they had done.

Spiritual Principle

Honest confession opens the door to forgiveness.

Application

Is there a sin you need to confess honestly to God?

VI. CAMEL'S HAIR AND LOCUSTS

Mark 1:6 — John's Simple Life

“John wore clothes made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.”

John looked and lived like a prophet.

“Clothes made of camel's hair with a leather belt.”

This was the same kind of clothing Elijah wore.

John came in the spirit and power of Elijah.

“He ate locusts and wild honey.”

Locusts were a food allowed by the law.

This was the simple food of the desert.

John did not live for comfort.

His simple life matched his serious message.

Cross References

2 Kings 1:8

> They answered, “He was a man wearing a hairy coat with a leather belt around his waist.” The king said, “That was Elijah from Tishbe.”

Matthew 3:4

> John's clothes were made of camel hair, and he wore a leather belt. He ate locusts and honey from the wild.

Zechariah 13:4

> On that day false prophets will be ashamed of their visions. They will not wear a prophet's hairy coat to fool people.

Spiritual Principle

A life of simplicity can make a message more powerful.

Key Truth

John's life said the same thing his words said: get ready for the King.

VII. ONE MORE POWERFUL

Mark 1:7 — Not Worthy to Untie His Sandals

"He preached, "After me comes one more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie."

"After me comes one more powerful than I."

John was famous.

Crowds followed him.

But he pointed away from himself.

"Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie."

Untying sandals was the job of the lowest servant.

John said he was not worthy even to do that for Jesus.

This is true humility.

Cross References

Matthew 3:11

> The One coming after me is greater than I am. I am not good enough even to carry His sandals.

Luke 3:16

> John told them all, "Someone is coming who is much stronger than I am. I am not good enough to untie the straps of His sandals."

John 1:27

> He is the One who comes after me, and I do not even deserve to untie His sandals.

Spiritual Principle

True servants of God point people to Jesus, not to themselves.

Application

Does your life point people to Jesus or to yourself?

VIII. BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mark 1:8 — Water and Spirit

“I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.””

“I baptize you with water.”

John's baptism was an outward sign.

It could wash the body, but not change the heart.

“But He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus would do something John could never do.

He would give the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit would live within His people.

The Spirit would cleanse, change, and empower them from the inside.

This promise was fulfilled at Pentecost and continues for all who believe.

Cross References

Matthew 3:11

> I baptize you with water to show you have changed your hearts. But He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke 3:16

> I use water to baptize you, but the One coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Acts 1:5

> John baptized people with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Principle

Only Jesus can change the heart by giving the Holy Spirit.

Key Truth

Outward religion can wash the outside, but only Christ can make us new inside.

IX. JESUS COMES TO BE BAPTIZED

Mark 1:9 — From Nazareth to the Jordan

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan."

Now Jesus Himself steps onto the scene.

"Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee."

Nazareth was a small, unimportant village.

Jesus grew up there in a humble home.

"And was baptized by John in the Jordan."

Why would the sinless Son of God be baptized?

He had no sins to confess.

Jesus was identifying with sinners.

He stood in line with the people He came to save.

He was also showing His obedience to the Father and beginning His public ministry.

Cross References

Matthew 3:13

> Then Jesus traveled from Galilee to the Jordan River so John could baptize Him.

Luke 3:21

> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While He was praying, the sky opened.

John 1:32

John told about it: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and stay on Him.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus humbly took His place beside the sinners He came to save.

Key Truth

The sinless One stood in the river with sinners so that sinners could one day stand with God.

X. HEAVEN OPENED

Mark 1:10 — The Spirit Like a Dove

“As Jesus came up out of the water, He saw heaven opened, and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove.”

“As Jesus came up out of the water.”

Mark again moves quickly.

“He saw heaven opened.”

The word Mark uses means **torn open**.

It is the same word used when the temple curtain was torn at Jesus' death.

God was breaking into human history.

“And the Spirit descending on Him like a dove.”

The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus.

He was anointed for His ministry.

The dove is a picture of gentleness and peace.

Cross References

Matthew 3:16

> As soon as Jesus was baptized, He came up out of the water. At that moment heaven opened, and He saw God's Spirit coming down like a dove and landing on Him.

Luke 3:22

The Holy Spirit came down on Him in a form that looked like a dove.

John 1:32

John said, “I watched the Spirit come down out of heaven like a dove and rest on Him.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit for His mission.

Key Truth

In Jesus, heaven has been opened to us.

XI. MY BELOVED SON

Mark 1:11 — The Father's Voice

“A voice came from heaven: “You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.””

Here we see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit together.

The Son is baptized.

The Spirit descends.

The Father speaks.

“You are My beloved Son.”

The Father declares who Jesus is.

He is the Son, deeply loved.

“With You I am well pleased.”

Jesus had not yet preached a sermon or done a miracle.

Yet the Father was already pleased with Him.

His relationship with the Father came before His work.

Cross References

Matthew 3:17

> Then a voice from heaven said, “This is My Son, and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him.”

Luke 3:22

> A voice came from heaven: “You are My Son, whom I love. I am very happy with You.”

Psalm 2:7

> I will tell what the Lord has decided. He said to me, “You are My Son. Today I have become Your Father.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is the beloved Son of God, fully approved by the Father.

