

## 04. Mark 1:16-45



# BOOK ONE

## THE GOSPEL OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

Mark 1:14 - 8:30

Mark wants us to listen to Jesus, and, even more importantly, to watch him, in the hope that we, like Peter, will come to acknowledge him as the one who brings meaning to our lives. Hopefully, we might then commit ourselves to walk with him. Mark knows that only when we are attracted to Jesus does it make sense to spell out the cost of accompanying him on his journey.

## PART ONE :

### GOD'S HEALING AND LIBERATING WORD

Mark 1:14 - 3:6

opens with a summary of Jesus' ministry (1:14-15)

and the call of the first disciples (1:16-20).

It ends on a tragic note as we witness the religious leaders rejecting Jesus (3:1-6a).

In this part, Mark concentrates on Jesus' healing and liberating presence.

In Mark, Jesus is presented primarily as the Teacher.

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested,

Jesus came to Galilee,

proclaiming the good news of God,

and saying, “The time [kairos] is fulfilled.

The kingdom of God has come near.

Repent.

Believe in the good news.”

## Mark 1:16-20

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

**Immediately** they left their nets and followed him.

As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. **Immediately** he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

‘The Spirit **immediately** drove him out into the wilderness’ (1:12).

(27 times!)

## Make holy what is 'unclean' : Mark 1:21-28

To access Jesus' teaching we are invited to watch Jesus' actions.

We see Jesus teaching in what he does.

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.



## Make holy what is 'unclean' : Mark 1:21-28

Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an **unclean spirit**, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, **the Holy One of God.**”

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the **unclean spirit**, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new **teaching** — with **authority**! He commands even the **unclean spirits**, and they obey him.”

At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Teacher (see token)

Jesus shows who God really is

how we can respond to God

Parables (later)

## ‘Miracle’

By ‘miracle’ we are not speaking of God intervening in history and setting aside the ‘laws of nature’.

So-called ‘laws of nature’ model and describe behaviour. They do not claim to exhaust the dynamism of nature or the relationships, processes, and causal interconnectedness of the natural world.

The surprise of a 'miracle' alerts us to something that is ever present but which our achieved knowledge can obscure: namely, that it is the initiative of God (the ultimately mysterious and supernatural) to which we are responding in everything we do and seek to do. It is our longing for communion with God that is the mainspring of our desire to know and love.

When we come to some understanding we may fall into the temptation of forgetting this and thinking we are the organisers and initiators. A miracle surprises us into recognising that we are wrong.

By 'miracle' we mean wonderful happenings that take place through natural causes that are beyond our present modelling: causes held in being and propelled by God's self-giving love, drawing the whole of creation into divine communion.



‘Whenever something new arises, whenever life is awakened and reality reaches ecstatically beyond itself, in all seeking and striving, in every ferment and birth, and even more in the beauty of creation, something of the being and activity of God’s **Spirit** is manifested’ (Walter Kasper, *The God of Jesus Christ*, 227).

Denis Edwards, *How God Acts*, 158

‘God gives to creatures themselves the capacity for the new. Because of God’s creative and redeeming presence to creatures, they can become something they were not. When matter comes to life on earth, when life becomes self-conscious and personal, this occurs through God enabling creation to transcend itself and become something new.

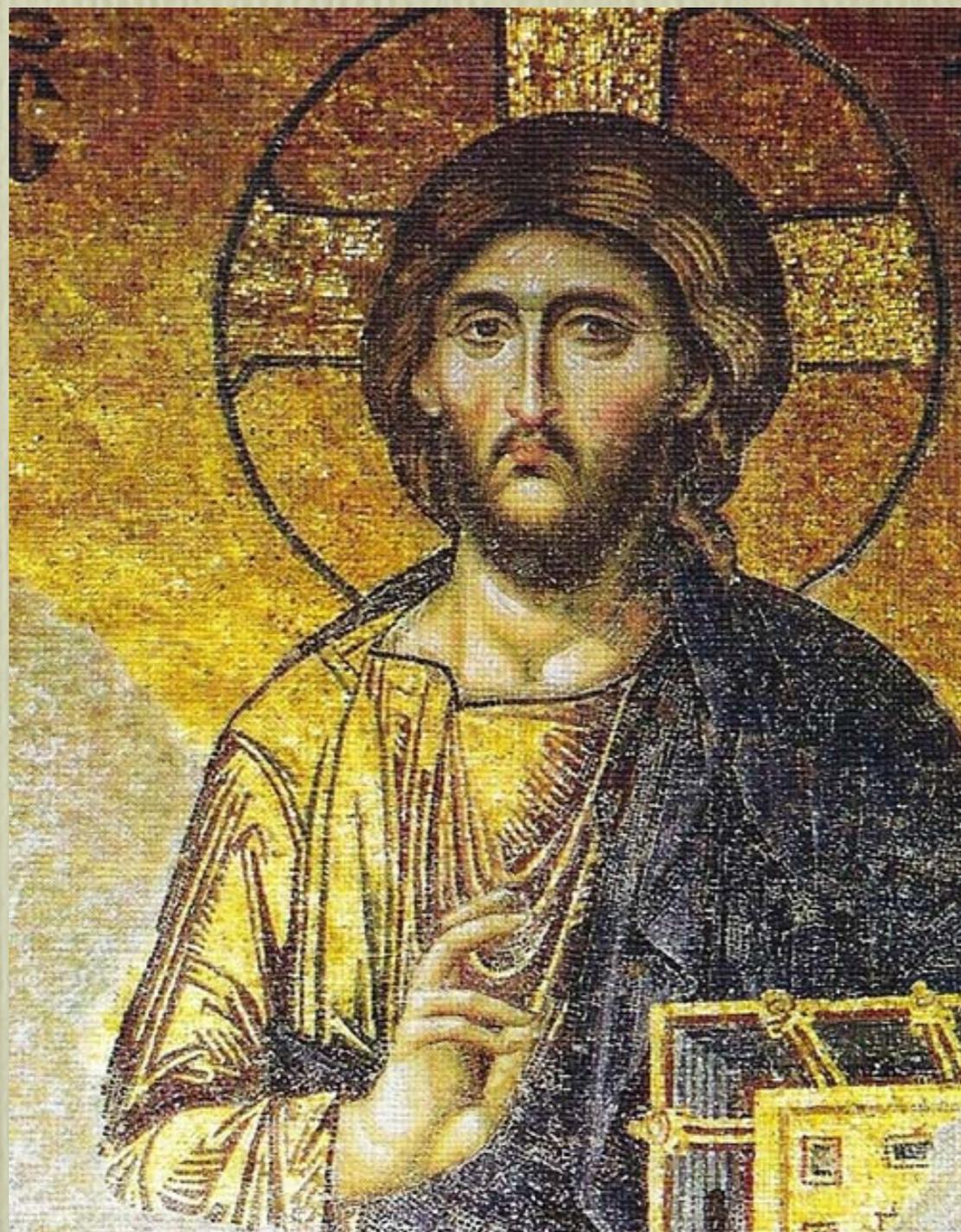
Above all when one of us in the human and creaturely community, Jesus of Nazareth, is so radically open to God, so one with God, that we rightly see him as God-with-us, then we can say that in this person creation transcends itself into God.’



