

Mark: The Storyteller's Gospel (Lesson #0)

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Tonight's topic: An overview on the life of Jesus in preparation for the study of Mark

It would be relatively easy to argue that Jesus is the most important and central figure in the history of the world. From a Biblical standpoint much of the Old Testament points towards His coming, while the New Testament tells of His life, ministry, and even future work. Using C.S. Lewis' analogy, every person alive today has a decision to make: *Is Jesus Lord, liar, or lunatic?* For those of us who know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He is at center of who we are (or at least He should be!).

In this study of Mark we are going to take a very personal look at who Jesus was. If there ever was a "silver bullet" to living the Christian life, it is a focus on Jesus. We when are mindful of Jesus' perspective and take on the mind of Jesus, it is amazing how successful we can become in terms of loving people, resisting sin, being an encouragement to others, and living with purpose. As Jesus Himself stated in John 15:5, *apart from Him we can do nothing...*

1. How does the "world" view Jesus? In this regard I am considering the average American.
2. How do you view Jesus? If someone were to ask you what Jesus means to you, what would you say?
3. Looking at the following New Testament "book categories", what do these books tell us about Jesus.

The Gospels
(Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

The Book of Acts

The Epistles
(Roman through Jude)

Revelation

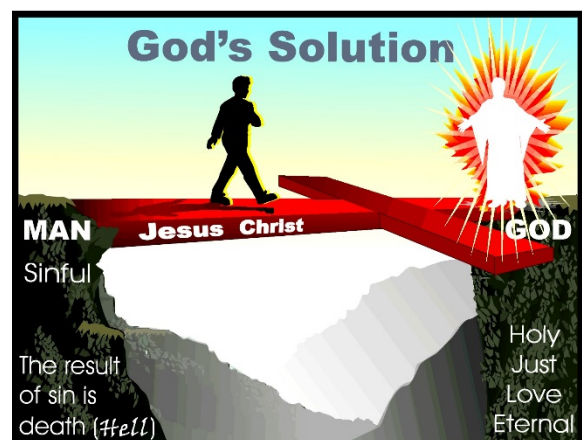
4. One of the most powerful facets of Jesus and His ministry were the sheer number of prophecies He fulfilled. One survey indicates over 450 prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus. In Figure 1 on Page 3 you’ll find a chart that highlights some of the fulfilled prophecies. Look at the passages related to the following and fill in the table below.

Table 1: Ministries of the God-Man

Prophecy	Old Testament Passage(s)	New Testament Passage(s)	Why is this significant?
Birth			
Sinless Life			
Ministry			
Triumphal Entry			
Crucifixion			
Burial			
Resurrection			

5. Part of being a follower of Jesus means that we share with others what Jesus means to us. The *Romans Road* uses passages taken from the book of Romans to help us better understand how we can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus (see graphic below).
- God is holy and **we are all sinners**, so we are **separated from God** (Rom. 3:23).
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - God is just, we all will receive the **payment we deserve**, spiritual death (or Hell) (Rom. 6:23).
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - God is love so He sent His Son, Jesus, to **die in our place**. (Rom. 5:8).
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - The eternal God showed His power by raising His Son, Jesus from the dead, and **He will forgive us and give us eternal life** if we just **trust in His Son**, Jesus. (Romans 10:9, 10; John 3:16).
that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Using a blank piece of paper, practice drawing *The Bridge Illustration* as a tool for sharing with someone how Jesus is essential for us to have a relationship with God and live with Him forever.



6. NEXT BIBLE STUDY: **Wednesday, February 13 @ 7 PM**; we’ll study the first chapter of Mark.

FULFILLED MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST’S LIFE		
PROPHECY		FULFILLMENT
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).	BORN OF A VIRGIN	After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18).
Out of you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, shall come forth the One to be Ruler in Israel (Micah 5:2).	BORN IN BETHLEHEM	Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea (Matthew 2:1).
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding (Isaiah 11:2).	FAMED FOR WISDOM	Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52).
He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth (Isaiah 53:9).	LIVED A SINLESS LIFE	Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth (1 Peter 2:22).
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. The lame shall leap like a deer (Isaiah 35:5–6).	HEALED THE NEEDY	The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear (Matthew 11:5).
The Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor (Isaiah 61:1).	PREACHED GOOD NEWS	The poor have the gospel preached to them (Matthew 11:5).
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).	ENTERED JERUSALEM IN TRIUMPH	They brought the colt to Jesus, and He sat on it . . . Then those who followed, cried, saying, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! (Mark 11:7–9).

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST’S DEATH AND RESURRECTION		
PROPHECY		FULFILLMENT
My own familiar friend in whom I trusted has lifted up his heel against me (Psalm 41:9).	BETRAYED BY A FRIEND	Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him (Mark 14:10).
They weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12).	SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER	And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15).
He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth (Isaiah 53:7).	SILENT WHEN ACCUSED	Pilate asked, “See how many things they testify against You!” But Jesus still answered nothing (Mark 15:4–5).
I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting (Isaiah 50:6).	BEATEN AND SPAT UPON	Then some began to spit on Him, and the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands (Mark 14:65).
He was numbered with the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).	CRUCIFIED WITH SINNERS	With Him they also crucified two robbers (Mark 15:27).
They will look on Me whom they pierced (Zechariah 12:10).	HIS SIDE PIERCED	But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear (John 19:34).
He made His grave with the rich at His death (Isaiah 53:9).	BURIED WITH THE RICH	A rich man from Arimathaea, named Joseph, asked for the body of Jesus. Then Joseph laid it in his own new tomb (Matthew 27:57–60).
You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption (Psalm 16:10).	ROSE FROM THE DEAD	The angel said to them, “You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!” (Mark 16:6).
You have ascended on high (Psalm 68:18).	ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN	He was received up into heaven (Mark 16:19).
The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand” (Psalm 110:1).	EXALTED AT GOD’S RIGHT HAND	Jesus Christ has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God (1 Peter 3:22).

Figure 1: Selected Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus