



May 1, 2022
Kevin Sneed
Mark 1:1
Who is Jesus?

"The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God..." - Mark 1.1

1. As we kick off our new series in the Gospel of Mark, let's start out by discussing this quote from Kevin's message.

"Audiences that claim a Christian identity but have grown complacent and have accommodated to social patterns of their surrounding culture will be brought up short and confronted by Mark's portrayal, because it is anything but comforting...It is for churches who have heard Jesus's teaching and have grown lax in giving attention to it, with the result that their social dynamics and community patterns have gradually been shaped by cultural values of power-seeking, prestige-questing, and social-credential accumulation. Mark aims to jolt such communities back to a faithfully kingdom-oriented reality." - Tim Gombis

2. Kevin breaks the story of Scripture into 3 phases: Creation, Desecration and New Creation. What does it mean to you that "The Beginning" in Mark 1:1 has a direct connection to "The Beginning" in Genesis 1:1?
3. In the ancient world, the word "gospel" or "good news" was a secular term used to celebrate the arrival of a new Emperor or the birth of a new coming King. Or it was used to spread the good news of a strategic and decisive military victory. Mark's gospel is about Jesus of Nazareth. What are some false gospels that we have wrongly followed in our modern world that over promise and under deliver?
4. "Jesus the Messiah" and "Jesus the Christ" are different ways of saying the same thing: Jesus is the culmination of Israel's story. What does this tell you

about the attributes, the plan, the sovereignty of God? How might this encourage you today?

5. Mark's use of the term "Son of God" to describe Jesus has secular origins. Son of God in the Roman world was in reference to Caesar Augustus as the Son of God. How is it significant to you personally that Mark 1:1 answers the question, "Who is Jesus?" as the culmination of three stories: The creation story, Israel's story, and Rome's story.

6. Was there anything new you learned in this study of Mark 1:1 that helps you answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" In light of what you learned, share with your group something that either encouraged you or challenged you?