

The Gospel of Mark  
The Beginning of the Gospel  
Mark 1:1-8

In a time when many of us are thinking about changes that need to be made in our lifestyles, our habits, our priorities, and even our desires, it is helpful for followers of Jesus to return to the true power behind that change—the heart-changing, regenerative power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to be reminded that the any change of eternal significance will only come through faith in Jesus Christ and His gospel.

1. The gospel begins even before Jesus.
2. The gospel invites us into repentance.
3. The gospel calls us into humility.

I believe though that my success will be determined not by my will or strength or personality, but through recognizing that God is faithful to his promises, that His grace calls me to constant repentance, and that His gospel should humble me to the point where every virtue I develop is developed in order to make much of Jesus. I want to live the kind of life Paul wrote about to the Galatians, when he wrote in 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

For further consideration:

What is the advantage of having four gospels, all telling essentially the same story? How does John the Baptist function as a transitional figure from the Old Testament to the new covenant? How do John’s lifestyle and preaching style compare with current notions of how to gain a following and grow a church? Why do you think John gained a large following? What was his message? How did that message eventually contribute to his death? What things in your life need to change in order for you to make much of Jesus? How are we to approach conversations with people who think differently than we think? How do we articulate a biblical worldview with grace and humility and avoid arrogance and obstinance?