

Sermon outline and notes prepared by:

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## Mark 1:14-35 “Jesus: Mighty in Word & Deed”

Intro. Jesus, by means of baptism, has reaffirmed His decision to take upon Himself the sin of the world. Moreover, He has proved Himself worthy, for in the wilderness He has triumphed over Satan, as we see in vv.12-13. He has done this as the last Adam, succeeding where the first Adam failed. Then He began His ministry among the people. Between Christ’s Baptism and temptation, on the one hand (1:9-13), and His arrival in Galilee recorded here in v.14, there may well have been a time interval of about a year.

You see, when John had been taken into custody (v.14), the Master left Judea and started on His way to Galilee. He was aware of the fact that His own great popularity in the country region of Judea would bring about such keen resentment on the part of the religious leaders of the Jews that in the natural course of events this hatred would lead to a premature crisis. As soon as the appropriate moment for His death would arrive, Jesus would voluntarily lay down His life (John 10:11). But now was not the time. Besides Galilee, too, has lost sheep that must be brought into the fold.

This morning I’m going to answer the question, “Is Jesus the Son of God?” In the very first chapter of the gospel of Mark, he gives convincing evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. For most in my audience my goal is to strengthen your faith in Jesus. For others, I hope to lead you to commit your life to Jesus as Savior & Lord. Notice 3 key evidences from our text that Jesus is the Savior, the Son of God. First:

### I. BECAUSE OF HIS PREACHING AND TEACHING

Notice in v.14 that “Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.” Many of our older manuscripts say that He preached “the gospel of God” (A rating). In this case Mark is probably referring to the good news from God (subjective genitive). That being the case, first of all:

A. He Preached God’s Message – We should expect that the Messiah would also be a prophet. In fact, Moses declared that God would raise up someone like himself some day, a great prophet who would deliver God’s message to the people (Dt. 18:15). Jesus was a great prophet, who delivered God’s message. That message is summarized in v.15. First of all:

1. The Kingdom of God Is Near – Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.” The Jews were looking for a Messiah, a King, who would usher in a Kingdom Age of blessing. Jesus announced that the Messianic kingdom was coming soon. Our focus should be on whose Kingdom was to come. It is the kingdom *of God*. God’s reign in the hearts and lives of men would begin to assert itself far more powerfully than ever before. All who would welcome God & His Messiah as King would partake of the kingdom, and receive the blessings of salvation. No doubt most of the Jews read political revolution in the phrase “kingdom of God”, but that was not what Jesus had in mind at all.

Then, in the last of v.15, He preached that:

2. We Should Repent – All of us are by nature born in sin, we all have willfully sinned, and we all need to repent. We must repent of our sin as a necessary requirement for entering the kingdom of God. The word used in the original means to undergo a radical change of heart and mind that results in a complete change of life. This is preceded by a genuine sorrow for sin, followed by an earnest resolution to break with the evil past.

As we saw last week, John the Baptist led the way in preaching repentance. He insisted that repentance be demonstrated in a change of life. For example, in Luke 3:13-14 he told tax collectors to stop taking in more than they were supposed to. He told soldiers, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.” John addressed common sins that these soldiers needed to repent of. What sin do you need to repent of?

Repentance alone is not enough to save us. So we need to give heed to something else Jesus preach:

3. We Should Believe the Gospel – This is the positive side of conversion. Such believing or faith implies knowledge, assent, and confidence. A person accepts a message when he acts upon it.

To repent, and believe in Christ, has always been the substance of the Gospel message. The apostle Paul told the Ephesian elders that the substance of his teaching among them had been “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). Let us ask ourselves what we know of this repentance and faith. Have we felt our sins, and forsaken them? Have we taken hold of Christ, and believed?

B. He Preached with Authority – In vv.21-22 we read, “Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” Jesus ministered not only in the open air but also in the synagogues. It was customary to ask visiting rabbis or scribes to read the Scriptures and teach. He did not do as the scribes did, who made a great parade of learning by quoting or reading the words of this Rabbi or that Rabbi. Instead, Jesus spoke extemporaneously and with authority. He did not even preface His commands with a “Thus saith the Lord.” He spoke of His own authority: “Truly, I say unto you.” He did not argue; He affirmed. He sought no support from others in His teaching; He alone is sufficient for us. He not only speaks the truth, but He is the truth (Jn. 14:6). He spoke with authority, for His message came straight from the very heart and mind of the Father, for Jesus said in John 8:26, “I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him [God the Father].” His teaching with authority fits in with the impression of strength which Mark wishes to make. Thus, the strong Son of God is the world’s teacher. He is still the great Messenger of God, full of divine authority.

