

Sermon outline and notes © Dr. Stephen Felker, Pastor Emeritus  
Swift Creek Baptist Church (swiftcreekbaptistchurch.com)  
18510 Branders Bridge Rd., Colonial Heights, VA 23834  
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## Mark 1:14-35 “Jesus: Mighty in Word and Deed”

Intro. This morning I am going to preach a message about Jesus! There is no better subject for a sermon. And in today’s message, I’m going to answer the question, “Is Jesus the Son of God?” Notice in v.1 that Mark begins his gospel asserting that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah, “the Son of God.” Then, in the very first chapter of the gospel of Mark, he gives convincing evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. For most in my audience my goal is to strengthen your faith in Jesus. For others, I hope to lead you to commit your life to Jesus as Savior and Lord. Notice 3 key evidences from our text that Jesus is the Savior, the Son of God. First:

### I. BECAUSE OF HIS PREACHING AND TEACHING

Notice in v.14 that “Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.” Many of our older manuscripts say that He preached “the gospel of God” (A rating). In this case Mark is probably referring to the good news *from* God (subjective genitive). That being the case, let’s see first of all that:

A. He Preached *God’s* Message – We should expect that the Messiah would also be a prophet. In fact, Moses declared that God would raise up someone like himself someday, a great prophet who would deliver God’s message to the people (Dt. 18:15). Jesus was indeed a great prophet, and a true prophet of God will only deliver a message from God. And that message is summarized in v.15. First of all:

1. The Kingdom of God Is Near – Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.” The Jews were looking for a Messianic King, who would usher in a Kingdom Age of blessing. Jesus announced that the Messianic kingdom was coming soon. Our focus should be on *whose* Kingdom was to come. It is the kingdom *of God*. God’s reign would begin in the hearts and lives of people, and such a reign would begin to assert itself far more powerfully than ever before. All who would welcome God and His Messiah as King would partake of the kingdom and receive the blessings of salvation. No doubt most of the Jews read political revolution in the phrase “kingdom of God”, but that was not what Jesus had in mind at all.

Then, in the last of v.15, He preached that:

2. We Should Repent – All of us are by nature born in sin, we all have willfully sinned, and therefore we all need to repent. We must repent of our sin as a necessary requirement for entering the kingdom of God. What does it mean to repent? The word used in the original means to undergo a radical change of heart and mind that results in a complete change of life. This is preceded by a genuine sorrow for sin, followed by an earnest resolution to break with the evil past.

Repentance alone is not enough to save us. So we need to give heed to something else Jesus preached:

3. We Should Believe the Gospel – We are to believe the good news that the Messiah has come, and that God is taken the steps necessary to save us from our sin. We must also

place our faith in Jesus, trusting him to forgive us and to save us from our sins. Such believing or faith implies knowledge, assent, and confidence. A person accepts a message when he acts upon it.

To repent and believe in Christ has always been the substance of the Gospel message. The apostle Paul told the Ephesian elders that the substance of his teaching among them had been “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). Let us ask ourselves what we know of this repentance and faith. Have we felt our sins, and forsaken them? Have we taken hold of Christ, and believed in Him?

So we see from our text that Jesus preached God’s gospel message. Another aspect of His preaching that supports His identity is the fact that:

B. He Preached with Authority – In vv.21-22 we read, “Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” Jesus ministered not only in the open air but also in the synagogues each Sabbath day. Yes, Jesus was faithful in weekly attendance in the synagogue. We should follow His example. Since Jesus was becoming well-known as a great teacher, He was invited to teach.<sup>1</sup> He did not do as the scribes did, who would try to impress people by quoting or reading the words of this Rabbi or that Rabbi. They rambled on and on and were often as dry as dust. Ah, there was something different about Jesus. He spoke extemporaneously and with authority, as very voice of God. Instead of quoting Rabbis, He spoke of His own authority: “Truly, I say unto you.” He did not argue; He affirmed. He sought no support from others in His teaching; He alone is sufficient for us. He not only speaks the truth, but He *is* the truth (Jn. 14:6). He spoke with authority, for His message came straight from the very heart and mind of the Father, for Jesus said in John 8:26, “I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him [God the Father].” In other words, His message came directly from God. His teaching with authority fits in with the impression of strength which Mark wishes to make. Thus, the strong Son of God is the *world’s* teacher. He is still the great Messenger of God, full of divine authority.

