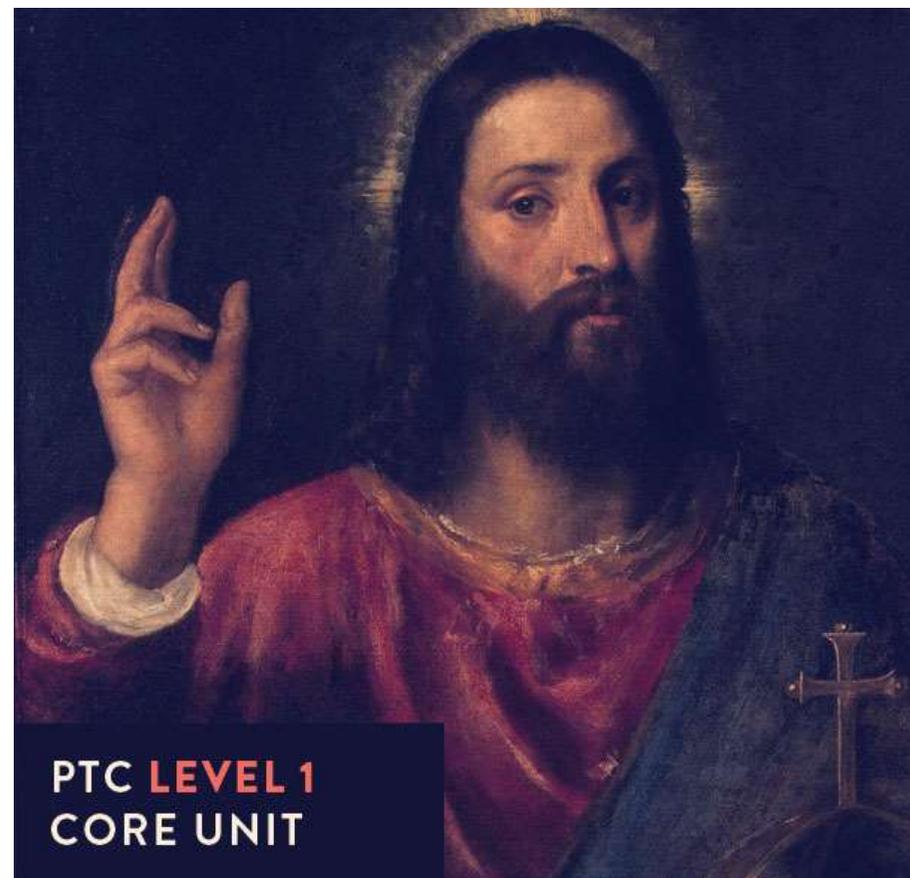
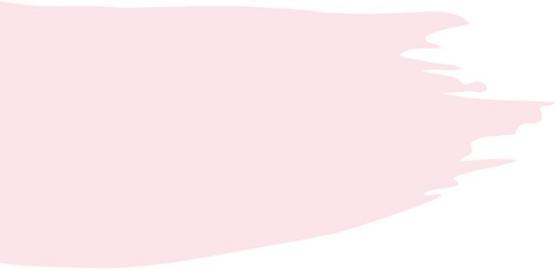


Unit 1:

