



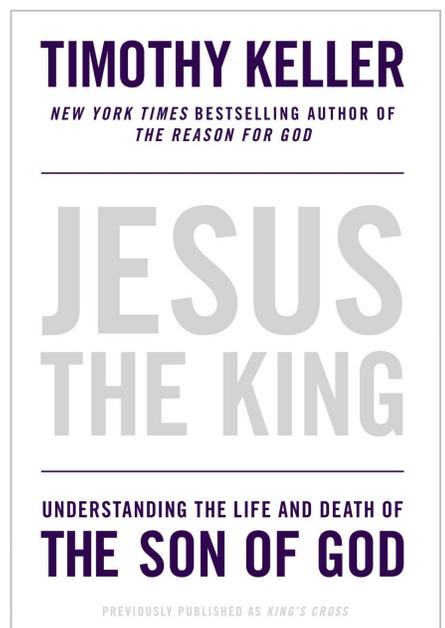
Jesus the King *Mark's Gospel*

Most of us are trying to make sense out of this world and our lives in this world. We'd love for our lives to be rich and fulfilling, meaningful in spite of the common chaos that comes our way. Honestly, at times we get the impression that our lives are out of order, but we're not sure what the order should be. I believe the best way to make sense of our lives, in this sometimes crazy and hostile world, is to take a careful look at the life and story of Jesus. Looking at His life will beautifully make sense of our lives.

Mark unfolds his telling of Jesus' life at breakneck speed with a sense of urgency and it is filled with action. He focuses on the words and the actions of Jesus, but especially the action. Picture in your mind Mark, aka John Mark, hanging out with Peter and excitedly listening to all Peter's first-hand accounts of who Jesus is and what Jesus did. Essentially, Mark becomes Peter's secretary and translator – telling the good news from Peter's first-hand knowledge.

Mark's gospel can be divided into two major groups. Chapters 1-8 are an exploration of who Jesus is (What is his identity?), leading to a clear conviction that He is the King. Then, chapters 9 – 16 are the twist in the story, unexpected for a King: His *purpose* is the Cross. Even this division is helps us understand Jesus and understand ourselves. Identity first, then purpose—*being then doing*. This is how this gospel flows and is how our lives, as gospel people and Jesus' followers, are designed to flow—a divine order that orients us as Kingdom people.

Respected author, apologist and pastor Timothy Keller says, "*The whole story of the world—and of how we fit into it—is most clearly understood through a careful, direct look at the story of Jesus.*" Your elders and I believe that we'll be blessed as a church and as Christ followers by this careful look at Jesus' life as seen through Mark's gospel.



We'll start our series on Dec 26th and complete it on Easter Sunday. We encourage you to read the gospel several times thru. If you'd like to delve deeper in your study, we recommend Jesus the King by Timothy Keller and published by Penguin Books 2013, available in paperback or on kindle.

Here is the structure of this series, tracking with Keller's commentary:

Part 1 – Jesus' Identity	- "Being First"	
1 – The Dance	Mk 1:1-13 – Dec 26	Dave *Online*
2 – The Call	Mk 1:14-31 – Jan 2	Shawn
3 – The Healing	Mk 1:35-2:12 – Jan 9	Allyson
4 – The Rest	Mk 2:23-3:6 – Jan 16	
5 – The Power	Mk 4:35-4:41 – Jan 23	Les
6 – The Waiting	Mk 5:21-42 – Jan 30	Les
7 – The Stain	Mk 7:1-7:23 – Feb 6	Shawn
8 – The Approach	Mk 7:24-37 – Feb 13	Allyson
9 – The Turn	Mk 8:27-9:1 – Feb 20	
Part 2 – Jesus' Purpose	- "Then Doing"	
10 – The Mountain	Mk 9:2-29 – Feb 27	Matt
11 – The Trap	Mk 10:17-27 – Mar 6	Shawn
12 – The Ransom	Mk 10:28-45 – Mar 13	Les
13 – The Temple	Mk 11:1-18 – Mar 20	Rex
14 – The Feast	Mk 14:12-25 – Mar 27	Matt
15 – The Cup	Mk 14:32-36 – Apr 3	Allyson
16 – The Sword	Mk 14:43-52 – Apr 10	Shawn
17 – The End (Good Friday)	Mk 14:53-15:39 – Apr 15	Charlie
18 – The Beginning (Easter)	Mk 15:37-16:7 – Apr 17	

For those who want to dig into this with your small group or with some friends, there is an exceptional study guide by Timothy Keller and Spence Shelton, published by Zondervan in 2015. This guide coordinates with this series. Jesus is on display in nine sessions and those who are just beginning to explore Christianity may find this study a compelling look at Jesus.

Finally, as we approach the last couple weeks of this series—as we get closer to the cross—we encourage you to use the YouVersion Bible App and search for the "Jesus the King" nine-day Easter devotional.

