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COME FOLLOW ME
The Gospel of Mark

*April 2026 Sermon Series with Pastor Jeremy
Maurice Reformed Church*

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

WEEK OF APRIL 5-11

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Come Follow Me | The Gospel of Mark
"Who Is Jesus?"

Mark 1:1-11, 1:23-24, 14:60-62, 15:1-5, 15:33-39, 16:1-8

1. J _____ i _____ t _____ S _____ o _____ G _____

Mark 1:1-11, 1:23-24, 15:39

2. J _____ i _____ t _____ S _____ o _____ M _____

Mark 14:17-21, 14:61-62

1. J _____ i _____ t _____ p _____ l _____

Mark 16:1-11, Exodus 12, 1 Corinthians 5:7

Sermon Doodles & Illustrations

MONDAY, APRIL 6

Mark 1 — Jesus is the son of God

Welcome to our series on the book of Mark and learning what it means to follow Jesus and be a disciple. In our world today we follow people and have people who follow us all of the time. On social media it is possible that we don't even really know most of the people we are "following." When I looked at my Facebook, I have 1200+ followers and follow 320 groups and individuals. On Instagram I am following 410 people and have another 224 following me. The truth is, I'm not sure how much I really know about many of the people that I am following and that are following me.

In our passage today we see four instances where Jesus is described. The first instance is from the author of Mark as he declares that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that is confirmed when God himself says "This is my beloved Son with You I am well pleased." John the Baptist, the one prophesied to prepare the way for Jesus, declares that Jesus is mightier than he and that John is not even worthy to untie the strap of Jesus' sandals. Finally, we hear from a rather odd person to testify about Jesus when a demon possessed man declares that Jesus is the Holy One of God.

In chapter 1 alone we have a good picture of who Jesus is. Jesus is the Son of God, sent from God to this earth and He is mightier than the one who prepared His way. It's important for us to know that Jesus is God, which means He is divine. Because of His divinity, Jesus was able to live His life on this broken world without sin. Jesus was tempted in every way like we have been tempted yet never denied the direction of His Father. Jesus knew physical sadness, hunger, frustration, anger, sorrow and thirst, yet He did not sin in all that He did or said. This is who Jesus is and I think we can agree for this reason alone He is a great example to follow.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Mark 14:1-42 — what Jesus calls Himself

If someone asked you to describe yourself, what would you say? What names or descriptions would you use so that someone got to know you better? I could say that I am a pastor, a grandfather, a father, a husband, a runner (sort of), a disc golf player (not a good one), and most importantly, a follower of Christ. Each of these describing words would help you understand the relationships I am in, what I do as a profession, and what I like to do in some of my spare time.

In our passage today we see that Jesus describes himself in a couple of different ways. Whether the woman with the ointment knew she was anointing Jesus in preparation for His death or not, we see that Jesus uses this action to passively mention that His death is coming. We see later at the last supper that Jesus mentions himself as the Teacher and specifically calls himself the Son of Man.

Multiple times in this passage Jesus uses the phrase Son of Man. This declaration of Jesus is just as important as the name He was called yesterday. Being the Son of Man meant that Jesus was in fact human. Jesus lived in this earthly body like you and I, Jesus did experience all the sin and temptation that we face, and He skinned His knees and possibly even struggled with tasks. I'm guessing not everything came easy for him, because he was like us. Jesus obediently faced each one of those struggles and tasks in the power of God. As He faced the hardest task of death on the cross we see the importance of His humanity. It was because He was human that He could be the once for all perfect sacrifice in our place.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Mark 14:43-72 — The Question From the Religious Leaders

Have you ever wondered what the people who do not like you or seem to be against you call you? Maybe you don't have to wonder and you have heard some of the ways they have described you to others. Most of the time these names can be negative, rude, and even used to mock us.

In this passage we see that Jesus is once again called some names and asked some questions about who He really is. First we see that Judas calls him Rabbi. This seems like a slap in the face for someone who is there to hand his teacher over to the authorities for no good reason. The religious leaders get frustrated with His silence and then point blank ask Jesus if he is the Son of the Blessed and Jesus confirms He is while declaring He is also the Son of Man. This declaration was enough for the religious leaders to physically harm Jesus and set their sights firmly on His death.

It doesn't feel good to be mocked by someone does it? It cuts deep, especially when it is someone who you thought you could trust or that you respected. On the other hand it is almost expected from those you know that do not like you. For those who did not like Jesus it really didn't matter what Jesus said, for they were so bent on His death that nothing was going to stop them. Jesus simply told them the truth about Himself whether they agreed with it or not. If you are ever in a place where people are calling you names or putting you down, take a moment and declare the things that God says. You are His child and You are dearly loved.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Mark 15:1-20 — *The Question From Pilate*

Have you ever experienced someone talking behind your back? Now all of a sudden the people who hear those things about you think they know something about you and this can go one of two ways. Either they can believe what they heard about you and respond based on that or they can come to you and ask you if that thing they heard was true. Be honest, what do you do when you hear something about someone else?

In this passage Jesus was confronted by Pilate. Pilate had heard some accusations from the Jews and then he turns to Jesus to see what is true. Pilate asks Jesus if Jesus is the King of the Jews and Jesus responds with a strange response, "you have said so." It is believed that this phrase was used to get Pilate upset that someone other than Caesar would dare to claim kingship. The phrase sticks because Jesus is beaten and then mocked as the King of the Jews. We know now that Jesus is not just King of the Jews, but He is the King of Kings.

It can hurt when people talk behind your back or call you names that others believe without getting the whole story. Jesus took all of this in stride because he knew that the final action was going to be His death. Jesus didn't get worked up about it or try to fight it, but in all reality probably just wanted it to be done. Yes, He was going to remain faithful and yes that meant death. What we can learn from Jesus today is that no matter what others say and no matter what others think of us, our job is to remain faithful to God.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Mark 15:21-47 — The Words From the Crowd
and the Centurian

This passage holds one of my favorite and I believe most powerful statements of who Jesus is in the book of Mark. First though we have a few other comments about Jesus to sift through. We see that Pilate ended up sticking with the King of the Jews title which was put above the head of Jesus. Those crucified with Jesus hurled insults at Him. Those walking by made fun of Him and mocked Him. They laughingly called Him the King of Israel and wanted Him to display His supposed power by coming down from the cross.

It didn't take too long for Jesus to take His last breath, and when He did, the veil in the Temple was torn and the ground shook & then a declaration was made. The Roman Centurion standing guard declared, " Truly this man was the Son of God". This Roman had no reason to declare who Jesus was. He had heard those passing by mockingly call Jesus these names and now after seeing the death of Jesus he was able to respond with a pure heart that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

As Christians we may have people walk by us and mock us for our faith as we talked about earlier this week, but as we keep living our lives for Jesus there will be times when someone will get it and see who Jesus is through us. Do not give up living and speaking the way Jesus instructs us in the Bible, because we will see those around us respond like the Roman Centurion at some point.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Mark 16:1-13 — *The Resurrection of Jesus*

As we finish out our week, we look at the resurrection of Jesus and remember the names that Jesus was called. Pilate called Him the King of the Jews and He is the promised King to sit on the throne from the line of David, but Jesus will be sitting on the heavenly throne and not an earthly one. Jesus is the Son of God and we saw this aspect of Jesus as He lived His whole earthly life without sin and in complete obedience to the Father even to death on the cross.

Jesus was also the Son of Man. He did become human and He did experience the pain of physical death. He was dead and laid in the tomb. He didn't escape any of the physical struggles because of His divinity, but He faced them head on and walked through them with the peace that comes from God. By the divine power of God, Jesus was raised back to life and He met with His followers. Over the next few days, He would prove to them who He was and they would know that He truly was who He said He was.

As we close out this week I pray that you now know who is inviting you to follow Him. All of the names that Jesus is called are important names that lead us to understanding Him more. Each one has power and importance and as we've seen this week they are uttered by believers and previously unbelievers alike. With that in mind, I invite you on this journey to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Over the next two weeks we will train and then be sent out to go and do in the Kingdom of God.

