

The Gospel in Five Words (III): Son of God
Mark 1:1

I. Review

A. This is the gospel

1. God rescues human beings from the perilous consequences of sin: guilt, shame, death, and judgment
2. Through a specific, unique, divinely chosen and empowered individual, set apart and utterly devoted to the task, even to the laying down of his own life
3. Who is identified as being intimately, personally related to God to the point of sharing God's essential nature, in fact, of being God in human form, a person fully God and fully man.

B. The gospel in five words

1. This is the message Mark introduces in five words: Jesus Christ, Son of God.
2. The gospel in five words:
 - a. The first word: Jesus - "God saves"
 - b. The second word - Christ - "Anointed one"
 - c. The final three words - Son of God

C. Three Questions About These Last Three Words: "Son of God"

1. What does the phrase "Son of God" mean?
2. What response should "Son of God" work in us?
3. What response should "Son of God" draw from us?

II. What does the phrase "Son of God" mean?

A. A few facts about the phrase (A short survey of the phrase usage in the NT)

1. Mark uses the phrase only three times
 - a. In the introduction
 - b. Twice when others use it
 - (1) Attributions
 - (a) Attributed to the testimony of demons
 - (b) Attributed to the testimony of a pagan
 - (2) **Power of these two witnesses:**
 - (a) **If these two unlikely witnesses get it, so should the people of faith have confidence that Jesus Christ whom they have trusted and to whom they have surrendered their lives, is in fact the Son of God.**
 - (b) Given all the evidence Mark supplies and the testimony of witnesses, there should be no question regarding the identity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the validity of entrusting one's life to Him!
2. Other uses
 - a. Matthew - The expectation that the Christ would be the Son of God
 - (1) Jesus before the high priest - **(Matthew 26:63 (ESV) But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."**
 - (2) Mary to Jesus before the raising of Lazarus - **(John 11:27 (ESV)**

She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

- b. Luke -
- (1) The relationship designated by Son of God is physical, temporal, intentional, and inclusive
 - (2) **Luke 1:35 (ESV)** *And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*
 - (a) There will be a physical child
 - (b) That child will be subject to normal human timelines (born)
 - (c) That child will be the result of an intentional act of God
 - (d) That child will be all God is
- c. John - faith in the Son of God secures eternal life
- (1) **John 20:31 (ESV)** *but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
 - (2) Death on account of sin is the destiny of all man, but through faith in the Son of God, there is rescue from the peril presented by sin.
- d. Paul - The resurrection proves Jesus to be the Son of God
- (1) How can we know with certainty that any of this we are saying about Jesus being the Son of God is true?
 - (2) **Romans 1:4 (ESV)** *and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,*
- e. Hebrews - The Son of God displays the attributes of God
- (1) **Hebrews 7:3 (ESV)** *He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.*
 - (2) Draws a direct parallel between the priest of Jerusalem, Melchizedek, and Jesus
 - (3) The point here is that the Son of God, whom Melchizedek resembles, is eternal, unchanging, consistent, and continuous, all of which are attributes fo God alone.
- f. 1 John - The mission of the Son of God was to make known “him who is true.”
- (1) **1 John 5:20 (ESV)** *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*
 - (2) The Son of God came into the world to provide to the rest of us a clear, accurate, inclusive, prescribed understanding of who God is.
 - (a) That he does so as the Son of God means that the understanding he offers comes through understanding him.
 - (b) In other words, if you want to understand God, understand

Jesus the Son of God.

B. What does Mark communicate by the phrase “Son of God”?

1. The description “Son of God” points specifically to the divinity of Jesus Christ
 - a. “Son of God” points to Christ’s unique personal and essential relationship with God
 - b. Jesus Christ is the Son of God in a way no other human being is.
2. Two types of “sonship” in the Bible
 - a. Adoptive sonship
 - (1) Israel - God declares Israel to be the son of His choosing
 - (2) David
 - (3) Christians - **Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)** *⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*
 - b. Essential sonship
 - (1) Just as a natural son shares the DNA and nature of his father, so Jesus shares the essential nature of His Father, God, the eternal I AM
 - (a) Eternal, personal sonship
 - (b) Nativity sonship - direct, spiritual paternity of God
 - (c) Messianic sonship - divine representative sent to establish the kingdom of God
 - (d) Ontological sonship - sonship with a redemptive purpose
 - (2) God the Father, choosing to save human beings from the peril of sin, sent God the Son to take on human form, by an act of the God the Spirit, with the effect that the man, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, sharing the essential nature of God with God, provided both the perfectly acceptable sacrifice and the perfectly acceptable representative necessary to
 - (a) satisfy divine justice,
 - (b) reveal divine glory,
 - (c) demonstrate divine love, compassion, and mercy,
 - (d) and redeem, save, and rescue human beings from the peril of eternal death threatened by unavoidable sin
 - (3) Something no one else, but Jesus Christ the Son of God could do.
 - (4) This is the gospel.

III. What response should we expect to the “Son of God”?

A. What response in and from us when we are convinced by the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ is God come in human form die on the cross to save us from sin?

1. Internal Response
 - a. Attitude - How we think (Phil 2:5)
 - b. Affections - How we feel (Col 3:1)

- c. Will - What we do (Not my will but Thine)
- 2. Practical Response - If we truly hold by faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God then:
 - a. Offer accepted
 - b. Cross carried
 - c. Example adopted
 - (1) Mercy mimicked
 - (2) Compassion conveyed
 - (3) Love lived
 - d. Commands obeyed
 - e. Praise raised
 - f. Glory exalted

B. What now

- 1. The story of the Gadarene demoniac from whom Jesus sent the demons into the herd of pigs
- 2. **Mark 5:18-20 (ESV)** ¹⁸ *As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.* ¹⁹ *And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."* ²⁰ *And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.*
 - a. No one of us has received less grace from the Son of God than this man did.
 - b. Jesus required of him two things
 - (1) Go home - go resume your normal life as one freed from the clutches of evil
 - (2) Go and tell - make the work and wonder of the Son of God a focus of all your relationships
- 3. Go thou, and do likewise.