



Jesus: A Journey through the Gospel of Mark

June 4, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: Mark 1, Matthew 10:16

Sermon Overview: Jesus came to release us from the cage of comfort and dry religion. He came to restore a relationship with God the Father, transform us into open doors for Heaven, and to teach us how to serve from our true identity in Him. God sends us out as sheep in the midst of wolves to do dangerous things like bring Heaven to Earth.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. Who do you say that Jesus is? Does your answer match how you live your life? Is He truly your Lord? Or is there something else that compels you (expectations, desire to please, ambition, etc.)?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. What rules do you follow as a part of being a Christian? Why do you follow them?
2. Read Matthew 10:16. What trials have you endured as a Christian? What hard circumstance or unfair position have you found yourself in? How does Matthew 10:16 speak to your situation? Pastor Mark said, "To truly understand the person of Jesus, you must endure tremendous tension." How can knowing that Jesus was fully God and fully man give you the confidence to walk out God's will in those hard circumstances?
3. How are you announcing the Good News in the midst of the other narratives that form the context of your life?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read 1 Kings 17-19 with an eye toward the work of Elijah. During what particular time did Elijah arrive? From what did he save the Israelites? How is this similar to the time during which Jesus ministered? Read Malachi 4:5, Mark 9:9-13, Matthew 11:13-14 and Mark 1:1-8.
2. Read Mark 1:1-8, Exodus 16, and Numbers 14. God prepared the way in the wilderness. What was the sin in the minds of the Israelites that caused them to have to wander for 40

years in the wilderness and not be able to enter the Promised Land? What does it mean to prepare the way of the Lord in your heart and life?

3. Read back over the first chapter of Mark. There are several mentions of evil and unclean spirits. How does Jesus deal with them? What do these interactions say about His authority? What does it say about your authority? Further, what do Jesus' interactions with the people in the first chapter tell you about how you should be interacting with the people around you?

Practical Application:

- What is your mission field? Is it where you work, live, or play? Pick a focus and sign up for the 40-day prayer walk challenge by texting the word "Walk" to 844-504-0861 or going to ncc.re/prayerwalk.
- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Make a Bible reading plan and/or gratitude journal a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Join a group this summer!!! Check them out at ncc.re/groups.