

## Why a Series on Mark?

### Mark's Gospel:

- a. Said to be the Earliest of the 4 Gospels
- b. Peter's Memoirs via John Mark (Mark 2:27; 7:19; Acts 10:13; Mark 3:21)
- c. Christ's Power in Action! - "Immediately (Eutheos)"; "And (Kai)"; 150+ times using historical present tense verbs

### Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ...

And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mark 1:1-8

### Mark 1:1-8:

CHRIST'S POWER Over Every Need

### Christ's Power:

1. What it will do (vs 1)
2. Why I might be not experiencing it (vs 2-5)
3. How to experience Christ's Power over my needs (vs 6-8)

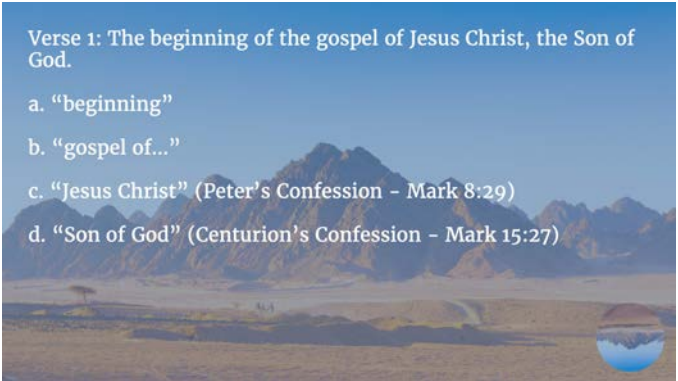
Christ's Power:

**1. What it will do (vs 1)**



Verse 1: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- a. "beginning"
- b. "gospel of..."
- c. "Jesus Christ" (Peter's Confession - Mark 8:29)
- d. "Son of God" (Centurion's Confession - Mark 15:27)

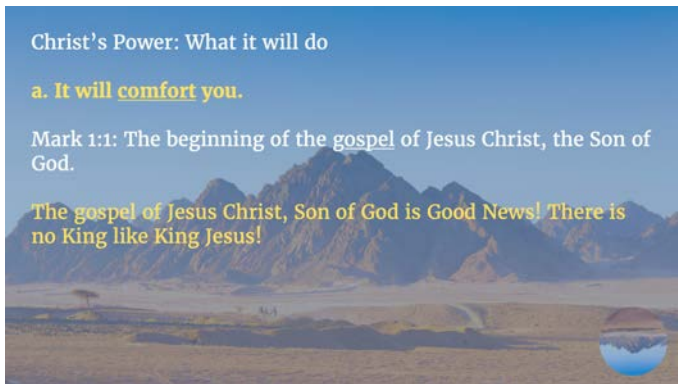


Christ's Power: What it will do

**a. It will comfort you.**

Mark 1:1: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of God is Good News! There is no King like King Jesus!

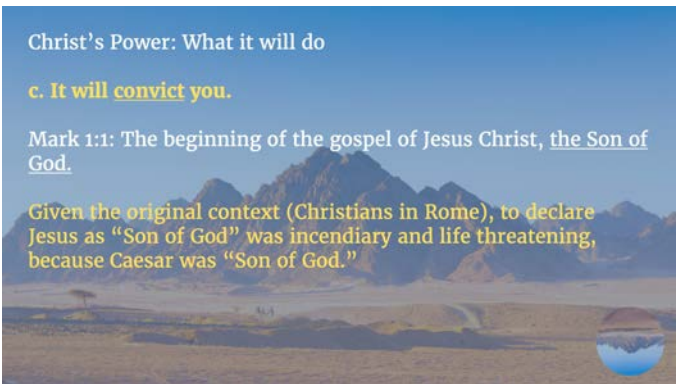


Christ's Power: What it will do

**c. It will convict you.**

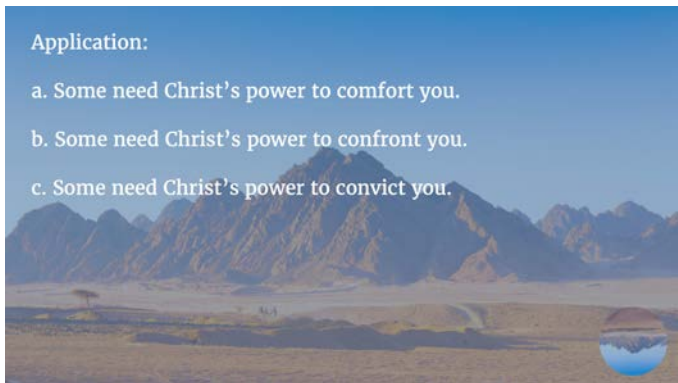
Mark 1:1: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Given the original context (Christians in Rome), to declare Jesus as "Son of God" was incendiary and life threatening, because Caesar was "Son of God."