Key Truth

In Christ, believers share in the Father's love and approval.

XII. DRIVEN INTO THE WILDERNESS

Mark 1:12 — Immediately

“Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.”

“Immediately.”

Right after the high point of His baptism, Jesus was led into testing.

“The Spirit drove Him.”

The word is strong.

The Spirit sent Him out with purpose.

This was not an accident.

It was part of God's plan.

“Into the wilderness.”

The wilderness was a place of danger and loneliness.

Israel had been tested in the wilderness for forty years and often failed.

Jesus would be tested there too.

Cross References

Matthew 4:1

> After that, the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:1

> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, came back from the Jordan River. The Spirit led Him into the desert.

Hebrews 2:18

> Because Jesus Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted now.

Spiritual Principle

Times of great blessing are often followed by times of testing.

Application

Are you ready for testing after a spiritual high point?

XIII. FORTY DAYS OF TESTING

Mark 1:13 — Tempted, Yet Cared For

“He was there forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended Him.”

“He was there forty days.”

This recalls Israel's forty years in the wilderness.

It also recalls Moses and Elijah, who each spent forty days with God.

“Being tempted by Satan.”

Satan tried to turn Jesus away from the Father's plan.

Where Adam fell and Israel failed, Jesus stood firm.

“He was with the wild animals.”

Only Mark mentions this detail.

It shows how alone and exposed Jesus was.

“And angels attended Him.”

Yet God cared for Him.

Angels served Him.

God never abandoned His Son in the wilderness.

Cross References

Matthew 4:11

> Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Luke 4:13

> After the devil had finished every kind of temptation, he left Jesus until another time.

Hebrews 4:15

> Jesus, our High Priest, knows how weak we are. He faced every kind of temptation we face, but He never once gave in to sin.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus faced temptation and won, so He can help us when we are tempted.

Key Truth

Even in the wilderness, God sends help to His own.

XIV. JESUS GOES TO GALILEE

Mark 1:14 — Preaching the Good News of God

“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, preaching the good news of God.”

“After John was put in prison.”

John had boldly spoken against King Herod's sin.

For that, he was arrested.

The messenger's work was ending.

“Jesus went into Galilee.”

Jesus began His main ministry in the region where He grew up.

“Preaching the good news of God.”

This was the center of Jesus' work.

He came to announce good news.

The good news comes from God and is about what God is doing.

Cross References

Matthew 4:12

> When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He went back to Galilee.

Luke 4:14

> Jesus went back to Galilee with the power of the Holy Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole area.

John 4:43

> Two days later, Jesus left there and went to Galilee.

Spiritual Principle

God's work continues even when His servants suffer.

Key Truth

John's voice was silenced, but the good news only grew louder.

XV. REPENT AND BELIEVE

Mark 1:15 — The Kingdom Is Near

“He said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!””

This verse sums up the message of Jesus.

“The time is fulfilled.”

The moment God had been planning had arrived.

All of history had been leading to this.

“The kingdom of God is near.”

God's reign was breaking into the world through Jesus.

The King Himself had come.

“Repent.”

Turn from sin.

“And believe the good news!”

Trust in what God is doing through Jesus.

Repentance and faith always go together.

We turn from sin and turn to Christ.

Cross References

Matthew 4:17

> From that time Jesus began to preach, “Turn away from your sins, because the kingdom of heaven is almost here.”

Luke 4:43

> Jesus said, “I must tell the good news about God's kingdom in other towns too. That is the reason God sent Me.”

Galatians 4:4

> When the right time came, God sent His Son. He was born to a woman and lived under the law.

Spiritual Principle

The right response to Jesus is to repent and believe.

Application

Have you turned from sin and put your trust in Jesus?

XVI. BY THE SEA OF GALILEE

Mark 1:16 — Simon and Andrew

“As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net, for they were fishermen.”

“As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee.”

Jesus went to an ordinary place.

The lakeshore was where people worked.

“He saw Simon and his brother Andrew.”

Jesus noticed them.

He knew exactly who He was calling.

Simon would later be called Peter.

“Casting a net, for they were fishermen.”

They were ordinary working men.

Not scholars.

Not religious leaders.

Jesus calls ordinary people.

Cross References

Matthew 4:18

> While Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew, throwing a net into the lake. They were fishermen.

Luke 5:2

> He saw two boats at the edge of the lake. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets.

John 1:40

> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John said and followed Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus finds and calls people in the middle of ordinary life.

Key Truth

You do not have to be important to be called by Jesus.

XVII. FISHERS OF MEN

Mark 1:17 — Come, Follow Me

“Jesus said, “Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.””

“Come, follow Me.”

Jesus did not invite them to follow a set of rules.

He invited them to follow Him.

Christianity is first a relationship with a Person.

“And I will make you.”

Jesus would do the shaping.

They would not change themselves.

He would make them into something new.

“Fishers of men.”

Jesus used their old skills in a new way.

They had caught fish.

Now they would bring people to God.

Cross References

Matthew 4:19

> Jesus told them, “Come with Me, and I will teach you to bring in people instead of fish.”

Luke 5:10

> Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching people.”

Jeremiah 16:16

The Lord says, “I will send for many fishermen, and they will catch them.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus calls us to follow Him and then makes us into people who bring others to Him.

