

The Gospel of Mark.

## Study Week 2 – Jesus, The son of God

### A. Who? Why? When? Where?

- a. Mark – ‘John Mark’ Acts, Paul, Peter.
- b. Possibly from Rome to encourage Roman Christians under persecution from Nero , mid 60s AD. Paul and Peter died ended in Rome.
- c. Craig Blomberg – dates in 60s. Some 30 years after Jesus.
- d. Mark not a disciple - Peter’s memories, notes. Not a diary - composed after the events to encourage faith. The story is true, but certain emphases about Jesus life and ministry. Not necessarily chronological.
- e. Shortest gospel, with less focus on the teachings of Jesus, sharp and succinct and gives a strong focus on the miracles.
- f. Isaiah, Malachi – a continuation of the OT

### B The Messiah, the Son of God

- a. Mark 1:1... Jesus Christ , the Son of God
- b. The Testimony
  - i. Baptism 1:11...
  - ii. Peter’s Confession 8:29 - the Christ/Messiah (Heb), Greek equiv = Christ. The centrepiece of Jewish hope
  - iii. Transfiguration 9:7
  - iv. Roman Centurion 15:38

So beginning, end and centre Mark clearly wants the reader to understand...Jesus is the Son of God. Foundational - Reading Acts Saul is converted Acts 9:20 ...at once he began to preach...Jesus is the Son of God

But there is further testimony in Mark to who Jesus is.

- v. The demons/unclean spirits “you are the holy one of God...1:24”; “you are the Son of God 3:11”; “Son of the most high God” 5:7

In addition to the verbal testimony Mark offers us other evidence of Jesus Sonship:

- c. Power over Nature:
  - i. Jesus calms the a raging storm 4:35-41
  - ii. Walks on water 6:45-52
  - iii. An unfruitful fig tree withered 11:12 - 25
  - iv. He feeds 5,000 men with 5 loaves and two fish 6:30-44
  - v. 4,000 people with 7 loaves and a few small fish 8:1-13

Jesus has power over creation, has authority over the natural order. The creation that according to scripture was created by God, in the beginning.

- d. Power over sickness and death.

Mark in his short gospel gives account of many miraculous healings.

- i. Chapt. 1. A fever is healed and a Leper is cleansed;
- ii. Chapt. 2 a lame man walk;
- iii. Chapt. 3 A shrivelled hand is made whole
- iv. Chapt. 5 A woman's bleeding of 12 years is stopped
- v. Chapt. 7 deaf mute hears and speaks,
- vi. Chapt. 8 & Chapt. 10 blind see,
- vii. 1: 34...Jesus healed many who had various diseases. People in their masses followed Jesus to be healed from their infirmities 6:56.
- viii. Jesus even had power over the ultimate sickness, death! A synagogue leader named Jairus had a daughter who died...and Jesus raised her to life. Chapt. 5

Jesus has power over life and death. God we read breathed life into Adam and declared that the punishment of Adam's disobedience was death, Jesus has authority over all sickness death and has power to heal and give life...surely this man is the son of God.

- e. Power over demonic forces
  - i. A man in the synagogue at Capernaum... 1:21-28
  - ii. Legion of the Gerasenes... 5:1-20
  - iii. A boy with an evil spirit ... 9:4-32
  - iv. 1:34...he also drove out many Demons

How does Mark use these accounts

- a. In each case the unclean spirit identifies Jesus as from God
- b. The demons are subject to Jesus' authority
- c. The demons are evicted from the person by the command of Jesus
- d. Mark notes the response of the people...amazement and the news spread; the people plead with Jesus to leave their region; the boy's father exclaimed I do believes. The teachers of the law from Jerusalem ... by the prince of demons he is driving out demons. 3:22

Miraculous actions aren't guaranteed of themselves to create faith!

- f. Power to Forgive Sins
  - i. Mark chapt. 2. A paralyzed man is brought to Jesus to be healed.
  - ii. Jesus response was surprising...He said Son, your sins are forgiven".
  - iii. Some teachers of the law were nearby and heard this.
  - iv. This to them was a blasphemy as they asked among themselves "Who can forgive sins but God alone"

Indirectly the teachers were giving testimony to Jesus as son of God, but also we can see here that Mark is saying that this authority is God's alone... Jesus is God.

- g. The Parable of the Tenants Mark Chapt 12
  - i. Mark doesn't include many parables, but one he does is in chapter 12.
  - ii. It's a parable against the religious leaders.
  - iii. Isaiah 5 gives a prophecy of a vineyard which the religious leaders would know and this parable uses the same imagery

- iv. God is the planter of the vineyard who sends his servant to collect the fruit. These are beaten and some killed. So he sends his beloved son. God sends his son
- v. Here Mark emphasises this theme, that Jesus is the Son of God, the beloved son of God.

So we cannot read the gospel of Mark without hearing the resounding claim that Jesus is the Son of God...it is declared by testimony, proclaimed in power, taught in parables

Mark 4: The calming of the storm.

- Storms weren't uncommon on lake Galilee due to its altitude and geographical situation.
- Among the disciples were seasoned fishermen who knew the lake, were on it often and had no doubt experienced many storms as they fished.
- Smallish boat. 27 ft by 8 ft by 4 ½ feet. 1986
- We read that they woke Jesus because they feared they would drown. This storm was therefore exceptional so much as these guys who had survived many a storm believed that they would die
- In fact in the original language the word used is mega... a term that we often hear in today's world...it was a mega storm!
- Jesus woke and we read he rebuked the storm and said "Quiet be still" The wind died down and then there was a 'great calm'
- Again we have the word mega, so it is now mega calm.
- You might think that the disciples might think 'phew...panic over', but no we read the panic has just got even worse...they were terrified at what they had just witnessed,
- Once again the Greek is great fear/mega fear. Who is this?
- Here on the boat was a man who could command the winds and the waves...here on their boat was a man who had greater power than a mega storm...here on their boat was the Son of God

Jesus is the Son of God, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Trinity... John 1:1 in the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.

When we encounter Jesus we encounter God. There's a sense that when we come into the presence of Jesus then we should be terrified.

- He is creator has power over the forces of nature
- He is life has power over life and death
- He is perfect in holiness has power to forgive sin
- The spirit realm is subject to his authority
- He exists in unapproachable light 1 Tim 6:16; Enthroned in glory, exalted to the highest place. Phil 2.

...but this terror is not a cringing fear, but a holy terror, an awesome respect, a terror that will cause us to fall to our knees to worship .

Jesus is on the boat...Emmanuel ...God is with us. In every storm, in every circumstance – Jesus is on the boat and we are safe in his presence. In these times when we might be afraid, might feel alone, unsure of the future, let us remember that in the storm, Jesus is here.

Next week ...The Humanity of Jesus, One of Us!