

Intro.

- A. Chpt. 1 traces Jesus' footprints f/ Nazareth to Jordan R., to Galilee & into Capernaum.
- B. Written about the year A.D. 65, by John (Jewish name = *grace of God*) Mark (Rm. Name = *a hammer*)
- C. Most likely a convert of Peter (c. **1 Pet. 5:13**)
- D. Interesting words: *gospel* (8 x's); *immediately* or *as soon as* (7 x's in shpt. 1); *authority* (2x's) & words connected to salvation: *repentance*, *baptism*, & *remission*.

Discuss.**I. THE SERVANT'S IDENTITY. Vs. 1-11**

- A. 1st witness: ***John Mark vs. 1***
 1. Begins with a bold affirmation: *Jesus Christ [is] the Son of God*
 - a. Message is inspired, > true. (Probably an eyewitness to some of events of Jesus ministry)
 - b. JM was from Jerusalem (c. **Ac. 12:12** – where prayer meeting took place for Peter as released f/ jail)
 2. Interesting that Mark doesn't just *discuss* or *debate* "the Gospel"; rather, he *announces* it.
 3. The glory of the gospel message is: thru D/B/R of Christ there victory over sin, death, and torment.
- B. 2nd witness: ***the prophets - vs 2-3***
 1. **Mal. 3:1** & **Is. 40:3** (**Ex. 23:20**) speak of Jn the Bpts. who came announcing coming of Christ.
 2. In ancient time, a herald would come just ahead of royalty preparing the way:
 - a. He prepared the road to be used.
 - b. Also prepared the people to receive the king. **vs 4-8**
- C. ***John the Baptist*** did this for Christ, calling for repentance & telling of the King's coming = 3rd witness.\\
 1. He = gst. of the prophets, **Mt. 11:11**; like wilderness he preached in, Jn. told Jews they we in sp. wilder.
 2. He pointed to the true Joshua (Savior) who would lead to the eternal Promised Land
- D. 4th & 5th witnesses: ***the Father & the Holy Spirit, vs. 9-11*** as a Descending Dove, & a Vociferous Voice.

II. THE SERVANT'S AUTHORITY. Vs. 12-28 (Idea of *servant* & *authority* is an expected relationship.)

- A. 1st scene --- the wilderness temptations, Christ exercised authority & power, **vs. 12-13**
 1. **Drove** (= *impelled* in NASB, & *sent* in NIV). Not that Jesus = unwilling, Mark shows intensity of experie
 2. 2 symbolic snapshots:
 - a. Compared to *Israel's 40 yrs. in wilderness* during which time they failed the test miserably.
 - b. *The last Adam* **c. 1 Cor. 15:45** was not give into temp., & restored dominion for man in Paradise.
- B. Scene 2 --- **vs. 14-22**, scribes gave message *from authorities*; Christ taught *with authority!!!*
 1. Coming to Galilee, preaches *the kingdom* / i.e., the *church*
 2. Before arriving in Galilee, traveled thru Samaria where many believed, **Jn. 4:29**
 3. Calling common fishermen to follow Him, 4 left their boats & nets to become *fishers of men*.
- C. Scene 3 --- His powerful & authoritative word was readily recognized even by unclean spirits, **vs. 23-28**
 1. *Peace* = same powerful word He used (**Mk. 4**) to still the storm (means, *be muzzeled*).
 2. "Astonishing" was the word that described how people reacted to the demonstrations of His authority.
 3. His authority certainly had a powerful effect on all who heard, & the Servant's fame spread...

III. THE SERVANT'S SYMPATHY, Vs. 29-45, (revealed in to miraculous acts of compassion).

- A. While working in the region of Galilee, Christ's fame spread, & He became much sought after.
 1. Leaving synagogue, went to Peter & Andrew's house where Peter's ma-n-law lay sick with a fever, **29f**
 2. Her restoration to health was immediate, as evidenced by her being instantly able to serve the disciples.
- B. Many brought their sick to Jesus, **vs32ff**, even to the point that – to have time for prayer, he rose early...
 1. While Christ maintained a sensitive heart to the physical needs of man, he was not distracted from the more important matters of teaching others the Way of God's Truth, **vs. 38f**
 2. The synagogues became a central place for Jesus' work of preaching & healing, **vs 39-41** all
 3. The cleansed leper was sent to the priest for purification, & told not to announce his healing, but he told

Concl.

- A. **vs. 45**, It became extremely difficult for Christ to enter the city, or find solitude in the countryside.
 1. Christ tried to avoid publicity that would hamper his teaching opportunities.
 - a. Kept demons who recognized him f/ speaking, **Mk. 1:34**
 - b. Told healed leper to be quiet regarding his healing, **1:43**
 - c. Same was true when raised Jairus' daughter, **5:43**
 - d. Echoed again when the deaf & dumb demonic was cleansed, **7:36**
 - e. The Bethsaida blind man was to keep silence about who Christ was, **8:30**
 - f. **9:9** Peter, James & John were not to tell about the events of the transfiguration
 2. Disciples were not to reveal just exactly who Jesus was until after his resurrection, **Mk. 16:15**
- B. Today, Christ has told us to tell everyone about Him, but too often, we keep quiet.
 1. To become ceremonially clean, & ready to take place in society, priest used 2 birds (**Lev. 14**)
 - a. One was killed, it's blood sprinkled on the person being cleansed, & the 2nd bird --- released.
 - b. Some believe this was a type & foreshadowing of Jesus death, burial, resurrection & ascension.
 2. Identity with Christ, in likeness of His D/B/R is intricately connected with cleansing today.