

# Mark

**JOHN PREPARES FOR  
JESUS** (1:1–8; Matt. 3:1–12;  
Luke 3:1–18; John 1:19–28)

**1** This is the beginning of the Good News

<sup>2</sup> “[Look; <sup>T</sup>Behold,] **I will send** [am sending] **my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way** [Mal. 3:1].”

<sup>3</sup> **“This is a voice of one who calls out** [shouts; cries out] **in the desert** [wilderness]: **‘Prepare the way for the Lord. Make the road straight** [a clear path] **for him** [Is. 40:3].”

<sup>4</sup> **John** [cthe Baptist] **was baptizing people in the desert** [wilderness] **and preaching a baptism of changed hearts and lives** [turning from sin; repentance] **for the forgiveness** [remission] **of sins.**

<sup>5</sup> **All the people from Judea and Jerusalem were going out to him. They confessed their sins and were baptized by him in the Jordan River.**

<sup>6</sup> **John wore clothes made from camel’s hair, had a leather belt around his waist** [creminiscent of the prophet Elijah; 2 Kin. 1:8], **and ate locusts and wild honey** [csignifies living off the land].

<sup>7</sup> **This is what John preached to the people:**  
**“There is one coming after me who is greater** [mightier; more powerful] **than I; I am not good enough** [fit; qualified] **even to kneel down and untie** [Lthe thong/strap of] **his sandals** [Ca task of a servant or slave].

<sup>8</sup> **I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”**

**JESUS IS BAPTIZED AND  
TESTED** (1:9–13; Matt. 3:13–  
17; 4:1–11; Luke 3:21–22; 4:1–13)

<sup>9</sup> **At that time** [In those days] **Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River.**

<sup>10</sup> **Immediately, as Jesus was coming up out of**

**the water**, **he saw** **heaven** [the sky] **open** [split open]. **The Holy Spirit** [LSpirit] **came down** [descended] **on him like a dove** [Ceither in the form of a dove, or in bird-like descent],

<sup>11</sup>**and a voice came from heaven**: “**You are my Son, whom I love** [dearly beloved Son; Ps. 2:7; Gen. 22:2], **and I am very pleased with you** [in whom I take great delight; Is. 42:1].”

<sup>12</sup>**Then** [Immediately] **the Spirit sent** [drove; compelled] **Jesus into the desert** [wilderness].

<sup>13</sup>**He was in the desert** [wilderness] **forty days** [Canalogous to Israel’s forty years] **and was tempted** [*or* tested] **by Satan** [Cas both Adam and Eve and the nation Israel in the wilderness were tempted, but failed]. **He was with the wild animals** [Cdangerous or perhaps Eden-like conditions], **and the angels came and took care of** [served; ministered to] **him**.

**JESUS ANNOUNCES THE GOOD NEWS** (1:14–15; Matt. 4:17)

<sup>14</sup>**After John was put in prison** [Cby Herod Antipas; cf. 6:14–29], **Jesus went into Galilee, preaching the Good News** [Gospel] **from** [about] **God**.

<sup>15</sup>**He said**, “**The right time has come** [Ltime is fulfilled]. **The kingdom of God** [God’s sovereign rule] **is near** [at hand]. **Change your hearts and lives** [Turn from your sins; Repent] **and believe the Good News** [Gospel]!”

**JESUS CHOOSES HIS FIRST FOLLOWERS** (1:16–20; Matt. 4:18–22; Luke 5:2–11; John 1:35–42)

<sup>16</sup>**When Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee** [Tthe Sea of Galilee], **he saw Simon** [CPeter; cf. 3:16] **and his brother Andrew** **throwing** [casting] **a net into the lake because they were fishermen**.

<sup>17</sup>**Jesus said to them**, “**Come follow me** [be my disciples], **and I will make you** [teach you how to] **fish for people**.”

**JESUS FORCES OUT AN  
EVIL SPIRIT** (1:21–28; Luke  
4:31–37)

<sup>18</sup>**So Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him.**

<sup>19</sup>**Going a little farther, Jesus saw two more brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee** [James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John]. **They were in a boat, mending** [preparing] **their nets.**

<sup>20</sup>**Jesus immediately called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers and followed Jesus.**

<sup>21</sup>**Jesus and his followers** [disciples] **went to Capernaum** [a town on the northwest shore of Lake Galilee; it became Jesus' home base]. **On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue and began to teach.**

<sup>22</sup>**The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught like** [as] **a person who had authority, not like** [as] **their teachers of the law** [the scribes; experts in the law of Moses].

