



Sermon Notes

Title: *The King's Good News*

Scripture: Mark 1 (NIV)

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A. Beginning of the Good News (Mark 1:1-20).

1. (1) The beginning of the good news.

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,

a. [1] **The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God:** Every great story has a beginning, and Mark takes us to his **beginning of the good news**. This book is *the good news of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God*. It is the *good news* concerning Jesus.

b. Every word in Mark's description of Jesus is important. First, this is the *good news of Jesus*, a genuine, historical person who walked this earth like other men. It is the good news of the **Christ** (which simply means "Messiah"), the promised, anointed Savior of men. And it is the good news of **the Son of God**, and a **Son** in more than a sense that we think of all men coming from God. Jesus is the unique **Son of God**, who is also *God the Son*.

2. (summary of 2-8) The work of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus.

a. John was the prophesied messenger, preparing the way for the Lord, for Jesus the Messiah.

b. [4] John preached repentance, and baptism as a demonstration of repentance.

i. John's baptism might have been related to the Jewish practice of baptizing Gentile converts or to some of the ceremonial washings practiced by the Jews of that day. Though it may have some links, at the same time it was *unique* – so unique that John simply became known as "the Baptizer." If a lot of people had been doing what John did, it wouldn't be a unique title.

c. Despite John's strange appearance and manner (clothed with fabric woven of camel's hair, a thick leather belt, eating grasshoppers and wild honey), there was a remarkable response to John's message, and it seemed that all of Judea and Jerusalem came out to the wilderness to hear him preach.

i. John's main message wasn't, "You're a sinner, you need to repent." John's main message was *"The Messiah is coming" – [7] after me comes the one more powerful than I*. The call to repentance was the response to the news that the Messiah was coming.

3. (9-11) Jesus is baptized, identifying with sinful humanity.

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."

a. [9] **Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan:** Jesus was not baptized because He needed cleansing from sin. Jesus was baptized in keeping with His entire mission on earth: to do the will of the Father and to identify with sinful man.

b. [11] **You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased:** When this voice of God the Father spoke from heaven, everyone knew that Jesus was not just another man being baptized. They knew Jesus was the perfect Son of God, identifying with sinful man. Jesus was baptized to be identified with sinful man, but He was also baptized to be identified to sinful man.

i. This amazing scene displayed a humble beginning:

- **Jesus:** A common, unremarkable name.
- **From Nazareth:** An unremarkable, despised village.
- **In Galilee:** The unspiritual region, not the "Bible belt" of the area at that time.
- **Was baptized:** Identified with sinful man.
- **In the Jordan:** An unremarkable – often even unpleasant – river.

ii. The scene also displayed great glory:

- **Heaven being torn open:** Heaven opened wide for this.
- **The Spirit descending on him:** The Spirit of God was present, and in some way His presence was discernible.
- **A voice came from heaven:** It's rare in the Bible when we read that God speaks audibly from heaven, but this is one of those glorious occasions.
- **You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased:** What could be more glorious than to have God the Father praise and affirm you publicly?

4. (12-13) Jesus is tempted, identifying with sinful humanity.

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.

a. [13] **He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan:** Jesus was identified with sinners in His baptism. Here He was also identified with sinners in their *temptations*. Jesus can help us when we are tempted.

5. (14-15) Jesus preaches in Galilee: repent and believe.

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!"

a. [14] **Proclaiming the good news of God:** Jesus was a *preacher*, and He brought the message of God's rule on earth, though not in the manner that was popularly expected or desired. Most people wanted a political kingdom that would replace the oppressive occupation of the Romans.

b. [15] **"The time has come"..."The kingdom of God has come near":** When Jesus preached the **good news of God**, He wanted people to know that it was **near**. It wasn't as distant or as dreamy as they had imagined. Now was the time for them to encounter **the kingdom of God**.

c. [15] **Repent and believe the good news!** This was the core of Jesus' message.

i. [15] **Repent:** They could not enter the kingdom going the same way they had been going. They had to change their direction to experience **the kingdom of God**. Repentance does not describe something we must do before we come to God; it describes what coming to God is like. If you are in New York, and I tell you to come to Los Angeles, I don't really need to say "Leave New York and come to Los Angeles." To come to Los Angeles is to leave New York, and if I haven't left New York, I certainly can't come to Los Angeles. We can't come to the **kingdom of God** unless we leave our sin and the self-life.

ii. [15] **Believe:** The kingdom Jesus preached was not just about a moral renewal or trying to do better. It was about trusting God, taking Him at His word, and living a relationship of dependence on Him. **Believe** means to trust in, rely on, and cling to.