Application

Who could you help bring to Jesus?

XVIII. THEY LEFT THEIR NETS

Mark 1:18 — Immediate Obedience

“Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.”

“Immediately.”

They did not delay.

They did not make excuses.

“They left their nets.”

Their nets were their business.

Their income.

Their security.

They left them behind.

“And followed Him.”

Following Jesus meant leaving something.

It still does.

Cross References

Matthew 4:20

Right away they left their nets and went with Him.

Luke 5:11

> They pulled their boats up on the shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Matthew 19:27

> Peter answered, “Look, we have left everything to follow You. What will we get?”

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus calls for immediate and wholehearted obedience.

Application

What “nets” might Jesus be asking you to leave behind?

XIX. JAMES AND JOHN

Mark 1:19 — Mending Their Nets

“Going a little farther, He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, mending their nets.”

“Going a little farther.”

Jesus kept looking for those He would call.

“He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John.”

Another pair of brothers.

They would become close followers of Jesus.

Along with Peter, they would form His inner circle.

“In a boat, mending their nets.”

They were working hard, repairing what was torn.

Jesus would one day use them to help repair broken lives.

Cross References

Matthew 4:21

> Going on from there, Jesus saw two other brothers, James and John, sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father, fixing their nets.

Luke 5:10

> James and John, Zebedee's sons, who worked together with Simon, were amazed too.

Matthew 20:20

> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons. She bowed down and asked Him for something.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus calls people who are faithful in their ordinary work.

Key Truth

Faithfulness in small things often comes before a bigger calling.

XX. THEY LEFT THEIR FATHER

Mark 1:20 — Without Delay

“Without delay He called them, and they left their father Zebedee with the hired men and followed Him.”

“Without delay He called them.”

Jesus called them right away.

“They left their father Zebedee with the hired men.”

Mark mentions the hired men.

This shows the family business was doing well.

James and John were not leaving poverty behind.

They were leaving a good, stable life.

Their father was not left alone; he had workers to help him.

“And followed Him.”

Jesus was worth more than family business and comfort.

Cross References

Matthew 4:22

> Right away they left the boat and their father and went with Jesus.

Luke 5:11

> After they brought their boats to land, they left everything behind and went with Jesus.

Luke 18:29

> Jesus said, “I promise you, anyone who has left home, wife, brothers, parents, or children for God's kingdom will receive much more.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is worthy of first place, above even the closest relationships.

Key Truth

No one who follows Jesus ever loses more than they gain.

XXI. IN THE SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM

Mark 1:21 — Teaching on the Sabbath

“They went to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.”

“They went to Capernaum.”

Capernaum was a fishing town on the Sea of Galilee.

It became Jesus' home base during His ministry.

“On the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue.”

Jesus faithfully attended worship.

The synagogue was where Jews gathered to hear God's word.

“And taught.”

Visiting teachers were often invited to speak.

Jesus used the opportunity to teach God's truth.

Cross References

Matthew 4:13

> He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, a town by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali.

Luke 4:31

> Then He went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught the people on the Sabbath.

Luke 4:16

> Jesus went to Nazareth, where He had grown up. On the Sabbath day He went to the synagogue as He always did.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus valued regular worship and the teaching of God's word.

Application

Do you make worship and hearing God's word a regular habit?

XXII. HE TAUGHT WITH AUTHORITY

Mark 1:22 — Not Like the Scribes

“The people were amazed, because He taught with authority, not like the scribes.”

“The people were amazed.”

They had never heard anyone teach like this.

“Because He taught with authority.”

Jesus did not need to quote other teachers.

He spoke as One who had the right to speak for God.

“Not like the scribes.”

The scribes were experts in the law.

They usually supported their teaching by quoting famous rabbis.

Jesus spoke with His own authority.

He did not just explain God's word.

He spoke as the Word Himself.

Cross References

Matthew 7:28

When Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed at His teaching.

Matthew 7:29

He taught as One who had real authority, not like their teachers of the law.

Luke 4:32

They were amazed at His teaching, because His words carried authority.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus speaks with the full authority of God.

Key Truth

When Jesus speaks, it is not one opinion among many; it is the final word.

XXIII. AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

Mark 1:23 — In the Synagogue

“Suddenly a man with an unclean spirit was in the synagogue. He cried out,”

“Suddenly.”

In the middle of worship, something shocking happened.

“A man with an unclean spirit was in the synagogue.”

An **unclean spirit** is a demon, an evil spirit opposed to God.

It is surprising that this man was in the place of worship.

Evil can hide even in religious places.

“He cried out.”

The presence of Jesus exposed the darkness.

The demon could not stay quiet.

Cross References

Luke 4:33

> In the synagogue there was a man who had an evil spirit in him, and he shouted with a loud voice.

Mark 5:2

> When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came out of the graveyard to meet Him.

Acts 19:15

> The evil spirit answered them, “I know Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”

Spiritual Principle

The presence of Jesus exposes the powers of darkness.

Key Truth

Darkness cannot stay hidden when the Light walks in.

XXIV. THE HOLY ONE OF GOD

Mark 1:24 — The Demon Knows

““Leave us alone! What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!””

“Leave us alone!”