If you read Mark’s Gospel you should notice that he delights in recording the emotional responses of people (cf. 1:27; 2:12; 6:2, 51; 7:37; 9:15; 11:18; 16:8). How did the people respond to such teaching and preaching? He says in v.22 that “they were astonished at His teaching.” They were literally struck out of themselves (*ekplessō*), that is, “out of their senses” by amazement and wonder. Very naturally, the first synagogue discourse in Capernaum would surprise. Many probably heard Him for the first time. I wish I could’ve been there to hear Jesus! What were some of the reasons for this reaction on the part of the audience? What was amazing is that He spoke with such authority and knowledge even though He was just a carpenter (Mark 6:3), never trained in the Rabbinic schools.

Do you remember when the religious leaders sent the temple police to arrest Jesus and they walked up on Him as He was teaching and they listen to him politely, waiting until He was done. When they showed up without Jesus, they asked, “Why have you not brought Him?” They said, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” (John 7:45-46)

There are two applications that I want to make. First, since Jesus was such a great and authoritative preacher and teacher, we should listen to Him (9:7). If you ignore such a great teacher, you do so to your own peril. Secondly, if we are indwelt by the Son of God, then the preachers and teachers of the church today should be like Him. We should preach and teach with authority. Yet

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<sup>1</sup> It was customary to ask visiting rabbis or scribes to read the Scriptures and teach.

the criticism against the church today and against the ministry is that too many do not speak with authority. We can preach and teach with authority when we believe in the authority of the Word of God, and preach it with knowledge and confidence.

There is second reason why we know Jesus is the Son of God. It is:

## II. BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL APPEAL

Jesus had a magnetism about Him that caused people to be drawn to Him. We see this manifested when:

A. He Called People to Follow Him – We read in vv.16-17, “And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’” Basically, He says, “I know you're fishing for fish right now, but I will make you to become fishers of men.” Likewise, we read in vv.19-20, “When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them....”

B. They Responded to His Call – In v.18 we read of Simon Peter and Andrew, “They immediately left their nets and followed Him.” Likewise in the last of v.20 we read that James and John “left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.” What would compel these men to leave their fishing business and families so abruptly and begin to follow Jesus on a much more regular basis? What is it that should compel you to become a follower of Jesus Christ? There are two reasons:

1. The Greatness of Jesus – No doubt they loved to fish. It provided an adequate living. Who else could interrupt four fishermen at their work and challenge them to leave their nets and follow Him? Furthermore, Jesus was already beginning to face opposition, especially from religious leaders. So their decision to side with Jesus exhibits His greatness: the impelling force of His influence over the minds and hearts of men. Only the Son of God could have that kind of personal appeal. There was something different about Jesus. You know God is great and I would expect His Son to manifest greatness. They were willing to follow Jesus because of His greatness. The summons He gave was as the voice of God.

They could also be drawn to follow Him because of:

2. The Challenge of the Task – We all need a purpose in life. And when Jesus said to them, “Come follow me, and I will you become fishers of men”, they knew enough to know that He would train them for a task far superior than fishing for food. Sure enough, the apostle Peter sometime later preached on the day of Pentecost and 3000 people were saved in one day! So the imagery Jesus gives is not of a bait and hook, but of casting a net and drawing people to Christ. Even their Old Testament Scriptures taught that we should influence others for good. Prov. 11:30 says, “He who wins souls is wise.” Dan 12:3 says, “They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever.”

A few years ago Tom Rainer's research team was shocked to find that about seven of ten unchurched persons have never been invited to church. Furthermore, the non-Christian generally has a willingness, if not a desire, to attend church. Perhaps the most eye-opening discovery they made about the unchurched person's attitude towards us Christians is that most of them would like

to hear about Jesus Christ from us. So let us go, cast the Gospel net, and draw in souls for Christ.<sup>2</sup> To catch fish, you must go to where the fish are. Even so, we must go to where the lost people are. These days, not many are coming to church.

When I was a boy, I got a brand-new rod and reel. I wanted to learn how to cast better, so I went to my front yard, and cast the line and sinker out into the yard, and I would reel it in. How many fish did I catch? None! Why? It was because there were no fish there!

Most churches have quit taking the gospel to people's homes. Few share the gospel to family, friends, and neighbors. We need to get back to casting the gospel net to lift people out of the dark waters of sin into the family of God.

There is third reason why we know Jesus is the Son of God. It is because of:

### III. BECAUSE OF HIS POWER

God is all-powerful and we would expect His Son to manifest the very power of God, and He does so here in the gospel of Mark. Many miracles of Jesus are recorded in Mark's gospel, which give special focus to the power of Jesus. We are going to look at two manifestations of the power of Jesus Christ. First we see:

A. His Power over Demons - The first miracle in the Gospel of Mark is in the spiritual realm with a duel between Christ and a demon. There is a great deal of historical evidence that demonism was rampant in the entire Roman Empire. Demons were feared. If Christ had power over demons, surely He is the Son of God. So we read in v.23, "Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit."