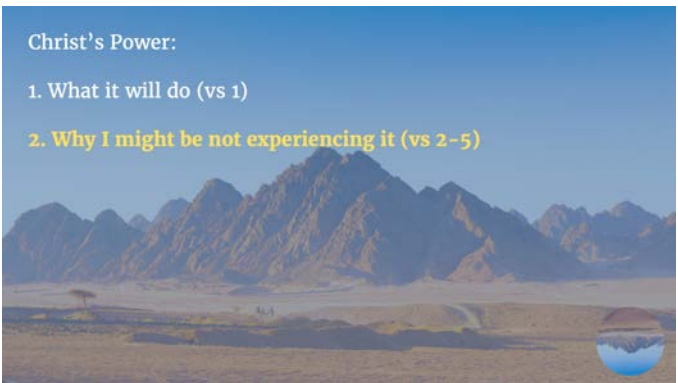
Application:

- a. Some need Christ's power to comfort you.
- b. Some need Christ's power to confront you.
- c. Some need Christ's power to convict you.



Christ's Power:

- 1. What it will do (vs 1)
- 2. Why I might be not experiencing it (vs 2-5)**



In order to experience Christ's Power, you need to acknowledge your own powerlessness and sinfulness.

...In other words, Christ's Power comes by way of repentance.

Mark 1:2-5: 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" (Malachi 4:5-6, Isaiah 40:3) ...

Verse 4: John appeared (boom!), baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Exodus 19:10)

- All Kings have Heralds for their arrival
- God's Faithful Promises; Jesus is not an afterthought of God but the fulfillment of his promises!

Verse 5: And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

#### Thoughts on Repentance:

- Repentance = Metanoia (a change of mind, behavior, outlook)
- The "wilderness" (cf John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness...)
- Repentance and Pre-pentance
- Repentance in the "unconverted places"

#### The "Unconverted Places" (John Eldridge)

- Own and acknowledge, not run and hide
- "Lord, here I am. I've been hateful, lustful, prideful, resentful..."*

The “Unconverted Places” (John Eldridge)

- a. Own and acknowledge, not run and hide
- b. “Lord, Save Me Here!”
- c. “Holy Spirit, what else is needed?”

*“Is there defiance that needs to be released? Repented of? Does something need to be surrendered here? Do I always feel like I need to be right? Get even? Soothe with self comfort?”*

The “Unconverted Places” (John Eldridge)

- a. Own and acknowledge, not run and hide
- b. “Lord, Save Me Here!”
- c. “Holy Spirit, what else is needed?”
- d. Receive the love of God and pray/proclaim the promises of God. ...

IMPORTANT: Repentance and the Gospel

Acts 3:19–20: Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that *times of refreshing* may come from the Lord and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

*Heavenly Father, what a revolutionary notion: Through our repentance, you bring “times of refreshing” to us—not a season of shame and days of groveling. For repentance isn’t about us making promises to you, but you making this grand declaration to us, “Jesus is enough!” Hallelujah, and thank you. - Scotty Smith*

Christ’s Power:

- 1. What it will do (vs 1)
- 2. Why I might be not experiencing it (vs 2-5)
- 3. How to experience Christ’s Power over my needs (vs 6-8)**

We all have needs, but our greatest need is Jesus.

Christ’s Power needs to be manifest in you before it is for you.

Mark 1:6-8:

Verse 6: Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

John as Elijah (First person to speak in Mark's gospel, even before Jesus)...

John as "Elijah":

2 Kings 1:8: They answered him, "He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

Malachi 4:5-6: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Mark 1:6-8:

Verse 7: And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

Christ's Power: What it will do

**b. It will confront you.**

Mark 1:1: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ (not the gospel of Caesar, others, or even ourselves), the Son of God.

**At the very beginning, Mark confronts us with Jesus as King and His power, over against all other Kings. How will you respond?**

The "Unconverted Places" (John Eldridge)

a. Own and acknowledge, not run and hide

b. "Lord, Save Me Here!"

*"Lord, I want this fragment, this area of my life to be united to Jesus, healed by Jesus."*

As We Close: Christ's Power Over Every Need

Mark 1:6-8:

Verse 8: I have baptized you with water, **but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**

a. Baptism of repentance: *"I need God."*

b. Baptism of the Holy Spirit: *"Jesus is God who comes to save me, He is my greatest need!"*

*O Lord, give me yourself, for that gift contains all gifts. Oh, give me your Spirit, and you cannot but with him give me all things. Oh, what longings! Oh, what pantings and gaspings should there be in my spirit after this Spirit!*

*Come, Holy Spirit. Oh, come and dwell in my soul! I know you will make the place where you dwell glorious. If I have your presence, then I shall be all glorious within.*

- Isaac Ambrose (English Puritan)