The demon wanted nothing to do with Jesus.

“What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?”

Notice the word **“us.”**

The demon spoke for the forces of evil.

“Have You come to destroy us?”

The demons knew Jesus had come to defeat them.

“I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

The demon recognized Jesus.

It knew Jesus was pure, holy, and sent from God.

But knowing who Jesus is is not the same as trusting Him.

Cross References

Luke 4:34

> “What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to wipe us out? I know who You are. You are God's Holy One!”

John 6:69

> We believe, and we know, that You are the Holy One sent from God.

Psalm 16:10

> You will not leave me in the grave, and You will not let Your holy one rot away.

Spiritual Principle

Even demons recognize Jesus, but true faith goes beyond knowing to trusting.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to know facts about Jesus without knowing Him as Lord.

XXV. BE QUIET AND COME OUT

Mark 1:25 — Jesus Rebukes the Spirit

“Jesus rebuked him: “Be quiet and come out of him!””

“Jesus rebuked him.”

Jesus did not argue with the demon.

He did not use rituals or long prayers.

“Be quiet.”

Jesus did not want testimony from demons.

He would reveal who He was in His own way and time.

“And come out of him!”

With a simple command, Jesus took charge.

His word alone was enough.

Cross References

Luke 4:35

> Jesus ordered the evil spirit, “Stop talking and get out of him!”

Mark 9:25

> Jesus spoke firmly to the evil spirit: “You spirit that makes him unable to hear or speak, I command you to come out of him and never go back in.”

Zechariah 3:2

> The Lord said to Satan, “May the Lord scold you, Satan!”

Spiritual Principle

The word of Jesus has full authority over the powers of evil.

Key Truth

Jesus does not negotiate with darkness; He commands it.

XXVI. THE DEMON CAME OUT

Mark 1:26 — With a Loud Cry

“The demon shook the man violently and came out of him with a loud cry.”

“The demon shook the man violently.”

The evil spirit did harm on its way out.

Evil always seeks to hurt.

“And came out of him with a loud cry.”

But it had to obey.

It could not resist Jesus.

The man was set free.

Cross References

Luke 4:35

> The demon threw the man down in front of everyone and came out of him without hurting him.

Mark 9:26

> The spirit screamed, shook the boy violently, and came out.

Acts 8:7

> Evil spirits came out of many people with loud shouts.

Spiritual Principle

Evil may struggle, but it must give way to Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus came to set captives free.

XXVII. A NEW TEACHING WITH AUTHORITY

Mark 1:27 — Everyone Was Astonished

"Everyone was astonished and asked, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He even commands unclean spirits, and they obey Him!""

"Everyone was astonished."

The people were stunned.

"What is this? A new teaching—with authority!"

His words and His actions matched.

He taught with authority, and He acted with authority.

"He even commands unclean spirits, and they obey Him!"

Others tried to drive out demons with long rituals.

Jesus only spoke, and they obeyed.

This was something completely new.

Cross References

Luke 4:36

> Everyone was amazed. They said to each other, “What kind of word is this? With authority and power He orders evil spirits out, and they leave!”

Matthew 7:29

> He taught them like someone with authority, not like their teachers of the law.

Acts 19:12

> Even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched Paul were taken to the sick, and their sicknesses were healed and evil spirits left them.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' teaching is proven by His power.

Key Truth

Jesus does not only tell us the truth; He has the power to set us free.

XXVIII. NEWS SPREAD QUICKLY

Mark 1:28 — Throughout Galilee

“News about Him spread quickly through all of Galilee.”

What happened in one synagogue was soon known everywhere.

People talked about Jesus in every town.

When Jesus works, people cannot stay silent.

Cross References

Luke 4:37

> And the news about Jesus spread to every place in the whole area.

Matthew 4:24

> News about Jesus spread all through Syria, and people brought Him everyone who was sick.

Luke 7:17

This news about Jesus spread through all of Judea and the surrounding areas.

Spiritual Principle

What Jesus does is worth telling.

Application

Who have you told about what Jesus has done for you?

XXIX. TO SIMON AND ANDREW'S HOUSE

Mark 1:29 — From the Synagogue to the Home

“After leaving the synagogue, they went with James and John to Simon and Andrew's house.”

Jesus moved from public worship to a private home.

The same Lord who worked in the synagogue also cared about what happened at home.

Simon and Andrew opened their house to Jesus.

Their home became a place of ministry.

Cross References

Matthew 8:14

When Jesus went into Peter's house, He saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.

Luke 4:38

Jesus left the synagogue and went to Simon's house.

Matthew 4:18

While Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus cares about our homes as much as our places of worship.

Application

Is your home open to Jesus and His work?

XXX. A FEVER

Mark 1:30 — They Told Jesus

“Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her.”

“Simon's mother-in-law.”

This tells us Peter was married.

“Was in bed with a fever.”

In those days, a fever could be serious and even deadly.

“And they told Jesus about her.”

This is a simple picture of prayer.

They brought the need to Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 8:14

> Jesus came into Peter's home and found Peter's mother-in-law in bed, sick with a fever.

Luke 4:38

> Simon's mother-in-law was very sick with a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.

1 Corinthians 9:5

> Do we not have the right to bring a believing wife with us, as the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Peter do?

