

WHO IS JESUS?

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Key idea:

Jesus is God's Son who came to deliver God's people.

Key text:

Mark 1:1-15

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Key points:

1. Mark's goal is to give us Jesus' identity and call us to immediate response to His work.
2. Mark shows us the identity of Jesus as the Son of God
3. Mark connects Jesus' identity and His work on the cross

4. Mark clarifies that our response is to repent and believe

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Is there anything about Mark's gospel being Peter's testimony of Jesus that encourages you or helps you to understand the book better?
3. Why is Jesus' nature as the Son of God necessary for His ministry?
4. Why is Jesus' baptism important to the work He was sent to do?
5. What benefit do I gain from Jesus' ministry before the cross occurs? What is the benefit of Jesus' work on the cross for me? Why are they both necessary for me to be right with God?
6. What does it mean to repent? What does it mean to trust or have faith in Jesus? Can we do one without the other?
7. How can we have an ongoing lifestyle of repentance and faith as Christians? What does this look like for you, in practical terms?
8. How does Jesus' perfection give you confidence in some specific way or some specific situation of your life this week?
9. Who can I call or meet with and encourage with the nature and work of Jesus this week?