

## **Mark: The Servant Lord Who Touches Lives**

By Bob Young

This sermon is part of a brief series devoted to the Synoptic Gospels

June 27 Luke, Upside Down Kingdom, reversals, difficult to outline, my favorite

July 25 Mark, brief, even curt

Aug 29 Matthew

Two questions: Who is Jesus? Who can be a follower of Jesus?

Personal questions: what should I know about Jesus? Can I be a follower of Jesus?

Mark answers two really important questions: who is Jesus? Can I be a follower of Jesus?

No doubt about #1: check out 1:1.

With prophecy fulfilled, God's stamp of approval in baptism, power over temptation, disciples who follow gladly, Mark introduces his case.

With amazing stories—amazing works and amazing words, the case becomes clear. Jesus has power over illness, leprosy, paralysis, over evil spirits, over the Sabbath, and even over nature.

The answer to the disciples' question resounds across the centuries: Who is this one? The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Wow! But with someone so special, so unique, so divine, so capable, so separate from our frail human experience, can I ever be a worthy follower? Can he accept me? Can he accept you? Can we come just as we are?

Because the gospel is good news, the answer is "yes"! Not just yes, but a resounding YES.

But let me tell you about the possibilities the same way Mark does. He makes at least six points in chapters 5-10 before the Triumphal Entry marks the beginning of the fateful week when Jesus was crucified.

- 4:40; 1:15; Little faith will not keep you from being a disciple. Our desire often precedes our ability to put it into practice.
- 5:1ff; Your past will not keep you from being a disciple. Even self mutilation, self torture, messing with the demonic.
- 5:21ff; Uncleaness will not keep you from being a disciple. A woman with an issue of blood (Unclean!) has the audacity to step forward and touch Jesus. He takes a dead girl by the hand.
- 7:24ff; Being a religious outsider will not keep you from being a disciple.
- 8:21; Lack of understanding will not keep you from being a disciple
- 9:14ff; Fear will not keep you from being a disciple. God does not immediately reject the fearful.

## Study Notes

Jesus in Matthew is royalty, a different kind of royalty, not coercive/demanding, a servant king.

Jesus in Mark is a servant Lord.

Jesus in Luke is Son of Man

### Themes in Mark

Who "gets it"? Messianic secret

Fear/faith

Amazing/amazed

Touch

### Outlining Mark's Gospel

#### Section 1: Who is Jesus?

- John the Baptist
- Baptism and Temptation
- Amazing stories
- Amazing words
- Mark 4:35-41 [blind disciples?]

#### Section 2: Who can be a follower of Jesus?

Demon-possessed people can come to Jesus [+ 5 stories]

Jewish synagogue ruler

Woman of faith (unclean, illness of blood)

Death (unclean, death)

Lack of faith

Jewish story?

Clean/unclean [+ five stories]

Gentiles (Syrophenician woman)

Deaf/mute, faith of others who ask for healing

Feed of 4000 (Gentile story)

Faith focused

Blind man [conclusion, transitional]

#### Section 3: What does it mean to follow Jesus?

Blind man story [introduction]

Note: Confession of Peter, 8; Passion predictions, 8, 9, 10

Boy with evil spirit

\*Not the greatest according to human measurements

\*\*Those who are "with him"

\*\*\*Not the offensive ones who cause others to sin

→Morally pure

\*\*\*Children who are not offensive

\*\*Rich young man

\*Not the ambitious

The blind man story [conclusion]

Triumphal entry

Passion Week

16:8, and they were afraid!