6. (summary of 16-20) Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John as disciples.

a. [17] **Come, follow Me:** With this invitation, Jesus shows what Christianity is all about: following *Jesus*. At its root, Christianity is not about theological systems, rules, or even helping people – it is about following Jesus.

B. A Busy Day in Galilee (Mark 1:21-34).

1. (21-22) Jesus teaches at a synagogue and people are amazed.

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.

2. (summary of 23-28) Jesus defeats a demonic spirit that tormented a man.

a. There were other exorcists in Jesus' day. He was not the only one who tried to cast out demons. But there was a huge difference between Jesus and other exorcists. They used long, fancy, elaborate, superstitious ceremonies and they often failed. Jesus never failed to cast out a demon, and He never used an elaborate ceremony.

3. (summary of 29-31) Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law of a fever.

4. (summary of 32-34) Jesus heals many sick and defeats many demons tormenting people.

C. Ongoing Ministry in Galilee (Mark 1:35-45).

1. (35-37) The ongoing ministry of Jesus was marked by prayer.

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!"

a. [35] **Where he prayed:** Jesus did not need to pray because He was weak but because He was strong, and the source of His strength was His relationship with God His Father. Jesus knew that pressure and busyness should drive us towards prayer, not from prayer.

- For Jesus, fellowship with God was something far more than just the Sabbath.
- Jesus wanted to be alone to pray.
- Jesus wanted to be alone, so He could pour out His heart to His Father.

b. [38-39] **The ongoing ministry of Jesus was marked by preaching and the defeat of demons.** 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 traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

a. [38] **Let us go somewhere else:** Jesus did not stay in that town and "ride" the crest of His popularity there. He knew His ministry was to preach all across Galilee. His ministry was not being famous or enjoying the fame.

b. [39] **Preaching in their synagogues:** The clear emphasis on Jesus' ministry is preaching; [38] **That is why I have come:** The healing and miraculous ministry of Jesus was impressive and glorious, but it was never His emphasis.

3. (summary of 40-45) The ongoing ministry of Jesus was marked by healing.

a. [40] **A man with leprosy came to him:** In the days of Jesus, what they called leprosy was a terrible disease that made a person waste away, with the extremities of their body eaten up by the disease. They eventually became disfigured, disabled, and dead. There was no hope for lepers.

i. Luke said he was *full of leprosy* (Luke 5:12), meaning the disease was in advanced stages. This man's *whole body* and life were rotting.

b. [40] **If you are willing, you can make me clean:** The leper really believed in the power of Jesus, confident that Jesus could heal him. He had great faith because as far as we know, Jesus had not yet healed a leper in His ministry.

c. [41] **Reached out his hand and touched the man:** Jesus healed many people in different ways, but here used a touch. He could have spoken a word or even just thought a thought and the man would have been healed, but Jesus used a touch. It had been a long time since this man had felt a loving touch.

This ministry of Jesus continues through the book of Mark and continues today.

- Jesus still prays – He lives to pray for His people (Hebrews 7:25).
- Jesus still preaches – He speaks through His word.
- Jesus still defeats the powers of darkness – we don't need to be afraid.
- Jesus still touches and brings healing – working in each individual life.

This is the beginning of the good news – the kingdom of God has come near us; we need to repent and believe to receive it.

Outline Summary: Mark 1 – The King's Good News (NIV)

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4. (12-13) Jesus is tempted, identifying with sinful humanity.
5. (14-15) Jesus preaches in Galilee: repent and believe.
6. (16-20) Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John as disciples.

B. A Busy Day in Galilee (21-34)

1. (21-22) Jesus teaches at a synagogue and people are amazed.
2. (23-28) Jesus defeats a demonic spirit that tormented a man.
3. (29-31) Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law of a fever.
4. (32-34) Jesus heals many sick and defeats many demons tormenting people.

C. Ongoing Ministry in Galilee (35-45)

1. (35-37) Jesus prays.
2. (38-39) Jesus preaches and defeats demons.
3. (40-45) Jesus heals a leper.