Human beings have evolved through natural processes. We are still evolving. We, and with us the whole created universe, are being drawn into full communion with God.

Jesus revealed God as love = self-giving. Creation is an explosion of this self-giving. We become what we are called to be to the extent that we love = to the extent that we 'participate in the divine nature' (2 Peter 1:4).

'Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us' (Romans 5:5).



Jesus was fully open to God's Spirit, God's creative action. 'God gives the Spirit to Jesus without measure'(John 3:34). Jesus loved perfectly.

'Miracles' show what perfect love can do when it is welcomed in 'faith'.

'If it is through the Spirit of God that I cast devils (demons) out, then know that the kingdom of God has overtaken you' (Matthew 12:28).

δύναμις

‘miracle’ / ‘deed of power’

Mark 6:2

On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What **deeds of power** are being done by his hands!

‘Jesus could do no **deed of power** there (in Nazareth), except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. He was amazed at their unbelief’ (Mark 6:5).

‘Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a **deed of power** in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me’ (Mark 9:39).

## Galatians 3:5

‘Does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?’

## 1 Corinthians 12:7, 10, 29

‘To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good ... to another the working of miracles ... Do all work miracles?’

## 2 Corinthians 4:7

‘We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary **power** belongs to God and does not come from us.’

## 2 Corinthians 12:9

‘The Lord said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for **power** is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the **power** of Christ may dwell in me.’

## Romans 15:13

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the **power** of the Holy Spirit.’

Wonder τέρας

Sign σημεῖον

Acts 2:22

‘Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know.’

2 Corinthians 12:12

‘The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, signs and wonders and mighty works.’

## Romans 15:18-19

‘I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the **power** of signs and wonders, by the **power** of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the good news of Christ.’

## Hebrews 1:3

‘God’s Son is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his **powerful** word.’

## Hebrews 2:4

‘God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various **miracles**, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will.’

The ‘deeds of power’ that we see in Jesus’ ministry flow from his complete openness to the power of God.

Luke 4:14

‘Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.’

Luke 5:17

‘The power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal.’

Since God is LOVE, the ‘deeds of power’ are expressions of the powerful love that binds Jesus to the Father.

## Not magic

### 1. Mark 5:40-42

‘Jesus took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!”’

Immediately the girl got up and began to walk about. At this they were overcome with amazement.’

## 2. Mark 7:32-35

‘They brought to Jesus a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.’

## Liberating for Ministry : Mark 1:29

As soon as they left the synagogue,  
they entered the house of Simon and  
Andrew, with James and John.



## Liberating for Ministry : Mark 1:30-31

Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and raised her up.

Jairus's daughter, 5:41

Tormented Boy 9:27

Jesus resurrected 16:6

Then the fever left her, and she began to minister to them.

'There are varieties of ministries,  
but the same Lord' (1 Corinthians 12:5)

## Mark 1:32-34

That evening, at sundown, they were bringing to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. (compare 1:28 in the synagogue)

## Jesus is an instrument of God's Healing : Mark 1:35-39

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he was **praying**. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

He says to them, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for **that is what I came out to do.**"

And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

It was Jesus' communion with God that was the source of his life.

At the Last Supper, with a broken heart, he said: 'You will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone'(John 16:32).

He went straight on to add: 'Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.'

## Liberating the Outsider : Mark 1:40

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you want to, you can make me clean.”

### Leviticus 13:45-46

The person who has the scaly skin disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be disheveled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, “Unclean, unclean.” He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

Mark 1:41-42

Liberating the Outsider and  
welcoming him into the community

Filled with compassion/anger, Jesus stretched out his hand and held him, and said to him, “Of course I want to. Be made clean!” (compare 1:27, unclean spirit) Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

In Aramaic ethraḥam = ‘he had pity’.

ethra’em = ‘he was enraged’.

Mark 1:3-45

Liberating the Outsider and  
welcoming him into the community

After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” (see Leviticus 14)

But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in **places where nobody dwelt**. People, however, came to him from every quarter.