

MARK 1:1

GODSPEL

¹ *The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

This concise topic sentence sets both the subject and tone of Mark's Gospel. We are told that we will be hearing the good news of Jesus of Nazareth who is both the Anointed One and the Son of God. A good topic sentence provides the reader with the author's suggestion for how the account is to be read. So, Mark gives us four hints for the proper reading of this book of the Bible.

The beginning: This account is meant to be part of an on-going story. The narrative is part of a living story that continues to develop after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and even through the present day. It is an entry point for the reader and an invitation to continue on the journey of faith.

Gospel: The reader is to read this book with joyful expectation for it is good news. We are to interpret everything in this account as ultimately leading to human consummation and bliss.

Jesus Christ: This story is about a historical figure. These things really did happen at a specific place and time and in the context of our physical existence. It is a story embedded in the human experience even as its meaning transcends the mundane. This is perhaps the most important tool that Mark gives us for understanding the Gospel. The focus is on Jesus – no other figure, not even ourselves or how we experience Jesus.

The Son of God: Mark wants us to know that Jesus is not only human, but divine. He is the incarnate God and that is good news indeed for those who are anticipating God's promise that they will be his people and he will be their God.

With this four-fold focus from Mark, let us read and apply the on-going story of this good news from God.

Lord, give me the eyes to be able to read your story in the way you would have it read. Lord, give me the heart to receive your story in the way you would have it received. And Lord, give me the will to live out your story in the way you would have me live. Amen.