***The gospel
and the
Gospels***



PTC **LEVEL 1**
CORE UNIT



***Can you tell a person the
gospel of Jesus in
5 minutes?***

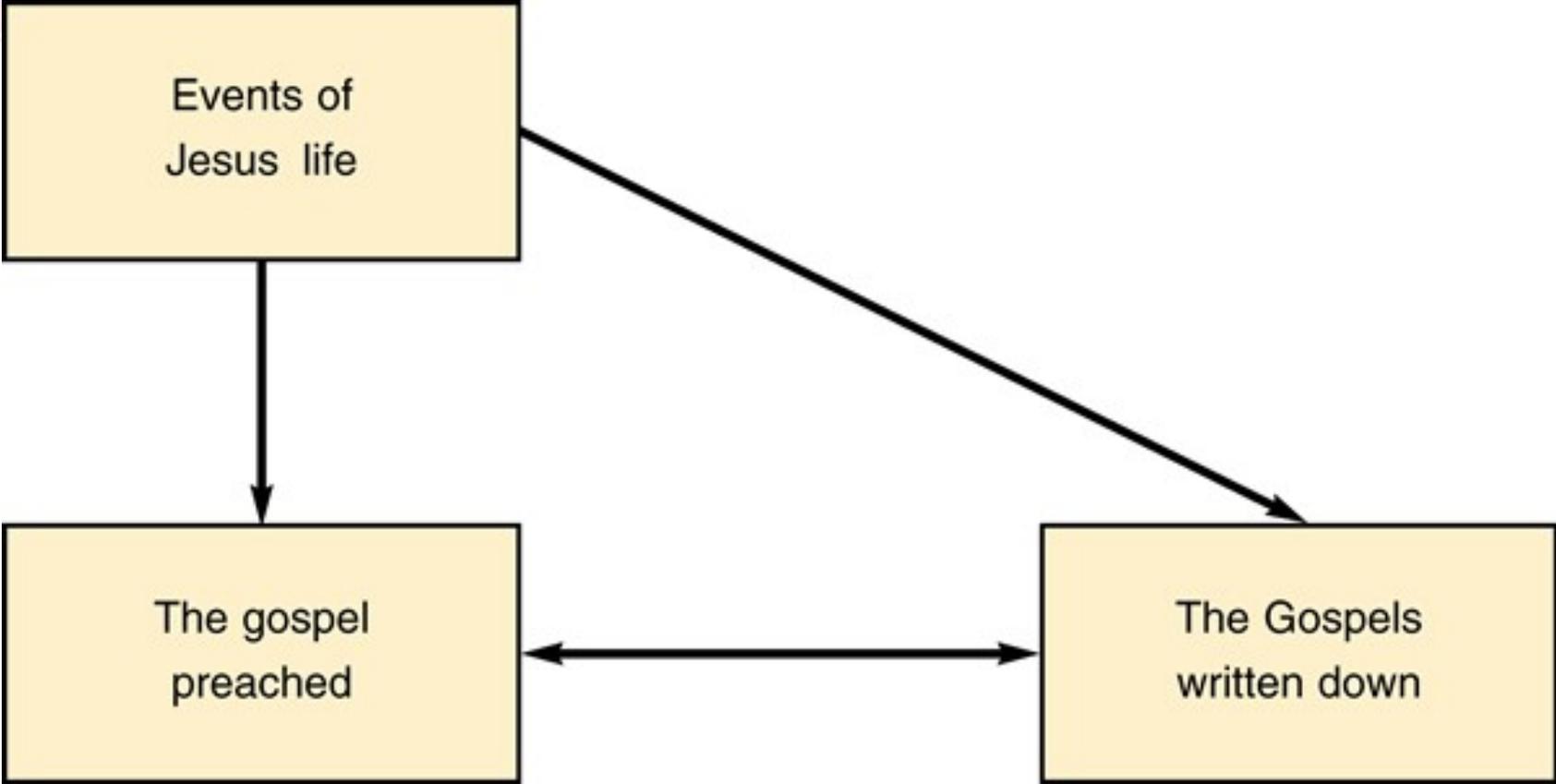
I. Gospels: Time and Style

- **Mark between 60-65 AD.**
- **Matthew around 70 AD.**
- **Luke around 70 AD.**
- **John after 70 AD.**

NOTE: The gospels were not around when the churches in Acts were planted!

I. Gospels: Time and Style

- Different writing style compared to a Wiki on e.g. Princess Diana.
- Report of selected accounts of Jesus' life, the purpose, and a detailed account of his death.
- Supporting the ongoing preaching and proclamation of the Good News.



2. + 3. *Four Gospels*

- The gospel: the message about the person and work of Jesus.
- The gospel: a report of the historical truth of the life of Jesus.
- It provokes a response in faith and obedience (Phil 1:27).

Philippians 1:27a

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

2. + 3. *Four Gospels*

Four common objectives:

- **inform about the historical Jesus.**
- **challenge unconverted readers to respond.**
- **strengthen Christians in their faith and in living out their faith.**
- **enable Christians to share the Good News.**

2. + 3. *Four Gospels*

Different audiences:

- **Matthew and John → Jews**
- **Mark and Luke → Gentiles**

NOTE: All gospel writers seem to expect the reader to have knowledge of the Old Testament.

2. + 3. *Four Gospels*

- **Synoptic gospels: Mt, Mk, Lk**
(follow the same synopsis or structure)
 - **Who is Jesus? (Mark 1:1-9:13)**
 - **Why did he come? (Mk 9:14-16:20)**
- **John's gospel differs substantially in structure in order to minister to Jews.**



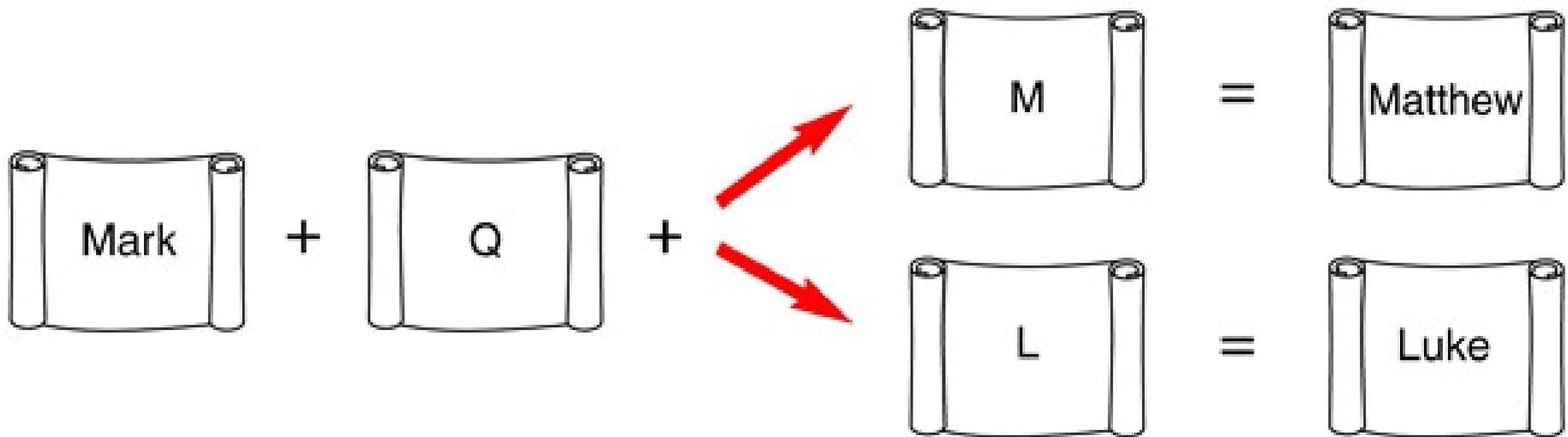
3. Synoptic Gospels

How the synoptic gospels came about... → Eye-witness reports!

- Mark reports Peter's account.**
- Luke relies on careful research.**
- Matthew was a disciple.**



3. Synoptic Gospels



4. Mark's Gospel

- **A narrative about the Kingdom of God with Jesus being the main character.**
- **Mark's two purposes ...**
 - 1) **to give an account of Jesus' life.**
 - 2) **to demonstrate reactions to Jesus.**

4.1 Mark's Gospel Account

Part 1

Mark 1:1 – 8:26

In Galilee ...

- His teaching.
- His miracles.
- The gathering of a group of disciples.
- The beginning of opposition.

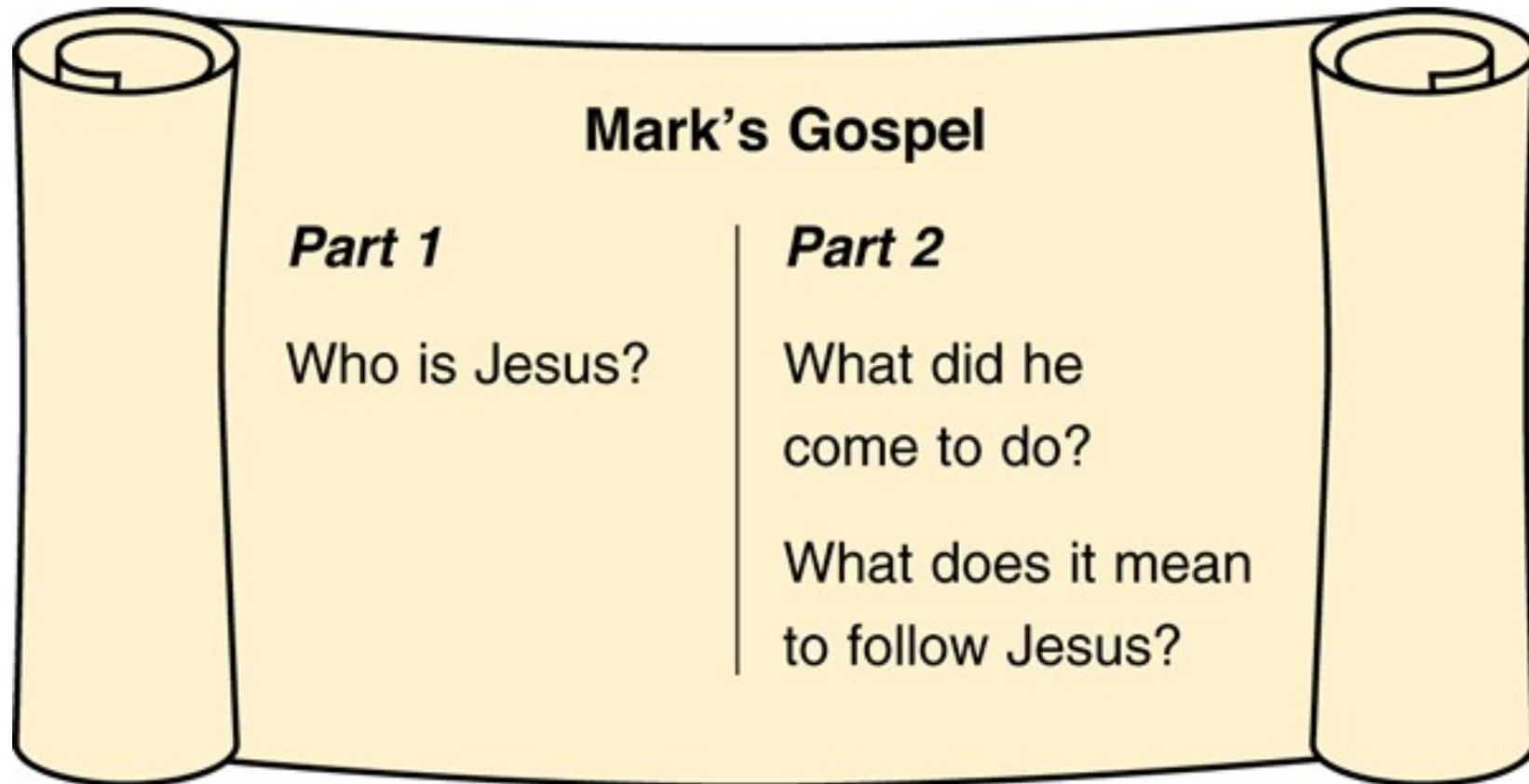
Part 2

Mark 8:31 – 16:8

Towards Jerusalem ...

- More teaching.
- More miracles.
- Opposition hardens.
- Passion, death, resurrection.

4.1 Mark's Gospel Account



4.1 Reactions to Mark's Gospel

Disciples

Struggle to understand and to follow Jesus.

Crowds

Are usually amazed at Jesus.

Individuals

Often recipients of healing.

Opposition

Ever increasing until “successful”.

4.1 Reactions to Mark's Gospel

The reader is drawn into the story, interacts with the characters and so is challenged to ask:

- How would we have responded if we had been there?
- Would we have understood, do we understand today?
- How then do we respond to this Jesus we meet in Mark?

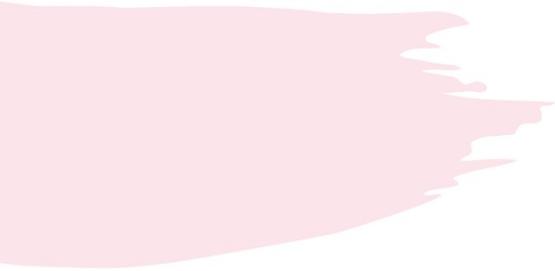
...Thus the narrative becomes gospel.

4.2 Expectations for Us

- **Understand what is so special about the Kingdom of God.**
- **Understand the reason for and significance of Jesus' death.**
- **Understand how Jesus' death and resurrection relate to the Kingdom of God.**