What a contrast between Jesus and the religious teachers of his day! He presented matters of great significance, matter of life, death and eternity. They often wasted their time on trivialities. There was a systematic presentation in His preaching. They often rambled on and on. He excited curiosity by making generous use of illustrations. Their speeches were as dry as dust. The synagogue offered nothing vital in that day.

You will discover as you read Mark’s Gospel that he delights in recording the emotional responses of people. How did the people respond to such teaching & preaching? He says in v.22 that “they were astonished at His teaching.” They were literally struck out of themselves (*ekplesso*), that is, “out of their senses” by amazement and wonder. Very naturally, the first synagogue discourse in Capernaum would surprise. Deeper impressions might be made by its successors, but the first hearing of that voice would be an experience that could never be repeated. What were

some of the reasons for this reaction on the part of the audience? One of them may well have been that He, a carpenter (Mark 6:3), revealed such wisdom.

There are two applications that I want to make. First, since Jesus was such a great & authoritative preacher & teacher, we should listen to Him. If you ignore such a great teacher, you do so to your own peril. Secondly, if we are indwelt by the Son of God, then the preachers & teachers of the church today should be like Him. We should preach & teach with authority. Yet the criticism against the church today and against the ministry is that too many do not speak with authority. It is hard to preach with authority if you get your message from the so-called experts of our day instead of the Word of God! But if you believe that the Bible is the Word of the Living God, and if you have learned its wonderful truths, than you should be able to preach or teach with authority as well.

There is second reason why we know Jesus is the Son of God. It is because of:

## II. BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL APPEAL

A. He Called People to Follow Him – We read in vv.16-17, “And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’” Likewise, we read in vv.19-20, “When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them....”

Is it not marvelous that He was willing and able to take such common folk, four fishermen, etc., unschooled individuals, and in spite of all their prejudices and superstitions, to transform them into instruments for the salvation of many; to make them leaders who, by means of their testimonies, would turn the world upside down? But God chose those whom men consider foolish, to shame the wise (I Cor.1:26-27).

Even so, God can use you! You do not need to have the qualifications the world values. You should need to believe in Jesus, and become His follower, and He will enable you to make a difference in the lives of others.

B. They Responded to His Call – In v.18 we read of Simon Peter & Andrew, “They immediately left their nets and followed Him.” Likewise in the last of v.20 we read that James & John “left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.” These men had already come to know Jesus in Judea. This was not the first time that Jesus had seen these men. But now, at the beginning of our Lord’s Galilean ministry, these same four disciples become the Lord’s more steady companions.

What would compel these men to leave their fishing business & families and begin to follow Jesus on a much more regular basis? What is it that should compel you to become a follower of Jesus Christ? There are two reasons:

1. The Greatness of Jesus – Jesus was no stranger to them at this point. We know from the other gospels that they had already been introduced to Jesus. Yet on their part it required a degree of courage to become Christ’s followers and thereby face the opposition that was already brewing, including that of the religious leaders. Their decision to side with Jesus exhibits His greatness: the impelling force of His influence over the minds and hearts of men. No doubt they loved to fish. Who else could interrupt four fishermen at their work and challenge them to leave

their nets and follow Him? He shows that He has a right to chose them for His service in His kingdom. They must be ready to follow immediately when He calls them.

2. The Challenge of the Task – We all need a purpose in life. And when Jesus said to them, “Come follow me, and I will you become fishers of men”, they knew enough to know that He would train them for a task even far superior that fishing for food. They became more conscious than ever of the fact that they are being trained for apostleship, that is, for becoming “fishers of men.” Even their Old Testament Scriptures taught that we should influence others for good. Prov. 11:30 says, “He who wins souls is wise.” Dan 12:3 says, “They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever.”

A few years ago Tom Rainer’s research team was shocked to find that about seven of ten unchurched persons have never been invited to church. To catch fish you must go to where the fish are. Even so, we must go to where lost people are. Furthermore, the non-Christian generally has a willingness, if not a desire, to attend church. Perhaps the most eye-opening discovery they made about the unchurched person’s attitude towards us Christians is that most of them would like to hear about Jesus Christ from us. So let us go & cast the Gospel net, & draw in souls for Christ.<sup>1</sup>

It is likely that the image we have here is not to lure & catch people, as with a bait & hook, but we are to catch people with the Gospel net, so to speak. We are to capture people’s hearts with the power of the Gospel, and lift them up out of sin, and into the church with Jesus. We are to labor to draw people out of darkness into light.