<sup>23</sup>**Just then, a man was there in the synagogue who had an evil** [defiling; unclean] **spirit in him.** [Demons were viewed as “unclean” or defiling spirit-beings.] **He shouted,**

<sup>24</sup>**“Jesus of Nazareth** [the Nazarene]! **What do you want with us?** [Let us alone!; What business do we have with each other? What to us and to you?] **Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are — God’s Holy One!”**

<sup>25</sup>**Jesus commanded** [reprimanded; rebuked] **the evil spirit, “Be quiet! Come out of the man!”**

<sup>26</sup>**The evil** [defiling; unclean] **spirit shook the man violently** [threw him into convulsions], **gave a loud cry** [shriek], **and then came out of him.**

<sup>27</sup>**The people were** [all] **so amazed they asked each other, “What is happening here? This man is teaching something new, and with**

**JESUS HEALS MANY  
PEOPLE** (1:29–39; Matt. 8:14–  
17; Luke 4:38–43)

authority. He **even gives** **commands** [orders] **to evil** [defiling; <sup>L</sup>unclean] **spirits, and they obey him.**”

<sup>28</sup>**And the news** [report; fame] **about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the area of Galilee.**

<sup>29</sup>**As soon as Jesus and his followers** [disciples] **left the synagogue, they went to the home of Simon** [<sup>C</sup>Peter] **and Andrew, together with James and John.**

<sup>30</sup>**Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and the people** [<sup>L</sup>they; <sup>C</sup>either the people or the disciples] **told Jesus about her.**

<sup>31</sup>**So Jesus went to her bed, took her hand, and helped** [raised] **her up. The fever left her, and she began serving them** [waiting on them; <sup>C</sup>presumably meal preparation].

<sup>32</sup>**That evening, after the sun went down, the people brought to Jesus all who were sick and had demons in them** [were demon-possessed].

<sup>33</sup>**The whole town gathered at the door.**

<sup>34</sup>**Jesus healed many who had different kinds of sicknesses, and he forced many demons to leave people** [<sup>L</sup>drove/cast out many demons]. **But he would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who he was.** [<sup>C</sup>They knew he was the Messiah; Jesus wanted to avoid premature publicity.]

<sup>35</sup> [Very] **Early the next morning, while it was still dark, Jesus woke** [got up] **and left the house. He went to a lonely** [isolated; deserted] **place, where he prayed.**

<sup>36</sup>**Simon and his friends** [companions] **went to look for Jesus.**

<sup>37</sup>**When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you!”**

<sup>38</sup>**Jesus answered, “We should** [Let us] **go to other towns around here so I can preach**

**JESUS HEALS A SICK  
MAN** (1:40–45; Matt. 8:1–4;  
Luke 5:12–16)

there, too. That is the reason I came.”

39 So he went everywhere in Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and forcing [driving; casting] out demons.

40 A man with a skin disease\* [Tleprousy; Cthe term does not refer to modern leprosy (Hansen’s disease), but to various skin disorders; Lev. 14] came to Jesus. He fell to his knees and begged\* Jesus, “You can heal\* me [Lmake me clean; Cleprosy rendered a person ceremonially defiled (“unclean”), and so unable to participate in Israel’s religious life] if you will [are willing; want to].”

41 Jesus felt sorry\* [compassion\*] for the man, so he reached out\* his hand and touched\* him and said, “I will [am willing; want to]. Be healed\* [Lcleansed]!”

42 Immediately the disease\* [Tleprousy] left the man, and he was healed\* [Lcleansed].

43 Jesus told the man to go away at once, but he warned\* him strongly,

44 “Don’t tell anyone about this. But go and show\* yourself to the priest. And offer the gift\* [offering, sacrifices] Moses commanded for people who are made well\* [Lyour cleansing; Lev. 14:1–32]. This will show\* the people [be a public testimony to; be evidence for] what I have done.”

45 The man left there, but he began to tell everyone that Jesus had healed\* him, and so he spread\* the news about Jesus [the message; the word]. As a result, Jesus could not enter a town if people saw him [publicly]. He stayed in places where nobody lived [secluded/ deserted places], but people came [kept coming] to him from everywhere.

