



God's Grand Story

Mark 1:1-28; 12:29-34

1 Peter 1:3; 2:23-24

The Big Idea: The story of Jesus as told by Peter.

The Bottom Line: The kingdom of God is near. Everyone is invited.

Introduction:

For the next few weeks, I want to tell you a true story. This story should have died in Nero's Rome. But didn't. It's the story of Jesus as narrated by...

Simon Peter

For Peter, it was embarrassing at the time, but for 30 years, Peter told it anyway. It documented his greatest failure. Because his failure was part of the greatest story...

The Story of Jesus of Nazareth

When Peter was in his 50s, imprisoned in Rome, he decided to tell it one last time but not to an audience. He told it to his traveling companion.

The story was dictated, recorded, and edited by...

John Mark

As far as Mark knew, he wasn't writing the Bible. He was documenting Peter's experience with Jesus. This is Peter's story, and it ultimately became known as ...

The Gospel of Mark

Many believe the gospels and other biblical content are important because they're in the Bible, but the reality is, the Bible did not make them important. They were included in the Bible because they were already important on their own. This account of Jesus' life and all other biblical content was a valuable resource to many churches hundreds of years before the Bible was ever compiled.

This is Peter's story. We can roll our eyes if we want to, but Peter would shrug. He'd say, "This isn't something I read about or was told about. This is what I experienced. It's what I heard. I saw with my own eyes."

Mark 1:1, “The beginning of the gospel [good news] about Jesus Christ the Son of God.”

Tension:

Growing up, I was encouraged to focus on the big idea that Jesus died for my sins. I was told, “If you believe, you’ll go to heaven. Be good in the meantime.”

But, Peter would have looked at us like we were crazy.

Not because that isn’t true. It is. Peter would have looked at us like we’re crazy because it isn’t the point. We’re not the center of this universe. There’s something bigger going on here than us.

Right up front, Peter highlights the point of Jesus’s life and teaching. Here it is:

*“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee,
proclaiming the good news of God.”
- Mark 1:14*

These verses play a crucial role in Peter’s story. They are the reference point for all subsequent mentions of the preaching of Jesus. This is the essential content announced in v. 1 as the subject of Mark’s book—the news of the coming of the Messiah, the Son of God.

Which is? That Jesus died for sin? Nope. He hadn’t. His death and resurrection punctuated the validity of what he preached before all that.

Here’s the message Peter heard over and over:

Truth:

*“The time has come,” Jesus said.
“The kingdom of God is near.
Repent and believe the good news!”
- Mark 1:15*

God's kingship. God's rule. The kingdom is near because the King is in town!
Wherever the king goes, the kingdom goes.

The Kingdom of God is the point. Salvation is a means to get us into the Kingdom.
We make everything all about us, where the Word of God is all about the Kingdom
of God.

And guess what ...

Everybody is invited.

Read Mark 1:16-28.

Conclusion:

And so, it began. I don't know what kind of religion you grew up with, if any. I
don't know what version of Christianity you were exposed to, if any, but Peter
wants you to know right up front: The arrival of Jesus was good news.

Mark 1:1, "The beginning of the gospel [good news] about Jesus Christ, the Son of
God."

Peter wants you to know because God came near and you're not far. If you have
doubts, we're just getting started. I doubted as well. Then, I experienced the mercy
of the King, but that comes later. For now, it's enough to know ...

Mark 1:15, "The time has come! The KINGDOM OF GOD is near. REPENT and
BELIEVE the good news!"

Application:

Repent and believe the good news.

Next Steps:

- Memorize Mark 1:15.
- Repent & Believe the Good News.

Other References: 1 Peter 2:23-24; 1 Peter 1:3

Discussion questions for group this week:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?

4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....