There is third reason why we know Jesus is the Son of God. It is because of:

### III. BECAUSE OF HIS POWER

He taught as One who had authority, and now He demonstrates that He has divine power. Many miracles of Jesus are recorded in Mark’s gospel. We are going to look at two manifestations of the power of Jesus Christ. First we see:

A. His Power over Demons - The first miracle in the Gospel of Mark is in the spiritual realm with a duel between Christ and a demon. There is a great deal of historical evidence that demonism was rampant in the entire Roman Empire. If Christ had power over demons, surely He is the Son of God. So we read in v.23, “Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit.” Isn’t that interesting? A man with a demon was attending the synagogue service that day! Was he a regular attender? Or was he there just because Jesus was there? Yet he needed Jesus, and unsaved people are always welcome in the house of God.

Then in v.24 we read that he cried out saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” Literally the demon, making use of the wretched man’s vocal organs, said “What (is there) to us and you,” meaning “What have we in common?” “Why do you bother us?” How often that is still the cry of sinners, “Let us alone.” What a miserable state that is, to hope that we would have nothing to do with Him. Note “with us”, the one demon speaking of them all, for he realizes that what will happen to him is going to be the lot of all his fellow-demons. They know that for them there is no salvation, only dreadful punishment. “Did you come” probably implies that the demon knew Jesus had come from Heaven into the world. The demon is asking if He is now ready to hurl them into the abyss or dungeon where Satan is to be kept (Rev. 20:3). The demon clearly identified

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<sup>1</sup> Thom Rainer in *Pulpit Helps*, April 2005, pages 23, 31.

Christ's humanity (Jesus of Nazareth) as well as His deity ("the Holy One of God"). It is interesting to note that the demon world recognized Him. They knew and believed who He was.

There are people today just like this demonized man: in a religious meeting, able to tell who Jesus is, and even trembling with fear of judgment—yet lost! James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" The mere belief of the facts and doctrines of Christianity will never save our souls. Such belief is no better than the belief of demons.

Now notice the commands of Christ to the demon. He said in v.25, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" First, the Lord commanded the demon to be quite. Literally, he said "Be muzzled" (*phimoo*), as if the creature were a wild beast. He had taught with authority, and now He commands with authority. The Savior did not want, nor did he need, the assistance of Satan and his army to tell people who He was (see Acts 16:16-24). Our Lord did not encourage this kind of public excitement lest it create problems with both the Jews and the Romans. The Jews would want to follow Him only because of His power to heal them, and the Romans would think He was a Jewish insurrectionist. This explains why Jesus so often told people to keep quiet (Mark 1:44; 3:12; 5:43; 7:36-37; 8:26, 30; 9:9). Second, he commanded the demon to come out of the man. The demon obeys at once; that is all he could do. Reluctantly, he leaves his host's body with a parting shot by causing a convulsion. Then, acknowledging his defeat, he comes out with one parting howl.

This was not an isolated case. We read in v.34 that He "cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him." When radicals deny Christ's deity they show less insight than the demons, for the latter are constantly acknowledging it.

Now notice the response of the people in vv.27-28, "Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.' And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee."

Here in Mark's gospel we see another manifestation of the power of Jesus.

B. His Power over Sickness – Sin brought sickness into the world, and it is not surprising that the Savior from sin would manifest power over sickness. Mark tells us only very few incidents of Jesus' healing. Jesus literally healed hundreds and hundreds of people, but only a few isolated incidents are recorded for us.

The first example of healing was Peter's mother-in-law. Let's set the stage by reading v.29, "Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John." Peter and Andrew not only brought their friends James and John home with them from the service, but they also brought the Lord home. That is a good example for us to follow: don't leave Jesus at the church—take Him home with you and let Him share your blessings and your burdens. Furthermore, like Jesus, we need to minister to people by visiting in their homes.<sup>2</sup>

Then we read in v.30, "But Simon's wife's mother<sup>3</sup> lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once." By faith, the men told Jesus about the sick woman, no doubt believing in His power, and expecting Him to heal her. Mark's representation brings out very beautifully the

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<sup>2</sup> Spurgeon said, "Christ was a house-to-house missionary, as well as an open-air preacher. There is much good to be done by those who know how to visit, and to look after individual cases."

