

# 03. Mark 1:1-15





Mark 1:1

The Beginning  
of the Good News [Gospel]  
of Jesus,  
the Messiah,  
the Son of God.

‘In the Beginning’(Genesis 1:1)

I. Peter: ‘You are the Messiah’(8:29)

II. Centurion: ‘In truth, this man was  
God’s son’(15:39).



Pontifical Biblical Commission 1984

## Theological Interpretations in the Gospel Traditions

### Scripture and Christology (2.2.2.2 b)

‘The Gospel traditions were gathered and gradually committed to writing in the light of Easter, until at length they took a fixed form in four booklets. These booklets do not simply contain things ‘that Jesus began to do and teach’ (Acts 1:1); they also present theological interpretations of such things. In these booklets, then, one must learn to look for the Christology of each evangelist. This is especially true of John, who in the Patristic period, would receive the title ‘Theologian’. Similarly, other authors whose writings are preserved in the New Testament have interpreted the deeds and sayings of Jesus in diverse ways, and even more so his death and resurrection.’

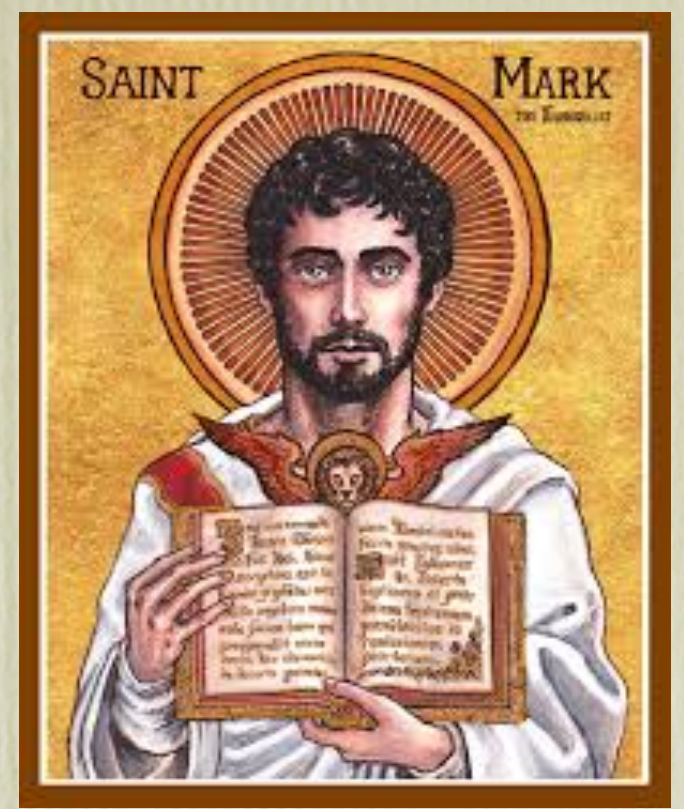




I. Pondering,  
Sharing



2. Pondering,  
Sharing



3. Sharing with people  
who had never met  
Jesus!



## John the Baptist : Mark 1:2-4

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way.” (Exodus 23:20; & Malachi 3:1 : Elijah)

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ (Isaiah 40:3)

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.





## Mark 1:5-8

‘People from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river **Jordan** (Joshua 3), confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey [= Elijah, 2Kings 1:8].

He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

I have baptised you with water.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”



## Ezekiel 36:25-28

‘I will sprinkle clean water upon you,  
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses,  
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you;  
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone  
and give you a heart of flesh.

*I will put my spirit within you,*

and make you follow my statutes  
and be careful to observe my ordinances.

Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors;  
and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.



# I. Facts



‘In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan’ (Mark 1:9).



# Rejected by the Jewish Leaders

Mark 6:1-3

Jesus left that place and comes to his hometown,  
and his disciples follow him.

On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue,  
and many who heard him were astounded. They said,  
“Where did this man get all this?

What is this wisdom that has been given to him?

What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary  
and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,  
and are not his sisters here with us?”

And they took offence at him.



## Mark 8:27-30

40ks north of Lake

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi;  
and on the way he was asking his disciples,  
“Who do people say that I am?”

Leaders want to destroy him (3:6)  
Family want to restrain him (3:21)  
Hometown scandalised at him (6:3)  
Disciples fail to understand him (8:21)

And they answered him, “John the Baptist; (see Herod 6:14-15)  
and others, Elijah;  
and still others, one of the prophets.”

He was asking them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter says to him, “You are the Messiah.” (see Mark 1:1)

(see 1:25; 1:44; 3:12; 7:36)

And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.



## Mark 11:15

Then they come to Jerusalem. And entering the temple Jesus began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.



Mark 14:22-25

(see I Corinthians 11:23-26)

While they were eating,  
taking a loaf of bread, and blessing  
he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.”





