

Accept God's Path, Even When It's Hard Just as Jesus accepted suffering as part of God's will, trust God even when life is difficult or doesn't make sense.

Deny Yourself Daily Put aside selfish desires, pride, or comfort to prioritize God's will and serve others.

Take Up Your Cross Be willing to endure challenges or make sacrifices for your faith and for living out the gospel.

Follow Jesus Wholeheartedly Imitate His love, humility, and obedience in every area of your life — at work, at home, and in relationships.

Live for Eternal Purpose Don't chase worldly success or approval if it costs your soul. Choose what honors God, even if it's unpopular.

Boldly Stand for Christ Don't be ashamed of your faith. Be open about following Jesus, especially when it's tough.

TAKEAWAY

True life and identity are found not in self-promotion, but in surrendering your life to Christ.

Discussion Questions—Mark 8:31-38

1. What does it mean to deny yourself?
2. What does it mean to take up your cross?
3. What does it mean to follow Christ?
4. What do you think Christ wants you to give up for the sake of the gospel?
5. What does it mean to be ashamed of Christ?
6. In what ways does Satan tempt us to do the opposite of what Christ wants for us?
7. What attitude or practice do you need to change in obedience to Christ?

ANSWERS: 1) reveals, mission; 2) rebukes; 3) follow; 4) follow

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SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK



Pastor Harry Jones

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Week 24: Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection (Mark 8:31-38)

THE NEW CITY CATECHISM

(Core doctrines of the Christian faith in a question-and-answer format)

Question #2: What is God?

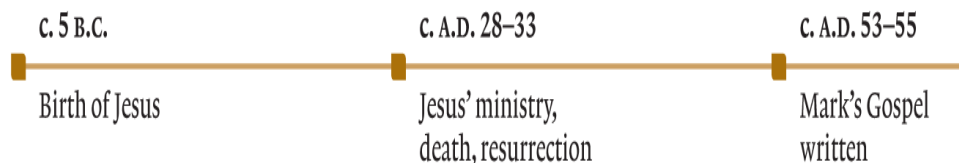
Answer: God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.

PSALM 86:8-10, 15

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God...But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.."

Key memory verse: Mark 10:45 (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"



OUTLINE

The Presentation of the servant	The servant's ministry in Galilee	The servant's journey to Jerusalem	The servant's ministry in Jerusalem
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-9:50	Mark 10	Mark 11-16

AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

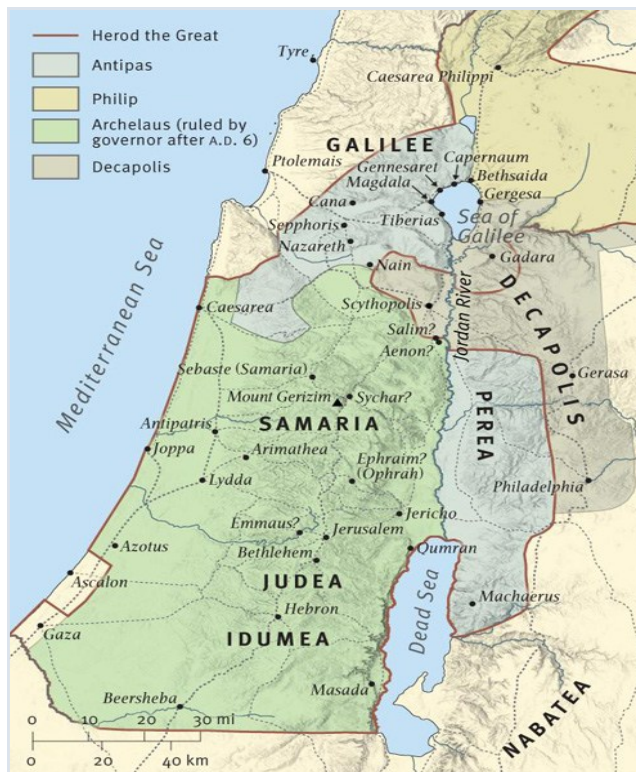
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). Mark's audience, largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs, needed to become familiar with such customs in order to understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world, so Mark explains them.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship. Mark returns often to this theme, categorizing his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. Mark presents and supports this call to discipleship by narrating the identity and teaching of Jesus. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

THE SETTING OF MARK

The events in the book of Mark take place almost entirely within Palestine, from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time Palestine was ruled by the Roman Empire. The book opens with Jesus' baptism by John during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip. It closes with Jesus' death and resurrection about three years later.



Sermon Notes

1. **Mark 8:31-32a**-Jesus _____ His _____ plainly: to come and die, and then rise again.
2. **Mark 8:32b-33**-Peter _____ Jesus; Jesus rebukes Peter.
3. **Mark 8:34**-In light of His mission, Jesus warns those who want to _____ Him.
4. **Mark 8:35-9:1**-Why we must take up our cross and _____ Jesus.