<sup>3</sup> She's not called a mother-in-law, she's called Simon's wife's mother. Dr. McGee's mother-in-law thought that this was a nice way of saying it.

confidence already beginning to spring in their hearts that He needed but to know in order to heal. Even so, the instinct of the devout heart is to tell Christ all its troubles, great or small. When Jacob was in trouble he turned to his God first, “Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau” (Genesis 32:11). When Hezekiah was in trouble, he first spread Sennacherib’s letter before the Lord saying, “deliver us from his hand” (2 Kings 19:19). When Lazarus fell sick, his sisters immediately sent to Jesus saying, “Lord, the one you love is sick” (John 11:3). Now let us do the same. Peter later wrote, “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). The apostle Paul wrote, “In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6). We live in a world of sin and sorrow, and we will all shed many a tear. So let us turn to Jesus, & tell Him our problems.

Notice what Jesus did in v.31, “So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her...” No moment intervened unused between the tidings and the cure. He “took her by the hand, and lifted her up.” His touch has power. His grasp means sympathy, tenderness, identification of Himself with us, the communication of upholding, restoring strength. Generally, I like to take a patient by the hand when I pray with them in the hospital. Now notice what happened. “Immediately the fever left her.” The cause of her infection was healed immediately, and the fever departed just as quickly.

You know that after a fever leaves you, it takes time for you to regain your strength. But that is not so in his case. Every fever symptom had vanished completely. Notice v.31 goes on to say, “And she served them.” In no time at all she was better, & she was able to go to the kitchen and serve the Sabbath meal. Isn’t service to our Lord one of the best ways to thank Him for all He has done for us? Are you serving Jesus?

Then beginning in v.32, Mark records a number of other healings performed by Jesus. There we read, “At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon–possessed.” So quickly did the news of the demon–expulsion and victory over a terrible attack of fever spread that people all around regained hope of recovery for their dear ones. The Sabbath was now over, and perhaps hundreds of people who needed healing were brought to Jesus, evening after sunset. In fact, v.33 says, “And the whole city was gathered together at the door.” They had seen or heard of what Christ has done in Judea. Many saw & reported what happened at the synagogue that day. So there was great expectation regarding what Jesus could do. The Greek verb indicates that they “kept on bringing” (imperfect tense) people to Him, so that He must have gone to sleep at a very late hour. They did not consider that Jesus & His disciples already had a long day of work. All they thought about was their loved ones and friends needed Jesus. Curiosity also brought many to the house. Then v.34 says, “Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases....”

Christ’s power to heal was never lacking. His love and sympathy never failed. Jesus showed Himself both strong and tender, the Son of God and the servant of men. So we should trust in the loving compassion of Jesus, and trust in His power to intervene on our behalf, & on behalf of others.

By the way, in the next verse we see why Jesus had such power. In v.35 we read, “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” You would think that after such an exhausting Sabbath day, He would sleep late the next morning. No, we see Jesus rising up early to go to a solitary place to pray. Late hours did not keep Jesus from His appointed meeting with His Father the next early the next morning. His prayer may well have been a thanksgiving for blessings already received and a petition for strength needed for the Galilean circuit that was about to begin.

What an example for us to follow! It is no surprise that Jesus had such authority and power when His prayer life was so disciplined (see Mark 6:46; 14:32-38.). If you plead with men, you cannot hope to prevail unless you first plead with God.

Conclusion: So what do you think? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Who else could have such power & authority in His teaching? Since He is God's ultimate prophet, we should listen to Him, and heed His voice. Who else but the Son of God could have had such personal appeal, so that men would forsake all, and follow Him? That being the case, we too, should follow Him. Furthermore, who else but the Son of God could have such power to cast out demons, and heal the multitudes? Therefore, we should put our trust in Him.

Sources: William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary: Mark* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975); Alexander Maclaren, *Expositions of Holy Scripture*, Vol. 8 (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977 reprint); J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible*, Vol. 4 (Pasadena, CA: Thru The Bible Radio, 1983); Larry Pierce, *Online Bible* [CD-ROM] (Ontario: Timnathserah Inc., 1996); J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), *Mark: Expository Thoughts on the Gospels* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1993); Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Expository Encyclopedia*, Vol. 13 (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House), 435-436; Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Diligent: Mark* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1987). Other sources listed in the footnotes. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982).

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