

# JESUS

Worthy Of Worship

## WEEK ONE THE REFORMER

This week in Mark 1:1 – 2:12  
we see “Jesus as a reformer.”

-Where do you see this in the  
Scripture below?

-What was it about Jesus as a  
reformer that was so - WOW?

-How has Jesus as reformer  
shaped you?

Jot down your answers as you go and  
use them as prayer points this week.

## WOW!

**Today** we start our journey to be amazed by our Lord Jesus. By the end of the eight weeks, we will have read through the gospel of Mark. Of the four gospels it is earliest writing and is somewhat frantic in its pace to recount the story of Jesus; Mark is almost breathless and giddy with excitement to tell the world about this incredible and mysterious man!



### WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Use this reading time to really get to know Jesus the **God-man**. Try not to only focus on what he did and said, rather go a step further by searching out *who he was* because of his teachings and actions; see past the man and onto the glorious and worshipful Son!

Our reading plan each week has been deliberately chosen so to group together sections of Mark's Gospel that have literary cohesion (this was a carefully constructed “biography” after all).

What you will notice below is that other than some paragraphs the usual headings, verses, bible notes and chapters are missing.

This might well be unnerving for some but stick with it! Mark never envisioned his gospel to be carved up by chapters and verses, so what we have below is closer to Mark's original intentions as to how his readership was to interpret his account.

We hope it will be quite a different and exciting experience for you all.

*Adam Gidney*

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

(Mk 1:1 - 2:12)

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”

“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

**Note** – think about why this quote from Isaiah is important, it's right at the start so it must be significant! What does it tell us about who Jesus is and what he brought to God's awesome “bigger plan”?

And so, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

**STOP!** – close your eyes for a moment and imagine the above experience Jesus endured. It was a real test of his humanness and his divinity. How is this a WOW! moment?

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, "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!" "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, **"What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him."**

**Note** – this verse above is important for our teaching today. What do you make of it?

News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So, he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So,

he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Instead, he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**Note** – Having read everything for today now, what would you say is the overall theme Mark is trying to tell us? Look out for repetitious words and phrases, they usual help!

*What does all this tell you about who Jesus was? Is it – WOW?!!!*

## Prayer

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed; kindle we pray thee, in the hearts of all the true love of peace; and guide with thy pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity thy Kingdom may go forward, till the earth be filled with the knowledge of thy love: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Francis Paget (1851-1911)*

## Coming up next week...

Jesus is **RIGHT HERE! (Emmanuel)** | Mk 2:13 – 4:34 | Son of Man, physically present, relational, inviting.



# JESUS