

**Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 2005: First words of Jesus in Mark: Mark 1:14-20**

**One of the most precious**...Bible....is how God the HS uses so many diff  
To present His Word to us

**Take the four Gospel writers**

Matthew .....from solid Jewish stock.....yet worked for the hated Romans as

Mark.....a young man who depended mainly on Peter for his material

Luke.....a gentile and a Doctor...presenting a scholarly documentation of the facts

John.....Fisherman become beloved disciple.....seeks to present the depths of who Jesus

**All this is why**.....we have in the Gospels...the same story told in 4 diff ways  
And it is also why.....each Author brings an emphasis...that the HS has enabled them  
to see

**We have seen that in recent weeks**.....as we have looked....1<sup>st</sup> recorded words of..  
They are all different.....their chosen starting point.....Is diff

**Mark is a good example of this**

He is not concerned about the earthly beginnings.....like Matt and Luke  
Or the pre-existence.....like John

**He simply wants to get across to his reader**

That Jesus the Christ.....is God's good news for our world

**It was when Mark wrote.....still is today**

**Turn your Bibles to Mark 1 verse 1**.....

Now look down further to v14/15....find Mark's first recorded words of Jesus..v14-15

Gospel in v1.....exactly the same word.....translated "good news" in v14  
Euangelion.....evangelism

We have given it a predominantly Christian meaning.....with poss..only non-church use  
→”That’s the gospel truth”.....meaning

**When Mark wrote.....the word gospel.....**had a more specialised meaning  
....esp for the Jews

**THEY knew**...that this same Greek word was used in the Greek translation...OT  
To proclaim the news of victory from the battlefield

**So what his Jewish readers heard Mark saying was→**

*I have some glad tidings of a great victory from the battlefields of life to give you  
And its found in the person of Jesus the Christ...Son of God.*

**Then he takes them back into the OT scriptures.....**their Bible  
To the prophecy found in Isaiah.....and goes on to tell them about John...  
who had come and did what God said would happen

**HE PREPARED THE WAY for the Good News One**

**Now we need to realise**.....John was extremely popular:::

**He was seen as the real thing**

People were beginning to follow him.....**Even** to asking him if he was the Messiah....  
When he was thrown into prison.....many,,,,confused & disappointed

*No need to think that way says Mark.....*AFTER he had baptised....job was....  
As John Baptist himself said.....(Jn 3:30)”He must become greater. I must become less”

**Indeed.....as we look at the story of John.....**can see that God used his imprisonment  
To allow the focus to swing from John to Jesus

**So Mark writes in 1:14** *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee,  
proclaiming the good news of God*

Here we have that Greek word again....euangelion→ good news....gospel

**And now it is Jesus Himself proclaiming it**

Jesus announcing “glad tidings of the great victory in the battlefields of life”

**And what is the substance of these great tidings??**

It’s a message so import.....that Mark quotes Jesus directly

His first recorded words of Jesus express the substance of this good news==>

*..v15 The time has come, the Kingdom of God is near*

**What you have been waiting for is here.....**

God’s kingdom of power and might and righteousness has invaded earth

God is even now conquering evil.....Rescuing captive mankind....Returning man to

*(During last century.....our world witnessed many times....the return of people rule to  
Philippines and people power.....Solidarity.....Fall of the Berlin Wall---all  
excitement*

*But such Kingdoms come and go.....God’s Kingdom is here.....Never fade)*

**But Jesus does not stop there.....**

God’s Kingdom is near.....But to be part of it

Something is needed from all people.....REPENT and believe the Good news.

**It sounds so much like John the Baptist.....**

You may remember....last year.....preached on the different styles ...preaching..

**Have** even heard some say that Jesus didn’t worry about asking people to repent.....

**Repentance involves a recognition that we are wrongdoers.....**

And a desire to turn away from such a lifestyle.....and to seek to live in a way that  
pleases.....

*(I was reading in the West.....results of a survey amongst young.....Turning away  
from Christianity.....No call for repentance.....Sin and Salvation.....)*

Repentance is a necessary part of becoming a Christian

**It doesn't necessary mean that we berate.....for past sins.....**

**But it does** mean an honest acceptance....of wrong in our life that only God can deal  
.and a decision to seek...

**And along with repentance**.....need to believe in this Good News

**Which is to believe in Jesus**.....His Person.....Power.....Promises....Presence

**Straight after this**.....Jesus turned to a group of Fishermen.....*Said, come, follow me..  
and I will make you fishers*

**These were** men who obviously believed this message of good news

**People like you and me**.....who thro repentance....& belief.....Had grasped Kingdom

**And for such Jesus has an ongoing task**

**It is not enough for us to accept the good news**....WE are now commissioned to share

**They were fisherman**.....that was their work.....

And we know that often they went....

**But from that moment on**...their greatest desire was to share the good news

**The same stands for us**....Whatever our occupation....

We have good news to share....as we travel.....

*(fireworks illustration.....Aust .....Have a go ya mug !! )*

*from Inspirational Aust Stories....p34*

