

## MARK: The Most Important Question

2.4.08

### Expositional Preaching/Teaching

**What is It?** *“The explanation and application of a particular portion of God’s Word.”*

1. The point of the passage is the point of the sermon.
2. Following the ‘author’s intent is key. (*historical, grammatical, biblical principle*)

### Why Do We Preach/Teach this Way?

#### Biblical Reasons:

1. Our concern—it helps make sure we get the Text right.
2. Our conviction—what the Bible is and does in people’s lives.
3. Our calling—“...to make disciples...” (Reverse Engineering)
4. Our context—Christianity in N.A. is largely shallow and biblically ignorant.

#### Practical Reasons:

1. This method ‘teaches’ (in multiple senses of the word).
  - a. Our goal is to feed you *and* to teach you to feed yourself.
2. This method communicates something about our church.
  - a. Our hope is to be a steakhouse—not a drive thru.
3. This method keeps pastors off their personal soapboxes and ensures we get a balanced diet from the Scriptures.
4. This method makes sure we don’t run from difficult doctrines.

#### Questions for Reflection:

*How has this kind of teaching impacted your personal walk with God? Do you have the tendency to ‘look down your nose’ at churches who may not share our conviction? How has this helped you grow in your own ability to interpret and apply the Scriptures? (Don’t be afraid to ask for help!)*

## Expositional Preaching Allows Us to Answer the Most Important Question from the Entire Bible : “Who Is Jesus? So does the Gospel of Mark.

### The Gospel of Mark

*“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1 ESV*

#### What Is It?

A Gospel—one of four ‘good news’ biographies about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Word most often used to celebrate the birth of a new Roman Ruler—“a new era of peace and prosperity has dawned!” “Christ” is not Jesus’ last name. It is a title—Messiah in the OT, meaning God’s anointed King. “Son of God” indicates that it is clear from the outset that it was to be established that Jesus is God.

#### Who Wrote It?

Mark, a man who was an eyewitness for at least part of what is written. Widely accepted that he also used information provided by the Apostle Peter with whom He was associated. Fast moving. “Immediately” is one of Mark’s favorite words. Highlights action over teaching.

### When and Why Was it Written?

Best evidence suggests between 55-65 A.D. making it the earliest Gospel written. 20-30 years after the death/resurrection of Jesus. There was no need at the time because of the oral culture, but the eyewitnesses were beginning to die off. Many believe it was written to encourage Christians in Rome who were beginning to experience persecution under the Roman government.

### What is the Structure/Outline of the Book?

Chapters 1-8 show Jesus’ ministry in Galilee and establish Jesus a teacher and miracle worker. Mark 8:29 (Peter’s Confession of Jesus as the Christ) is the hinge point. Chapters 9-10 cover Jesus’ ministry on the way to Jerusalem. 11-13 cover His ministry in Jerusalem. Chapters 14-16 cover final week of His life: passion, death, resurrection.

### What Are the Major Themes of the Book?

**Son of God:** Jesus demonstrates His divinity in overcoming disease, demons, & death.

Since He is God, He can forgive our sins, change and lead our lives.

**Servant:** As Messiah, He fulfilled the OT promises. He came as a servant King.

He gave us the ultimate model to follow, as well as the means.

**Miracles:** Jesus is a man of power & action, not just words. Verified His claims and gave evidence of the Kingdom that is to come. Nothing/one is hopeless.

**Discipleship:** Jesus taught His disciples in word and action what it meant to follow Him. Jesus teaches us today in the same way. It is not an easy life—but it is the best.

**Spreading the Gospel:** Jesus began with the Jews and then everywhere spreading His message. We should do the same in spreading the Gospel.

### Implications of the Answer to ‘The Most Important Question:’

1. **Changes the Driveshaft/Motivation for Our Lives.**
  - a. We typically do what we do out of pride or fear.
  - b. Jesus destroys our pride and removes our fear.
2. **Gives us a *real* resource for suffering.**
  - a. Jesus has been where we are.
3. **Gives us hope because God cares about our lives.**
  - a. Jesus is the ultimate embodiment of God’s love for the world.

#### Questions for Reflection:

*What is my current answer to the “Most Important Question?” If I believe Jesus is God, am I living like it is true? If not, am I looking to Jesus to change those areas in my life?*

#### Bible Bites for Teaching Your Children at Home:

- The Bible is one Big Story and it all points to Jesus.
- The Bible gives us the answer to the most important question in the world—“Who is Jesus?” The Answer : Jesus is God!

We’d love to help! Email us at [info@crossinglouisville.com](mailto:info@crossinglouisville.com) or call 339.0281 office.

Visit [www.crossinglouisville.com](http://www.crossinglouisville.com) for more helpful resources, including study guides on Mark.

*Works Consulted : The Deliberate Church and 9 Marks of a Healthy Church by Mark Dever, Jesus: God’s Servant . Massimo Lorenzini, Messages by Mark Dever and Steve Hart, Expositor’s Bible Commentary, NIV Application Commentary*