The Good News is Here

{Mark 1:1-3}

(January 5th, 20200)

[I] The Setting

[A] Who wrote the Gospel of Mark?

Mark is mentioned eight times in the NT. His home is considered to be the first church.

Mark’s older cousin was Barnabas--fellow worker with Paul

Mark accompanies Barnabas and Saul as an assistant on the first missionary journey

Mark is best known for his relationship with Peter--Peter refers to Mark as “my son”

[B] When was Mark written? In the mid-60s. The first of the four gospels to be written.

[C] Where was Mark written? Rome

[D] To whom was Mark written?

Mark wrote primarily for Gentile readers--Roman Gentiles in particular

[II] Noteworthy characteristics of Mark

[A] Mark is the shortest and most compact Gospel

Allegro narrative (brisk or rapid tempo)—a sense of urgency. The most filmable gospel.

[B] Every episode is about Jesus--except for two about John the Baptizer [1:2-8; 6:14-29]

We learn who Jesus is not so much by what he says as from what He does

[C] The surprising, “upside-down” Gospel

[D] The authority and sovereign freedom of Jesus

He reorders spiritual, social, cultural, and political priorities

[E] Mark also most portrays the humanness of Jesus--He is authoritative and vulnerable

[F] The Servant of the Lord--“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” [Mark 10:45]

[G] The cost of discipleship

[H] The centrality of faith

[I] The Life of Faith is a journey—a way

[III] The text

Mark seems to be out of breath from the outset--lays his cards right on the table

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

[A] A brief confession of faith

[1] Beginning--the first word of the Gospel

The introduction of Jesus is as momentous as the creation of the world

[2] Gospel--commonly used of reports of victory from the battlefield

[3] Jesus--Yehoshua—Joshua—“God is salvation”

[4] Christ—“an anointed royal figure”--the Messiah

[5] The Son of God--the chief artery of Mark’s Gospel

[B] Jesus is the fulfillment of a long-running narrative of redemption

The kingdom that God inaugurates is bodily present in Jesus of Nazareth

“The whole story of the world—and how we fit into it—is most clearly understood through a careful, direct look at the story of Jesus.” [Tim Keller]