Mark 14:22-24

(see 1Corinthians 11:23-26)

Then taking a cup, and giving thanks  
he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

He said to them,

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

(see Exodus 24:3-11)

(New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-34)



‘Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed’ (Mark 14:35).





‘The chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council’ (Mark 15:1).





‘One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear’ (John 19:34).





## Mark 15:42-47

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus ...

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.

He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.





Mark 16:9-11

see John 20:1,11-18

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week,  
he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, (15:40,47; 16:1)  
from whom he had cast out seven demons. (see Luke 8:12)

She went out and told those who had been with him,  
while they were mourning and weeping.

But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her,  
they would not believe it.



Mark 16:12-13

see Luke 24:13-35

After this he appeared in another form to two of them,  
as they were walking into the country.  
And they went back and told the rest,  
but they did not believe them.



Mark 16:14-16

see Luke 24:36-53

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.





## II. Interpretive Commentary

The Evangelists want to take us more deeply into what they learned was really going on - whether learned not by looking and listening but by on-going reflection.

Often they chose to do this by echoing texts familiar to their readers from their sacred scriptures.



## Jesus' Baptism : Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart (Isaiah 64:1-12)

and the Spirit descending on (εἰς) him (Gen 1:1-2)

like a dove. (Genesis 7:10-12; Song 2:8-14)

And a voice came from heaven,

“You are my Son, the Beloved; (Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 42:1)  
with you I am well pleased.”





Isaiah 42:1-4

Here is my servant whom I uphold,

my chosen one, in whom my soul delights.

I have put my spirit upon him;

he will establish for the nations an order based on justice.

He will not shout or raise his voice, or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.

He will establish an order based on justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed

until he has established in the earth an order based on justice;

and the coastlands wait for his law [= Torah].

[Continued next page]



## Isaiah 42:5-7

Thus says God, YHWH,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I, YHWH, have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,

a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.



In the desert : Mark 1:12-13

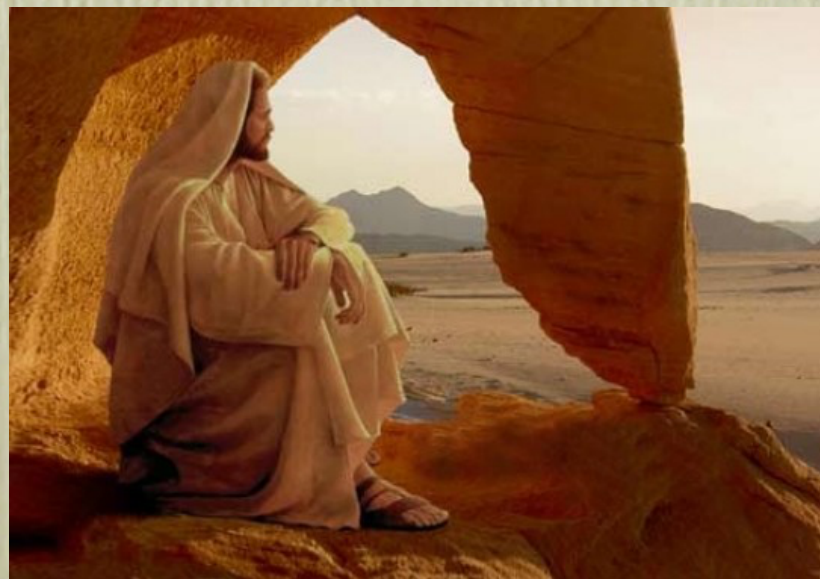
The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

He was in the wilderness forty days (Exodus 24:18)

tested by Satan;

he was with the wild beasts (Hosea 2:14-18)

and the angels waited on him (Psalm 91:11-13)



Hosea 2:14-21

‘I will now allure her, and bring her **into the wilderness**, and speak tenderly to her ... There she shall respond as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. On that day, says YHWH, you will call me, “My husband”... I will make for you a covenant on that day **with the wild beasts** ... and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will betroth you to myself forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will betroth in faithfulness; and you shall know YHWH.’



# BOOK ONE

## THE GOSPEL OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

Mark 1:14 - 8:30

Mark wants us to listen to Jesus, and, even more importantly, to watch him, in the hope that we, like Peter, will come to acknowledge him as the one who brings meaning to our lives. Hopefully, we might then commit ourselves to walk with him. Mark knows that only when we are attracted to Jesus does it make sense to spell out the cost of accompanying him on his journey.



## Jesus begins his mission : Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested,  
Jesus came to Galilee,  
proclaiming the good news of God,  
and saying, “The time (καιρός) is fulfilled,  
and the kingdom of God has come near;  
repent, (μετανοεῖτε : Present Imperative: ‘keep on repenting’)  
and believe in the good news.”

‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger  
who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces  
salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” (Isaiah 52:7).