**JESUS HEALS A  
PARALYZED MAN** (2:1–  
12; Matt. 9:1–8; Luke 5:17–26)

**2** A few days later\*, when Jesus came back

to Capernaum\*, the news spread that he was at home.

2 Many people gathered together\* so that there was no room in the house, not even outside [near; in front of] the door. And Jesus was teaching\* them God's message\* [Lspeaking the word to them].

3 Four people came, carrying a paralyzed\* man.

4 Since they could not get to Jesus because of the crowd\*, they dug a hole in the roof\* right above where he was speaking. [CPalestinian roofs were generally flat and made of thatch and dried mud.] When they got through\*, they lowered\* the mat\* [cot] with the paralyzed\* man on it.

5 When Jesus saw the faith\* of these people, he said to the paralyzed\* man, “Young man\* [Child; Son], your sins\* are forgiven\*.”

6 Some of the teachers\* of the law [scribes] were sitting there, thinking\* to themselves,

7 “Why does this man say\* things like that [speak this way]? He is speaking\* as if he were God [Lblaspheming]. Only God can forgive\* sins\*.” [L“Who can forgive sins but God alone?”; cf. Is. 43:25].

8 Jesus knew\* immediately [in his spirit] what these teachers\* of the law were thinking\*. So he said\* to them, “Why are you thinking\* these things [Lin your hearts]?

9 Which is easier\*: to tell\* this paralyzed\* man, ‘Your sins\* are forgiven\*,’ or to tell\* him, ‘Stand up\*. Take your mat\* [cot] and walk\*?’

10 But I will prove\* to you [Lso that you may know] that the Son of Man\* [Ca title for the Messiah; Dan. 7:13–14] has authority\* on earth

to forgive\* sins\*.” So Jesus said\* to the paralyzed\* man,

11 “I tell\* you, stand up\*, take your ·mat\* [cot], and go home\*.”

12 Immediately the paralyzed\* man stood up\*, took his ·mat\* [cot], and walked out\* while everyone was watching\* him.

The people were [all] amazed\* and praised\* God. They said\*, “We have never seen\* anything like this!”

JESUS CALLS LEVI TO FOLLOW HIM (2:13–17; Matt. 9:9–13; Luke 5:27–32)

13 Jesus went to the lake again\*. The whole crowd ·followed\* him [came to him] there, and he taught\* them.

14 While he was walking along, he saw\* a man named Levi\* son of Alphaeus\* sitting in the tax collector’s booth\* [probably a tariff booth for taxing goods in transit]. Jesus said to him, “Follow\* me,” and he stood up and followed\* Jesus.

15 Later, as Jesus was ·having dinner\* [Lreclining; Caround a low table, the posture for a formal banquet or dinner party] at Levi’s house, many tax collectors\* and sinners\* were eating\* there with Jesus and his followers\*. Many people like this followed\* Jesus.

16 When the ·teachers\* of the law\* [scribes] who were Pharisees\* saw Jesus eating\* with the tax collectors\* and sinners\*, they asked his followers\*, “Why does he eat\* with tax collectors\* and sinners\*?” [CTax collectors were despised because they worked for the Roman rulers and were notorious for corruption and extortion.]

17 Jesus heard this and said to them, “It is not the healthy\* people who need a doctor\*, but the sick\*. I did not come to ·invite\* [call] ·good\* people [the righteous; Cmeaning the “self-righteous” who feel no need to repent] but

**to ·invite\*** [call] **sinner\*** [Cthose who recognize their need to repent].”

**JESUS IS QUESTIONED  
ABOUT FASTING** (2:18–22;  
Matt. 9:14–17; Luke 5:33–39;  
John 3:29–30)

<sup>18</sup>**Now the ·followers** [disciples] **of John** [Cthe Baptist; 1:4–8] **and the Pharisees often fasted** [Cgiving up eating for spiritual purposes]. **·Some people** [LThey] **came to Jesus and said, “Why do John’s ·followers** [disciples] **and the ·followers** [disciples] **of the Pharisees often fast, but your ·followers** [disciples] **don’t?”**

<sup>19</sup>**Jesus answered, “The ·friends of the bridegroom** [*or* wedding guests; Lchildren of the wedding hall] **do not fast while the bridegroom is still with them** [CJesus is referring to himself; John 3:29; Rev. 19:7]. **As long as the bridegroom is with them, they cannot fast.**