Spiritual Principle

We should bring the needs of others to Jesus.

Application

Who can you bring to Jesus in prayer today?

XXXI. SHE BEGAN TO SERVE

Mark 1:31 — Lifted Up

“He took her by the hand, helped her up, and immediately the fever left her. She began to serve them.”

“He took her by the hand.”

Jesus touched her.

His healing was personal and tender.

“Helped her up.”

He lifted her.

“And immediately the fever left her.”

The healing was instant and complete.

Normally a person needs days to recover from a fever.

She was fully well at once.

“She began to serve them.”

Her first response was to serve.

Those whom Jesus lifts up are lifted up to serve.

Cross References

Matthew 8:15

> Jesus touched her hand, and the fever went away. She got up and started to serve Him.

Luke 4:39

> He stood over her and ordered the fever to leave, and it did. She got up right away and began serving them.

John 12:2

> They gave a dinner for Jesus there. Martha served the food.

Spiritual Principle

Those who are touched by Jesus respond by serving.

Key Truth

Grace received becomes grace that serves.

XXXII. AFTER SUNSET

Mark 1:32 — Bringing the Sick

“That evening, after sunset, the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.”

“That evening, after sunset.”

Why wait until sunset?

The Sabbath ended at sunset.

Then people were free to carry the sick.

“The people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.”

News had spread.

People brought everyone who needed help.

Cross References

Matthew 8:16

> That evening people brought to Jesus many who had demons. With just a word He drove out the spirits and healed all who were sick.

Luke 4:40

> When the sun was going down, people brought their sick friends and family to Jesus. He put His hands on each one and healed them.

Matthew 4:24

> People brought Him all who were sick with all kinds of diseases and pain, those with demons, those with seizures, and those who could not move, and He healed them.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus welcomes all who come to Him in need.

Key Truth

No one was too sick or too troubled to be brought to Jesus.

XXXIII. THE WHOLE TOWN

Mark 1:33 — At the Door

“The whole town gathered at the door.”

This is a vivid detail, likely from Peter's own memory.

The whole town crowded around his front door.

Everyone wanted to see Jesus.

Need had drawn them.

Hope had brought them.

Cross References

Luke 4:40

> As the sun set, everyone who had sick people brought them to Jesus.

Matthew 8:16

> When evening came, many people with demons were brought to Him.

Mark 2:2

> So many people gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door. Jesus was teaching them God's message.

Spiritual Principle

Where Jesus is, people in need will gather.

Key Truth

A home where Jesus is present becomes a door of hope for the whole town.

XXXIV. HE WOULD NOT LET THE DEMONS SPEAK

Mark 1:34 — Healing Many

“Jesus healed many with various diseases and drove out many demons. He would not let the demons speak, because they knew who He was.”

“Jesus healed many with various diseases.”

No disease was too hard for Him.

“And drove out many demons.”

His power over evil was complete.

“He would not let the demons speak, because they knew who He was.”

Again Jesus silenced the demons.

He did not want their testimony.

Their words could cause confusion about what kind of Messiah He was.

Jesus would reveal Himself in His own time and way, especially through the cross.

Cross References

Matthew 8:16

> He drove out the evil spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Luke 4:41

> Demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But Jesus ordered them to be quiet, because they knew He was the Messiah.

Matthew 12:16

> He warned them not to tell others about Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus reveals Himself in His own way and time.

Key Truth

The truth about Jesus should come from those who love Him, not from His enemies.

XXXV. EARLY IN THE MORNING

Mark 1:35 — Jesus Prays

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, went to a solitary place, and prayed.”

After a long and busy day, Jesus could have slept in.

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark.”

Instead, He rose before dawn.

“Jesus got up, went to a solitary place.”

He looked for a quiet place.

Away from the crowds.

“And prayed.”

If the Son of God needed to pray, how much more do we?

Prayer was the source of His strength and direction.

Cross References

Luke 4:42

> At sunrise Jesus left and went to a lonely place.

Luke 5:16

> But Jesus often slipped away to quiet places to pray.

Luke 6:12

> One day Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night praying to God.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer was central to the life and ministry of Jesus.

Application

Do you make time to be alone with God in prayer?

XXXVI. LOOKING FOR JESUS

Mark 1:36 — Simon and His Companions

“Simon and his companions went to look for Him,”

Peter and the others woke up and found Jesus gone.

They went out searching.

The word used suggests they hunted for Him eagerly.

They did not understand yet why He had left.

Cross References

Luke 4:42

> The people kept looking for Him. When they found Him, they tried to keep Him from leaving.

Mark 1:35

> Long before sunrise, Jesus got up, left the house, and went to a quiet place to pray.

John 6:24

> When the crowd saw that Jesus and His followers were not there, they got into boats and went to Capernaum to look for Him.

Spiritual Principle

People naturally look for Jesus when they have seen His power.

Key Truth

Seeking Jesus is good, but we must seek Him for who He is, not only for what He does.

XXXVII. EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR YOU

Mark 1:37 — The Crowds Are Waiting

“and when they found Him, they said, “Everyone is looking for You!””

The disciples were excited.

Jesus was popular.

The whole town wanted Him back.

They probably thought Jesus should take advantage of the moment.

But Jesus had a different plan.