And so here was a demon possessed man there in the synagogue and notice what he does. He interrupts the service! In v.24 we read that he cried out saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"<sup>3</sup> Literally the demon, making use of the wretched man's vocal organs, said "What (is there) to us and you," meaning "What have we in common?" "Why do you bother us?" How often that is still the cry of sinners, "Let us alone." What a miserable state that is, to hope that we would have nothing to do with *Him*. Unbeliever don't mind it so much as long as we keep God's Word within the four walls of the church building, but when we proclaim the truth of God's Word, they say, "Leave us alone." Don't bring the gospel into the public school. Don't bring the gospel into our neighborhoods. Don't bring Christian morality into public policy. Leave us alone! Problem is, now they won't leave *us* along to practice *our* faith.

Note also that one demon was speaking for others, for he realizes that what will happen to him is going to be the lot of all his fellow-demons. They know that for them there is no salvation, only dreadful punishment. He saw Jesus as a threat. "Did you come" probably implies that the demon knew Jesus had come from Heaven into the world, not just to the synagogue. The demon is asking if He is now ready to hurl them into the abyss or dungeon where Satan is to be kept (Rev. 20:3). It is interesting to note that the demon world recognized Him. You see, demons know who Jesus is.

There are people today just like this demonized man: in a religious meeting, able to tell who Jesus is, and even trembling with fear of judgment—yet lost! James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" The mere belief of the

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<sup>2</sup> Thom Rainer in *Pulpit Helps*, April 2005, pages 23, 31.

<sup>3</sup> The demon clearly identified Christ's humanity (Jesus of Nazareth) as well as His deity ("the Holy One of God").

facts and doctrines of Christianity will never save our souls. Such belief is no better than the belief of demons.

Now notice the commands of Christ to the demon. First, the Lord commanded the demon in v.25 to “be quiet.” Literally, he said “Be muzzled” (*phimoo*), as if the creature were a wild beast. Jesus had taught with authority, and now He commands with authority. The Savior did not want, nor did He need, the assistance of Satan and his army to tell people who He was (see Acts 16:16-24), lest such a proclamation cause problems with both the Jews and the Romans. Many Jews would want to follow Him only because of His power to heal and cast out demons, and the Romans would think He was a Jewish insurrectionist.<sup>4</sup> Second, He commanded the demon to come out of the man. The demon obeys at once. God is greater than any demon power and he had no choice but to obey the voice of the Son of God. Reluctantly, he leaves his host’s body with a parting shot by causing a convulsion. Then, acknowledging his defeat, he comes out with one parting shriek.

This was not an isolated case. We read in v.34 that He “cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.” When liberals deny Christ’s deity, they show less insight than the demons, for the latter are constantly acknowledging it.

Now notice the response of the people in vv.27-28, “Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, ‘What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.’ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.”

Here in Mark’s gospel we see another manifestation of the power of Jesus. He not only demonstrated His power over demons, but He also demonstrated:

B. His Power over Sickness – Sin brought sickness into the world, and it is not surprising that the Savior from sin would manifest power over sickness. Mark tells us only a few incidents of Jesus’ healing, though He literally healed hundreds or thousands of people.

The first example of healing was Peter’s mother-in-law. Let’s set the stage by reading v.29, “Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.” Peter and Andrew lived in Capernaum, and they not only brought their friends James and John home with them, but they also brought the Lord home. That is a good example for us to follow: don’t leave Jesus at the church—make sure He is welcome in your home. If I put a listening device in your home, would I hear you thank God for your meals in Jesus’ name? Would Jesus feel comfortable in your home based on what you say, do, and watch in your home? Furthermore, like Jesus, we need to minister to people by visiting in their homes.<sup>5</sup> I’ve done that hundreds of times in my ministry.

Then we read in v.30, “But Simon’s wife’s mother<sup>6</sup> lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once.” No doubt, she would have been helping with the dinner, but she was too sick. So by faith, the men told Jesus about her, no doubt believing in His power, and expecting Him to heal her.

Friend, if you or a loved one has a problem, do what they did and tell Jesus. Go to Him in prayer. That is exactly what we find all through the Word of God. When Jacob was in trouble he turned to his God first, “Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau” (Genesis 32:11).

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<sup>4</sup> This explains why Jesus so often told people to keep quiet (Mark 1:44; 3:12; 5:43; 7:36-37; 8:26, 30; 9:9).

<sup>5</sup> Spurgeon said, “Christ was a house-to-house missionary, as well as an open-air preacher. There is much good to be done by those who know how to visit, and to look after individual cases.”

<sup>6</sup> She’s not called a mother-in-law, she’s called Simon’s wife’s mother. Dr. McGee’s mother-in-law thought that this was a nice way of saying it.

