

The Gospel in Five Words: Jesus
Mark 1:1

I. Summarize the gospel in five words

A. The difficulty

1. Paul
 - a. uses (minimum) 32 words in 1 Cor 15
 - b. Uses 152 words (in one sentence) in Eph 1
2. You have to account
 - a. Plan of God
 - b. The entirety of human history
 - c. The Person of God and Christ
 - d. The role of the people of God and the Spirit of God
3. Massive amount of information that impacts an accurate and complete understanding of the gospel and it's impact on individual and corporate human existence.
4. **So how do you reduce THE gospel to five words?**

B. Mark not only introduces THE gospel in five words, he presents THE gospel in its entirety as he identifies the key focus of THE Gospel: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1. The gospel in five words
 - a. The first word of the gospel is Jesus
 - b. The second word of the gospel is Christ
 - c. The last three words of the gospel encompass one concept: Son of God
 - d. **Each of these meaning-loaded words contributes to the full revelation of God's plan for salvation; the plan we know as THE gospel.**
2. Plan: For today and the next two weeks to examine each of these words and discover what Mark intends us to know and how Mark intends us to respond to THE gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

II. The First Word of the Gospel: Jesus

A. The Unity of the Bible

1. The Bible is a unified whole
 - a. The Bible tells one unified story over years and through multiple authors and situations
 - b. The Bible reveals
 - (1) The Person of God
 - (2) The purpose of God for creation
2. **Because of this essential unity we should not be surprised to find one report in Scripture preparing us for a later report, and so it is with Mark**

B. Yeshua in Jewish History - Joshua

1. English word *Jesus*, translates the Greek word *Iesous*, which translates the Hebrew word *Yeshua*
 - a. *Yeshua* is a compound word made up of two parts
 - (1) Ye - divine name, Yahweh, I AM
 - (2) Shua - means "to cry for help"
 - b. Potential interpretations
 - (1) Yahweh is my rescuer from peril

- (2) Yahweh responds to my screams for help
 - (3) Yahweh is my salvation
 - (4) Yahweh saves.
 - c. *Yeshua*, in the NT, is pronounced, “*Jesus*,” in the OT, *Yeshua* is pronounced, *Joshua*.
2. Implications: The word, *Jesus*, is more than just the name of the man the gospel is about.
- a. The first implication is this: The man, *Joshua*, in the OT, prefigures the man, *Jesus*, in the NT
 - (1) *Joshua* mentioned 218 times in 199 verses
 - (2) Highlights
 - (a) **Exodus 17:9-14**
 - i) Israel battles Amalek
 - ii) *Joshua* stands against the enemies of God in battle
 - (b) **Exodus 33:11**
 - i) Moses would speak to God as face to face friend
 - ii) When Moses would return to the camp, *Joshua* would stay at the tent of meeting
 - iii) *Joshua* lingered in the presence of God
 - (c) **Num 14:6-9**
 - i) Report of the Spies
 - ii) *Joshua* holds to the promise of God against the fear and faithlessness of the people
 - (d) **Num 27:18**
 - i) God commands Moses to present *Joshua*, a man filled with the Spirit, to the people
 - ii) *Jesus* said, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*” Luke 4:18-19 (ESV)
 - (e) **Deuteronomy 31:7 (ESV)** *Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it.*
 - i) *Jesus* assured His disciples, as they went throughout the whole earth inviting people into the kingdom of God, that He would be with them.
 - (f) **Joshua 24:15**
 - i) **Joshua 24:15 (ESV)** *And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers*

served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

- ii) Jesus” Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, Father, not my will but yours be done.
 - iii) Joshua set before the people a life-changing, future-directing, promise-impacting decision
- (3) The first implication is that Joshua prefigures the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, so that we can be prepared for understanding Jesus as we bring what we know of Joshua to our thinking.
- b. The second implication is this: The name, Jesus, as the first word of THE gospel suggests that THE gospel is not primarily the story of a man but the account of God, the I AM, acting in human history to save, rescue, deliver, those in desperate peril who need salvation.
- (1) What is the peril?
 - (a) Sin - the heart condition that exalts self and opposes that God judges and condemns
 - (b) Sinfulness - the actions and attitudes that exalt self and oppose God that are expressed in the lives of sinners
 - (c) Sin, as nature and as action, are judged by God and condemned, thus the peril every human being faces and requires saving from.
 - (2) How will he rescue us?
 - (a) Through the life of Jesus - (from sinfulness)
 - i) **John 13:15 (ESV)** *For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*
 - ii) **Matthew 16:24 (ESV)** *Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*
 - (b) Through the death of Jesus - (from sin)
 - i) **Colossians 1:19-20 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*
 - (3) As absolutely important as the redeeming death of Jesus is, that through His death Yahweh saves the soul from the guilt and condemnation of sin, it is just as important that God saves the life from the emptiness of sinfulness.
 - (a) **Romans 6:4 (ESV)** *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

- (b) JC Ryle, *Holiness*, “The selfish Christian professor who wraps himself up in his own conceit of superior knowledge and seems to care nothing whether others sink or swim, go to heaven or hell, so long as he walks to church or chapel in his Sunday best and is called a "sound member"—such a man knows nothing of sanctification. He may think himself a saint on earth, but he will not be a saint in heaven. Christ will never be found the Savior of those who know nothing of following His example. Saving faith and real converting grace will always produce some conformity to the image of Jesus.”

III. Jesus: The first word of the Gospel

A. Yahweh saves!

1. Do you know in the depth of your heart that God has saved you today?
 - a. Saved you through the death Christ from sin and guilt?
 - b. Saved you from slavery to sinfulness through the life and teachings of Jesus?
2. Have you encountered the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ alone?

B. Options

1. If no, repent and believe
2. If yes, trust and obey