Cross References

John 6:24

> When the people saw that Jesus was gone, they went to look for Him.

Luke 4:42

> The crowds searched for Him, found Him, and tried to keep Him from going away.

Matthew 14:35

> When the people recognized Jesus, they sent word all through the area and brought Him all their sick.

Spiritual Principle

Popularity is not the same as God's purpose.

Key Truth

Jesus was not led by crowds but by His Father.

XXXVIII. THAT IS WHY I CAME

Mark 1:38 — On to the Next Towns

“Jesus replied, “Let us go on to the nearby villages so I can preach there too. That is why I came.””

“Let us go on to the nearby villages.”

Jesus did not stay where He was popular.

He moved on.

“So I can preach there too.”

His main mission was to preach the good news.

Healing was important.

But the message of the kingdom came first.

“That is why I came.”

Jesus knew His purpose.

Prayer had made it clear.

Cross References

Luke 4:43

> Jesus told them, “I have to bring the good news of God's kingdom to other towns as well. This is what I was sent to do.”

Isaiah 61:1

> The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, because the Lord chose me to bring good news to the poor and to heal those whose hearts are broken.

Luke 4:18

> The Spirit of the Lord is on Me. He has chosen Me to tell the good news to the poor, to announce freedom for prisoners, sight for the blind, and release for those who are crushed.

Spiritual Principle

Knowing God's purpose keeps us from being pulled off course by popularity.

Application

Do you know what God has called you to do?

XXXIX. THROUGHOUT GALILEE

Mark 1:39 — Preaching and Driving Out Demons

“So He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.”

Jesus took His ministry everywhere.

“Preaching in their synagogues.”

He went where people gathered to hear God's word.

“And driving out demons.”

His words and His power went together.

The kingdom of God was pushing back the kingdom of darkness.

Cross References

Matthew 4:23

> Jesus went all over Galilee teaching in the synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every kind of sickness.

Luke 4:44

> And He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Matthew 9:35

> Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease.

Spiritual Principle

The message of the kingdom must go everywhere.

Key Truth

Jesus' kingdom advances through His word and His power.

XL. IF YOU ARE WILLING

Mark 1:40 — A Man with Leprosy

“A man with leprosy came to Him and begged on his knees, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.””

“A man with leprosy.”

Leprosy was a terrible skin disease.

People with leprosy were considered unclean.

They had to live apart from others.

They could not worship with God's people.

No one would touch them.

“Came to Him and begged on his knees.”

This man broke the rules to come close to Jesus.

He came humbly, on his knees.

“If You are willing, You can make me clean.”

He had no doubt about Jesus' power.

His only question was whether Jesus was willing.

Cross References

Matthew 8:2

> A man with a skin disease came and bowed down in front of Jesus. He said, “Lord, You can heal me if You want to.”

Luke 5:12

> A man covered with leprosy saw Jesus, bowed with his face to the ground, and begged, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

2 Kings 5:1

> Naaman was the commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great and respected man, a brave soldier, but he had a skin disease.

Spiritual Principle

Come to Jesus humbly, trusting His power and His heart.

Key Truth

The question is never whether Jesus can, but whether we will come to Him.

XLI. MOVED WITH COMPASSION

Mark 1:41 — I Am Willing

“Jesus was moved with compassion. He reached out His hand and touched the man. “I am willing. Be clean!” He said.”

This is one of the most tender verses in the Gospels.

“Jesus was moved with compassion.”

Jesus felt deeply for this man.

His heart was moved.

“He reached out His hand and touched the man.”

Jesus could have healed him with a word.

But He touched him.

This man may not have felt a human touch in years.

By law, touching a leper made a person unclean.

But when Jesus touched the leper, the leper became clean.

“I am willing. Be clean!”

Jesus answered the man's question.

Yes, He was willing.

Cross References

Matthew 8:3

> Jesus reached out and touched him. “I want to,” He said. “Be healed!”

Luke 5:13

> Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him. He said, “I am willing. Be made clean!” At once the disease left him.

Leviticus 13:45

> A person with a skin disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair hang loose, cover the lower part of his face, and shout, “Unclean! Unclean!”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is not only able to save; He is willing.

Key Truth

Jesus touches those whom no one else will touch.

XLII. IMMEDIATELY CLEANSED

Mark 1:42 — The Leprosy Left

“Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.”

“Immediately.”

Again, Mark's favorite word.

“The leprosy left him.”

The disease was gone.

“And he was cleansed.”

He was not only healed.

He was clean.

He could return to his family, his community, and the worship of God.

This is a picture of what Jesus does for sinners.

Sin makes us unclean.

Jesus makes us clean.

Cross References

Matthew 8:3

> At that moment the man's skin disease was healed.

Luke 5:13

> Right away the leprosy disappeared.

2 Kings 5:14

> So Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had said. His skin became healthy like a young boy's, and he was clean.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus makes the unclean clean and restores what sin has taken.

Key Truth

No one is too unclean for Jesus to cleanse.

XLIII. A STRONG WARNING

Mark 1:43 — Sent Away at Once

“Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning:”

Jesus spoke firmly to the man.

He had a reason.

He did not want people coming to Him only for miracles.

He did not want crowds to stop Him from preaching.