When Hezekiah was in trouble, he first spread Sennacherib's letter before the Lord saying, "deliver us from his hand" (2 Kings 19:19). When Lazarus fell sick, his sisters immediately sent to Jesus saying, "Lord, the one you love is sick" (John 11:3). Now let us do the same. Peter later wrote, "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). The apostle Paul wrote, "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). We live in a world of sin and sorrow, and we will all shed many a tear. So let us turn to Jesus and tell Him our problems.

[Cite or sing the words of the hymn, "Tell it to Jesus."?]

Are you weary, are you heavyhearted?

Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus;

Are you grieving over joys departed?

Tell it to Jesus alone.... I encourage you to read the rest of the words of that hymn later on.

Notice what Jesus did in v.31, "So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her...." Without hesitation or delay, Jesus "took her by the hand, and lifted her up." His touch has power. His grasp means sympathy, tenderness, identification of Himself with us, the communication of upholding, restoring strength. Generally, I like to take a patient by the hand when I pray with them in the hospital. Now notice what happened. "Immediately the fever left her<sup>7</sup>." The cause of her infection was healed immediately, and the fever departed just as quickly.

You know that after a fever leaves you, it takes time for you to regain your strength. But that is not so in this case. Every fever symptom had vanished completely. Notice v.31 goes on to say, "And she served them." In no time at all she was better, and she was able to go to the kitchen and serve the Sabbath meal. Isn't service to our Lord one of the best ways to thank Him for all He has done for us? Are *you* serving Jesus? One way we serve Jesus is by serving others in His name. We serve Jesus by serving in the local church.

Then beginning in v.32, Mark records a number of other healings performed by Jesus. There we read, "At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed." So quickly did the news of the demon-expulsion and victory over a terrible attack of fever spread that people all around regained hope of recovery for their dear ones. The Sabbath was now over, and although it was getting dark, perhaps hundreds of people who needed healing were brought to Jesus. In fact, v.33 says, "And the whole city was gathered together at the door." Capernaum was a good size city. Many had seen or heard of what Christ had done in Judea. Many had seen and reported what happened at the synagogue that day. So there was great expectation regarding what Jesus could do. The Greek verb indicates that they "kept on bringing" (imperfect tense) people to Him, so that He must have gone to sleep at a late hour. They did not consider that Jesus and His disciples already had a long day of worship and service. All they thought about was their loved ones and friends needed Jesus. Curiosity also brought many to the house. Then v.34 says, "Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases...."

Christ's power to heal was never lacking. His love and sympathy never failed. Jesus showed Himself both strong and tender, the Son of God and the servant of men. So we should trust in the loving compassion of Jesus, and trust in His power to intervene on our behalf, and on behalf of others.

By the way, in the next verse we see one reason why Jesus had such power. In v.35 we read, "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." You would think that after such an exhausting Sabbath day,

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<sup>7</sup> "left her" is too mild of a translation. The literal translation is "the fever forsook her." (Garland, p.72).

He would sleep late the next morning. No, we see Jesus rising up early to go out to the nearby Galilean hillside to spend some time with God in prayer. Late hours did not keep Jesus from His appointed meeting with His Father early the next morning. His prayer may well have been a thanksgiving for blessings already received and a petition for strength needed for the Galilean circuit that was about to begin.

What an example for us to follow! It is no surprise that Jesus had such authority and power when His prayer life was so disciplined (see Mark 6:46; 14:32-38.). If you want to have power in your ministry and power in your Christian life, you need to follow the Savior and be disciplined when it comes to getting up and spending time with God in prayer.

Conclusion: So what do you think? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Who else could have such power and authority in His teaching? Since He is God's ultimate prophet, we should listen to Him, and heed His voice. Who else but the Son of God could have had such personal appeal, so that men would forsake all, and follow Him? That being the case, we too, should follow Him. Furthermore, who else but the Son of God could have such power to cast out demons, and heal the multitudes? Yes, I agree with Mark. Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God. Do you believe in Him? If so, say, "Amen." If so, have you followed Him in baptism? Are you following His example, serving others, sharing the gospel. Are you a fisher of men?

Sources: David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary: Mark* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996); William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary: Mark* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975); Alexander Maclaren, *Expositions of Holy Scripture*, Vol. 8 (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977 reprint); J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible*, Vol. 4 (Pasadena, CA: Thru The Bible Radio, 1983); Larry Pierce, *Online Bible* [Ver. 5:80] (Ontario: onlinebible.net, 2021); J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), *Mark: Expository Thoughts on the Gospels* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1993); Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Expository Encyclopedia*, Vol. 13 (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House), 435-436; Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Diligent: Mark* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1987). Other sources listed in the footnotes. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982).

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