

# Enjoying God's Word

Every Day

*Photo: Jim Dixon*

Gospel of Mark

-

Week One

Prepared by: Andrew Mullan

---

# Enjoying God's Word Every Day

**Day One**

**Read - Mark 1:1-5**

## What does it mean?

- 1) Who is Mark writing his gospel about?
- 2) What does Mark tell us about Jesus in verse 1?

Verses 2 & 3 are quotations from the Old Testament (*Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3*). These are important in telling us that, the coming of Jesus Christ and the coming of John, to prepare the way, are fulfilments of promises God had already made.

- 3) In v4, what are we told John 'the Baptist' preached?
- 4) How did the people respond in v 5?

## A Key Point

**Son of God** – This does not mean that Jesus is a child of God. It means He is God. Just as my son bears my nature, so in Christ we see the nature of God. As we read through Mark we will see the evidence that Jesus Christ is God.

*John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by preparing the hearts of the people to recognise their sin, confess it, repent of it, and be forgiven.*

## What about me?

*Examine your life today and identify the sin in it. Confess your sin before a holy God and repent of it (turn away from it). Then thank God that forgiveness is available because of Christ's death on the cross.*

# Enjoying God's Word Every Day

## Day Two

## Read – Mark 1:6-11

### What does it mean?

- 1) How could everyone tell that John was different?
- 2) What was John's attitude of himself in v7, and of Christ?
- 3) Looking at the notes opposite, what do you understand by the 'baptism of the Holy Ghost (Spirit)'?
- 4) In verse 9, Jesus is baptised in the water. Read 'A Key Point' and explain what baptism does and does not do.
- 5) What was it about the life and character of Jesus that brought such pleasure to God the Father (v11)? Do our lives please God?

### A Key Point

**Baptism** – This act does not make you a Christian. God examines the heart for humble repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Only then does baptism have real meaning, showing others we are now dead to self and living for Christ.

*In verse 8, John tells us that Jesus will 'baptize you with the Holy Spirit', referring to the event of God's Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples in Acts chapter 2.*

### What about me?

*Now, whenever someone trusts in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, immediately they come into the good of this baptism and they can rejoice in the knowledge that the fullness of the Holy Spirit dwells within.*

# Enjoying God's Word Every Day

## Day Three

## Read – Mark 1:12-20

### What does it mean?

- 1) In verse 12, who do find guiding and directing Jesus?

As God's Son, Jesus could have dealt with Satan in a word, but in keeping with the humble position he has taken, he experiences the fullness of the hardships.

- 2) What role do the angels play in v13?
- 3) What does v15 have to say about the obedience Jesus had?
- 4) Explain how vs16-20 develop the subject of obedience.

### A Key Point

**The Obedient Servant** – As well as telling us that Jesus is God, Mark tells us an amazing story of grace, that God's Son has come in humility to be the perfect, obedient servant of God promised in the Old Testament (Isa42v1; 52v13)

*Having suffered the fullness of the time of testing, Jesus Christ is now able to empathise with us in our suffering. He knows what we go through.*

### **How do we react to suffering?**

*God is sovereign and all things happen for a reason. God wants us simply to trust him and to follow him through, knowing that he will fully minister to our needs.*

# Enjoying God's Word Every Day

## Day Four

## Read – Mark 1:21-28

### What does it mean?

- 1) What was the first thing Jesus did when he arrived in Capernaum?

Twice in this section we are told that he spoke with authority (v22,v27), once in teaching, and then in commanding.

- 2) Where did this authority come from?
- 3) How did the people react when they heard him? How do we react?
- 4) What did the unclean spirit call Jesus, and what does this tell us about Him?
- 5) The demon had no choice but to obey (v26). You do have a choice – do you obey what God says in the Bible?

### A Key Point

**The Holy One** – An important truth is the sinlessness of Jesus Christ. It is not just that he lived a morally upright life; not even that he did not commit any sin; but that **He could not sin**. As a result, he was able to die for our sin.

*As the Servant of God, Jesus was always seeking God's will and His primary interest was in pursuing the things of God, rather than selfish pleasures.*

### What about me?

*Note down how time is spent throughout the week. How much is spent pursuing the things of God – reading the Bible, going to church ... – compared with time spent on ourselves?*

# Enjoying God's Word Every Day

## Day Five

## Read – Mark 1:29-34

### What does it mean?

- 1) Who opened their house and offered hospitality to the Lord Jesus?
- 2) What personal difficulty could have prevented this from happening?
- 3) What blessing flowed as a result of Jesus being invited into the house?

Have you invited the Lord Jesus to take control of your own situation at home or at work ...? When you do, you will find it a great blessing.

- 4) How does the work of healing grow as you read through this passage?
- 5) What principle can you learn from this?

### A Key Point

**Knowing God** – There is a difference in knowing about God, and knowing God in a personal way. The demons believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Holy One, but they will not submit to him. Make sure you know him as Saviour & Friend.

*In spite of difficult personal circumstances, Simon invited the Lord back to his house. As a result, he enjoyed the blessing of seeing his mother-in-law healed.*

### What about me?

*Do we make our difficult circumstances an excuse for not attending church, reading our Bibles or serving? If we do, we will miss out on the blessing the Lord wants to give us. God is no man's debtor.*

# Enjoying God's Word Every Day

**Day Six**

**Read – Mark 1:35-39**

## What does it mean?

- 1) When did Jesus pray?
- 2) Where did Jesus pray, and why do you think he prayed there?

It is not long before the cares and stresses of the day crowd in on us.

- 3) What were these for the Lord Jesus?

Everyday, decisions need to be made, and because he had prayed Jesus knew exactly what to do and could move in confidence.

- 4) What was his decision, and why?

## A Key Point

**Prayer** – This is a keystone of the Christian life. Prayer shows dependence upon God. As Jesus, the humble servant, showed what it was to be fully dependent on his Father God, so we ought to make prayer a central feature of our lives.

*Jesus was the Perfect Servant – every step was right; every word measured; every action fair and just. Prayer was central in this. (Read Psalm 40v6)*

## What about me?

*Is prayer central in my life? Do I make sure I can have time alone with my God before the stresses of the day crowd in on me? Or is the lack of prayer in my life the reason for wrong decisions, regretted words/actions?*

# Enjoying God's Word Every Day

## Day Seven

## Read – Mark 1:40-45

### What does it mean?

Lepers were outcasts, unclean & condemned. There was no hope!

- 1) V.40 brings hope into the situation, but we also see that the leper has a confident faith. How do we know?
- 2) What can we learn about the heart of Jesus Christ towards those in need?
- 3) How long did the leprosy take to heal?
- 4) What does this tell us about who Jesus is?
- 5) The man was then given a command by the Lord. Did he obey?
- 6) What was the result of his action?

### A Key Point

**Leprosy** – In the Bible, there was no cure for leprosy. Slowly it spread, rotting and stinking, until you died. It is no wonder that in the Bible, leprosy is often used as a picture of sin, It too slowly takes hold until it ends in death.

*Good intentions can never make a disobedient act right. It is still disobedience, and disobedience will always bring negative consequences.*

### What about me?

*Do I believe that God's ways are higher than my ways? Or do I think that sometimes I know best? Confess disobedience and commit to fully trusting God and being obedient to His Word.*