He also did not want people to think of Him only as a wonder-worker.

Cross References

Matthew 8:4

> Then Jesus told him, “Be sure not to tell anyone.”

Luke 5:14

> Jesus ordered him not to tell anyone.

Matthew 9:30

> Their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them strongly, “Make sure no one finds out about this.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' mission was bigger than miracles.

Key Truth

Jesus wanted people to come for the Healer, not only for the healing.

XLIV. SHOW YOURSELF TO THE PRIEST

Mark 1:44 — A Testimony to Them

““See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.””

“See that you don't tell this to anyone.”

Jesus asked for silence.

“But go, show yourself to the priest.”

The law of Moses said a healed leper had to be examined by a priest.

Only then could he be declared clean.

“And offer the sacrifices Moses commanded for your cleansing.”

Jesus respected God's law.

“As a testimony to them.”

The priests would see the evidence.

A healed leper was a powerful witness that God was at work.

Cross References

Leviticus 14:2

> These are the instructions for a person with a skin disease on the day he is made clean: he must be brought to the priest.

Matthew 8:4

> Go and let the priest look at you, and offer the gift Moses commanded. This will show them what has happened.

Luke 5:14

> Go and show yourself to the priest, and offer the sacrifice Moses required for your cleansing, so they will have proof.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus honored God's law and used it to bear witness to the truth.

Key Truth

A changed life is a testimony that God is at work.

XLV. HE SPREAD THE NEWS

Mark 1:45 — People Came from Everywhere

“But the man went out and began to spread the news widely. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter towns openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet people still came to Him from everywhere.”

“But the man went out and began to spread the news widely.”

The man was overjoyed.

But he disobeyed Jesus.

“As a result, Jesus could no longer enter towns openly.”

Crowds now made it hard for Jesus to move freely.

“But stayed outside in lonely places.”

Notice the irony.

At the start, the leper had to live outside the towns.

Now he could go into the towns.

And Jesus had to stay outside.

Jesus took the outsider's place.

That is a picture of what He would do on the cross.

“Yet people still came to Him from everywhere.”

Nothing could stop people from coming to Jesus.

Cross References

Luke 5:15

> But the news about Jesus spread even more. Large crowds came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

Matthew 9:31

But they went out and spread the news about Him all over that area.

Luke 5:16

But Jesus would often slip away to lonely places and pray.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus took the place of the outcast so that the outcast could be welcomed home.

Key Truth

Obedience matters, even when our intentions are good.

XLVI. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM MARK 1

1. John Prepared the Way

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Principle:

John prepared the way for Jesus through repentance and baptism.

2. Jesus Is the Beloved Son of God

“You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.”

Principle:

Jesus is the beloved Son of God, confirmed at His baptism.

3. The Kingdom of God Is Near

“Repent and believe the good news!”

Principle:

We are called to repent and believe the good news.

4. Jesus Calls Ordinary People

“Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Principle:

Jesus calls ordinary people to follow Him and bring others to Him.

5. Jesus Has Authority Over All

“He even commands unclean spirits, and they obey Him!”

Principle:

He has authority over sickness, sin, and demons; His power is greater than all.

6. Prayer Was Central to Jesus' Ministry

“Very early in the morning... Jesus got up... and prayed.”

Principle:

Jesus' life of prayer is a model for us to follow.

7. Compassion Moved Him to Heal

“Jesus was moved with compassion.”

Principle:

Jesus' compassion moved Him to heal, and it still does today.

XLVII. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

Verses 21–39 show one full day in Jesus' ministry, from Sabbath morning to the next dawn.

Morning: Teaching in the Synagogue

He taught God's word with authority.

In the Synagogue: Freeing a Man from a Demon

He set a captive free.

Afternoon: Healing in a Home

He healed Peter's mother-in-law.

Evening: Serving the Whole Town

He healed the sick and freed the troubled.

Before Dawn: Praying Alone

He drew strength from His Father.

Next Morning: Moving On to Preach

He stayed true to His mission.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus' busy life of service flowed from quiet time alone with the Father.

XLVIII. THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

Mark 1 shows Jesus' authority in many areas.

Authority in His Words

“He taught with authority.”

Authority Over People

“Come, follow Me.” And they followed.

Authority Over Demons

“Be quiet and come out of him!”

Authority Over Disease

“Immediately the fever left her.”

Authority Over Uncleanness

“Be clean!”

Authority Over His Own Schedule

“Let us go on to the nearby villages.”

Key Truth

There is no area of life where Jesus does not have authority.

XLIX. THE WORD “IMMEDIATELY”

Mark uses the word **“immediately”** many times in this chapter.

- The Spirit immediately drove Him into the wilderness.
- The fishermen immediately left their nets.
- Without delay He called James and John.
- Immediately the fever left her.
- Immediately the leprosy left him.

This word shows:

- The urgency of Jesus' mission.
- The power of Jesus' word.
- The proper response to His call.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When Jesus speaks, the right time to respond is now.

L. WHAT MARK 1 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is the Christ

“Jesus Christ.”

He Is the Son of God

“The Son of God.”

He Is the Lord

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

He Baptizes with the Holy Spirit

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

He Is the Beloved of the Father

“You are My beloved Son.”

