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|  |  | Marttell SánchezOctober 9, 2022The Gospel of Mark / Message #1 |
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**The Beginning, *without* Christmas?**

Mark 1:1-8

**3 Things a Lot of People Miss about the Jesus Stories:**

1. The gospel accounts are not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Each gospel has a specific \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **Matthew**: Written to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Jesus is the promised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **Mark**: Written to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Jesus is the suffering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **Luke**: Written to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Jesus was the perfect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who came to save.
* **John**: Written to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
1. Christmas is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the story, not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ story.

**Two Things to Take Away form Mark’s Introduction:**

1. The character of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Like John, we need to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Like John, we need to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
1. The character of GOD.
* Because God keeps his Word, we can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Because God keeps his Word, we can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him with our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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**The Beginning, *without* Christmas?**

Mark 1:1-8

**3 Things a Lot of People Miss about the Jesus Stories:**

1. The gospel accounts are not **BIOGRAPHIES**.
2. Each gospel has a specific **AUDIENCE** and **PURPOSE**.
* **Matthew**: Written to **JEWS**; Jesus is the promised **MESSIAH-KING**.
* **Mark**: Written to **ROMANS**; Jesus is the suffering **SERVANT-SAVIOR**.
* **Luke**: Written to **GREEKS**; Jesus was the perfect **SON OF MAN** who came to save.
* **John**: Written to **EVERYONE**; Jesus is **GOD**.
1. Christmas is **PART** of the story, not the **WHOLE** story.

**Two Things to Take Away form Mark’s Introduction:**

1. The character of **JOHN THE BAPTIST**.
* Like John, we need to **POINT** people **TO JESUS**.
* Like John, we need to **BE HUMBLE**.
1. The character of **GOD**.
* Because God keeps his Word, we can **REST** in his **PROMISES**.
* Because God keeps his Word, we can **TRUST** him with our **CIRCUMSTANCES**.

**For Further Study**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Getting Started**

1. Do you think it’s odd that Mark doesn’t start his gospel account with the birth of Jesus? Why or why not?
2. If the Christmas story is missing in this gospel, what do you think Mark was trying to focus on and why?

**Digging Deeper**

1. Notice these key phrases in Mark’s introduction: “as it is written in Isaiah the prophet… And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness...” (Verses 2 and 4). What does this teach you about God and his Word?
2. Read the following verses. What do they teach you about God’s trustworthiness?
* Numbers 23:19
* Deuteronomy 4:31
* 1 Kings 8:56
* Isaiah 46:11

**Driving It Home**

1. On Sunday, we were reminded of God’s faithfulness to his Word. How is this an encouragement for your walk with Jesus today?
2. What current circumstance do you need to trust God with? Take a moment to pray this out to God.