

1. The word "gospel" means "good news". Mark begins his book of good news with 3 statements about Jesus:

(a) by the Old Testament prophets (messengers) (Mark 1:2-3)

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

From v2: messenger (John the Baptist, not Jesus?)

From v3: ... 'Prepare the way of the Lord, ...

↳ Jesus is referred as the Lord here.

(b) by John the Baptist (Mark 1:7)

⁷ 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."

John the Baptist describes Jesus (referring him as the one coming after John) as someone mightier, describing his status as lower than himself (John).

(c) by God himself (Mark 1:11)

¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

God proclaims that Jesus is His son, whom He is well pleased.

Mark 1:21-2:17

2. In chapters 1 and 2 Jesus shows his authority in different situations. When Jesus speaks or acts,

MARK 1:16-20 ~ Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

All Jesus did was call out to Simon, Andrew, James and John.

The scripture did not word out what Jesus said to James and John, but it should be safe to assume that he mentioned more or less the same meaning and general intent as with Simon and Andrew.

Realistically, if anyone said something similar to real fishermen today, no one in their sane mind would willingly follow him or her at all. However, seeing that the four soon-to-be disciples just dropped everything and followed him anyway, Jesus must have shown His authority as someone powerful. — Did He mention that He was the Messiah?

Mark 1:21-22

²¹ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

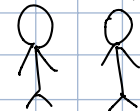
Jesus shows His authority as someone who could have a deeper understanding of the scriptures than that of scribes.

Mark 1:23-28

²³ And immediately 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." ²⁴ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "**Be silent, and come out of him!**" ²⁵ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁶ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁷ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

The man with the unclean spirit here shows us three things about Jesus' authority:

- (i) presumably without Jesus mentioning this prior to this, Jesus had already been known (by the spirit possessing the man, probably consequently all unclean spirits included) as 'the Holy One of God'.
- (ii) Mark 1:21-22 can probably serve as evidence that the ones present in the synagogue at that time did not know who He really was at the time. However, as the unclean spirit managed to identify Jesus upon meet, Jesus already has a reputation among unclean spirits.
- (iii) consequently after Jesus rebuked the man with the unclean spirit, Jesus shows his authority to drive out (or command — v.28) unclean spirits.



何此也!?
(或此是也!?)

Mark 1: 40-45 ~ Jesus Cleanses a Leper

⁴⁰ And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." ⁴² And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

Jesus shows His authority as a healer who is able to heal the leper's leprosy (during this time period leprosy was considered incurable, contagious and lethal — check on this fact).

Mark 2: 1-12 ~ Jesus Heals a Paralytic

¹ And when he returned from Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they had questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Jesus' interaction with the paralytic alone showed two things about His authority:

(i) Jesus was able to cure paralysis

(ii) v. 10 → But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins

3. Even at this early stage, Jesus divided opinions. Some people were amazed by him, while others were enraged.

John 2: 18-22 ~ A Question About Fasting (Pharisees question Jesus for him (& disciples) not fasting)

John 2: 23-3: 6 ~ Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (Pharisees question Jesus & disciples for not observing the Sabbath)

↳ John 2: 23-28 → picking grain (doing work; on Sabbath Jews are expected to not do work)

↳ John 3: 1-6 → healing (also considered work)

What are your early impressions of Jesus?

→ ...

CHAPTER I:

- ① John the Baptist Prepares the Way (Mark 1:1-8)
- ② The Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11)
- ③ The Temptation of Jesus (Mark 1:12-13)
- ④ Jesus Begins His Ministry (Mark 1:14-15)
- ⑤ Jesus Calls the First Disciples (Mark 1:16-20)
- ⑥ Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Spirit (Mark 1:21-28)
- ⑦ Jesus Heals Many (Mark 1:29-34)
- ⑧ Jesus Preaches in Galilee (Mark 1:35-39)
- ⑨ Jesus Cleanses a Leper (Mark 1:40-45)

CHAPTER II:

- ⑩ Jesus Heals a Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)
- ⑪ Jesus Calls Levi (Mark 2:13-17)
- ⑫ A Question About Fasting (Mark 2:18-22)
- ⑬ Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-28)

CHAPTER III:

- ⑭ A Man with a Withered Hand (Mark 3:1-6)