He Conquered Temptation

“Being tempted by Satan.”

He Is the Holy One of God

“I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

He Is Full of Compassion

“Jesus was moved with compassion.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the powerful Son of God who uses His power with compassion.

LI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

How does Mark begin his Gospel?

With a bold statement: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and His story is good news.

Question 2

What was John the Baptist's role?

To prepare the way for Jesus by calling people to repent and be baptized.

Question 3

What is repentance?

Turning from sin and turning to God.

Question 4

Why was Jesus baptized if He had no sin?

To identify with sinners, to obey the Father, and to begin His public ministry.

Question 5

What happened at Jesus' baptism?

Heaven was torn open, the Spirit came down like a dove, and the Father spoke His approval.

Question 6

Why was Jesus tempted in the wilderness?

To face Satan and win where others had failed, and to be able to help us when we are tempted.

Question 7

What was the message Jesus preached?

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Question 8

What did Jesus mean by “fishers of men”?

He would turn His followers into people who bring others to God.

Question 9

Why did Jesus silence the demons?

He did not want testimony from evil spirits, and He would reveal Himself in His own way and time.

Question 10

What does Jesus' early-morning prayer teach us?

That prayer is essential, especially in busy seasons of life.

Question 11

Why is it important that Jesus touched the leper?

It showed His deep compassion, and instead of Jesus becoming unclean, the leper became clean.

Question 12

What should Mark 1 change about the way Christians live today?

Mark 1 should cause believers to live:

- Pointing others to Jesus, as John did.
- Repenting and trusting the good news.
- Following Jesus without delay.
- Bringing others to Him.
- Trusting His authority over every power.
- Bringing the needs of others to Jesus in prayer.
- Making time to pray alone with God.

- Showing compassion to the outcast.

LII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Mark 1 asks several important questions.

Do I Believe Jesus Is the Son of God?

Have I trusted Him as Lord and Savior?

Have I Repented and Believed?

Have I truly turned to Christ?

Am I Following Jesus?

Or am I still holding on to my nets?

Am I a Fisher of Men?

Who am I helping to come to Jesus?

Do I Trust Jesus' Authority?

Is there any power I fear more than I trust Him?

Do I Bring Needs to Jesus?

Whom can I tell Jesus about today?

Do I Make Time to Pray?

When do I meet with God alone?

Do I Touch the Untouchable?

Whom does God want me to show compassion to?

LIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Touch No One Else Would Give”

The man with leprosy lived on the outside.

Outside the town.

Outside the synagogue.

Outside his family.

He had to warn people to stay away.

No one would come near him.

No one would touch him.

Then he met Jesus.

He fell on his knees.

He did not doubt Jesus' power.

He only wondered if Jesus cared.

“If You are willing.”

Jesus could have healed him with a word from a safe distance.

But Jesus reached out and touched him.

The touch no one else would give.

And Jesus said, **“I am willing.”**

This creates a powerful principle.

There is no one too unclean, too broken, or too far outside for Jesus to reach.

He is not only able.

He is willing.

Principle:

Jesus is both able and willing to touch and cleanse those whom the world pushes away.

LIV. FINAL APPLICATION

Mark Chapter 1 introduces Jesus with power and speed.

John prepares the way.

The Father declares His love for His Son.

The Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness, where He defeats temptation.

Jesus preaches the kingdom of God.

He calls fishermen to follow Him.

He shows authority over demons and disease.

He rises early to pray.

And He touches the untouchable.

Mark 1 therefore reminds us:

Never forget who Jesus is.

Never delay in following Him.

Never think anyone is beyond His reach.

Never neglect prayer.

Never stop telling the good news.

The church does not need people who are only amazed by Jesus.

It needs:

Believers who repent and believe.

Disciples who follow without delay.

Fishers of men who bring others to Him.

And servants who show His compassion.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that Jesus is the Son of God.

Tell people that the kingdom of God has come near.

Tell people to repent and believe the good news.

Tell people that Jesus is willing to make them clean.

And as you live:

Repent and believe.

Follow Him.

Pray.

Reach out with compassion.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the good news about Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Thank You for sending messengers to prepare the way.

Thank You that You declared Jesus as Your beloved Son.

Thank You that Jesus faced temptation and won.

Thank You that the kingdom of God has come near.

Thank You that Jesus calls ordinary people to follow Him.

Thank You that He has authority over every power of darkness and disease.

Thank You that He is moved with compassion and willing to make us clean.

Forgive us when we have delayed in following You.

Forgive us when we have held on to our nets.

Forgive us when we have neglected prayer.

Forgive us when we have kept our distance from people in need.

Help us repent and believe the good news every day.

Make us fishers of men.

Teach us to rise and pray as Jesus did.

Fill us with His compassion.

And help us bring others to the One who is willing to make them clean.

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” — Mark 1:15

Central Truth

Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God, came announcing the kingdom of God, calling people to repent and believe, and proving His authority over sin, Satan, and sickness with compassion that reaches even the untouchable.

Mark 1 in One Sentence

Mark begins the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by showing John preparing the way, the Father declaring His love at Jesus' baptism, Jesus defeating temptation, calling fishermen to follow Him, preaching the kingdom, driving out demons, healing the sick, rising early to pray, and touching and cleansing a man with leprosy.