<sup>20</sup>**But the ·time** [Ldays] **will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and ·then** [in that day] **they will fast.**

<sup>21</sup>**“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth over a hole in an old ·coat** [garment]. **Otherwise, the patch will shrink and pull away — the new patch will pull away from the old ·coat** [garment]. **Then the ·hole** [tear] **will be worse.**

<sup>22</sup>**Also, no one ever pours new wine into old ·leather bags** [wineskins]. **Otherwise, the new wine will break the ·bags** [skins; CAs the wine ferments and expands], **and the wine will be ·ruined** [lost] **along with the ·bags** [skins]. **But new wine should be put into new ·leather bags** [wineskins].”

**JESUS IS LORD OF THE  
SABBATH** (2:23–28; Matt.  
12:1–8; Luke 6:1–5)

<sup>23</sup>**One Sabbath day, as Jesus was walking through some fields of grain, his ·followers** [disciples] **began to** [make a path and] **pick some grain to eat** [Deut. 23:25].

<sup>24</sup>**The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Why are your followers doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath day?”** [CGleaning was viewed as work,

and therefore forbidden on the Sabbath; Ex. 34:21.]

<sup>25</sup> **Jesus answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and those with him [his companions] were hungry and needed food [1 Sam. 21:1–6]?”**

<sup>26</sup> **During the time of Abiathar [or, In the account about Abiathar] the high priest, David went into God’s house and ate the holy bread [consecrated bread; <sup>L</sup>bread of presentation], which is lawful only for priests to eat [Ex. 25:30; Lev. 24:5–9]. And David also gave some of the bread to those who were with him.”**

<sup>27</sup> **Then Jesus said to the Pharisees, “The Sabbath day was made to help people [<sup>T</sup>for man]; they were not made to be ruled by [<sup>T</sup>not man for] the Sabbath day.**

<sup>28</sup> **So then, the Son of Man is Lord [Master] even of the Sabbath day.”**

**JESUS HEALS A MAN’S  
HAND** (3:1–6; Matt. 12:9–14;  
Luke 6:6–11)

**3** **Another time when Jesus went into a**

**synagogue, a man with a crippled [paralyzed; deformed; shriveled] hand was there.**

<sup>2</sup> **Some people [<sup>L</sup>They; <sup>C</sup>probably the Pharisees; see 2:24, 27] watched Jesus closely to see if he would heal the man on the Sabbath day so they could accuse him.**

<sup>3</sup> **Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, “Stand up here in the middle [front] of everyone.”**

<sup>4</sup> **Then Jesus asked the people [<sup>L</sup>them; <sup>C</sup>probably the Pharisees], “Which is lawful [<sup>C</sup>according to the law of Moses] on the Sabbath day to do good or to do evil, to save a life or to kill?” But they said nothing to answer him [remained silent].**

<sup>5</sup> **Jesus was angry as he looked at them, and he**

**felt very ·sad** [distressed; grieved] **because ·they were stubborn** [of their hard hearts]. **Then he said to the man**, “**·Hold out** [stretch out] **your hand.**” **The man ·held out** [stretched out] **his hand and it was ·healed** [restored].  
6**Then the Pharisees left and** [immediately] **began ·making plans** [plotting] **with the Herodians** [Ca political group that supported king Herod and his family] **about a way to ·kill** [destroy] **Jesus.**

**MANY PEOPLE  
FOLLOW JESUS** (3:7–12;  
*Matt. 12:15–16; Luke 6:17–19*)

7 [**But**] **Jesus left with his ·followers** [disciples] **for the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed him.**

8 **Also many people came from Judea, from Jerusalem, from Idumea** [Clocated to the south], **from the lands across the Jordan River, and from the area of Tyre and Sidon** [Clocated to the north]. **When they heard what Jesus was doing, many people came to him.**

9**When Jesus saw the crowds, he told his ·followers** [disciples] **to get a boat ready for him to keep people from ·crowding against** [crushing] **him.**

10**He had healed many people, so all the sick were pushing toward him to touch him.**

11**When ·evil** [defiling; Lunclean; see 1:23] **spirits** [within people] **saw Jesus, they fell down before him and shouted, “You are the Son of God!”**

12**But Jesus strongly ·warned** [rebuked; ordered] **them not to tell who he was.**