4.2 Expectations for Us

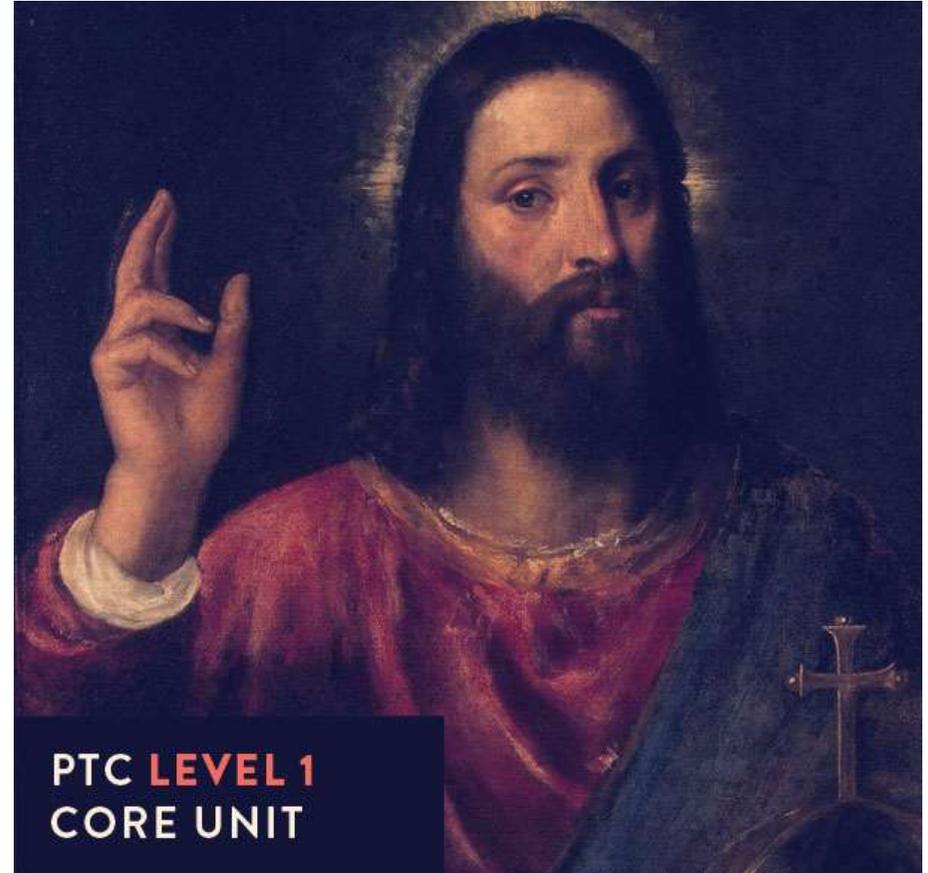
- **Understand who Jesus is ...**
 - **He is the King and the Messiah!**
- **Understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.**



*Can you tell a person the
gospel of Jesus in
~~5~~ 3 minutes?*

Unit 2:

***Prepare
the way for
the Lord***



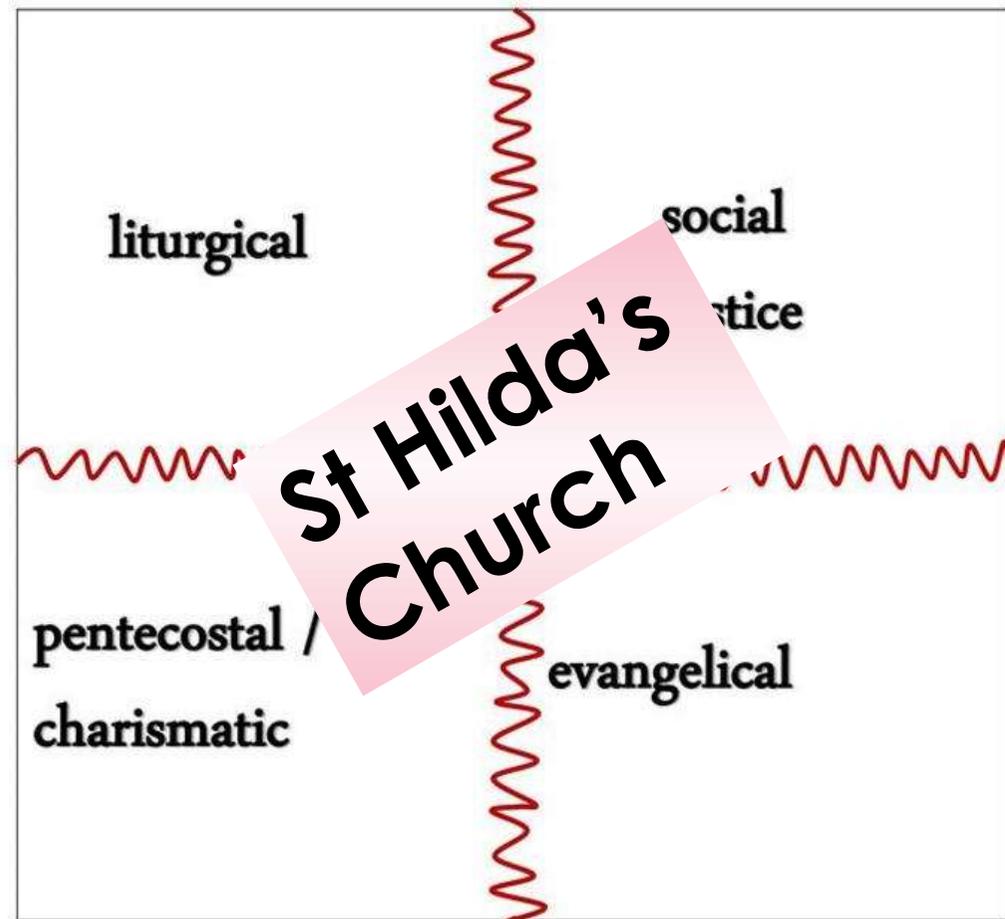
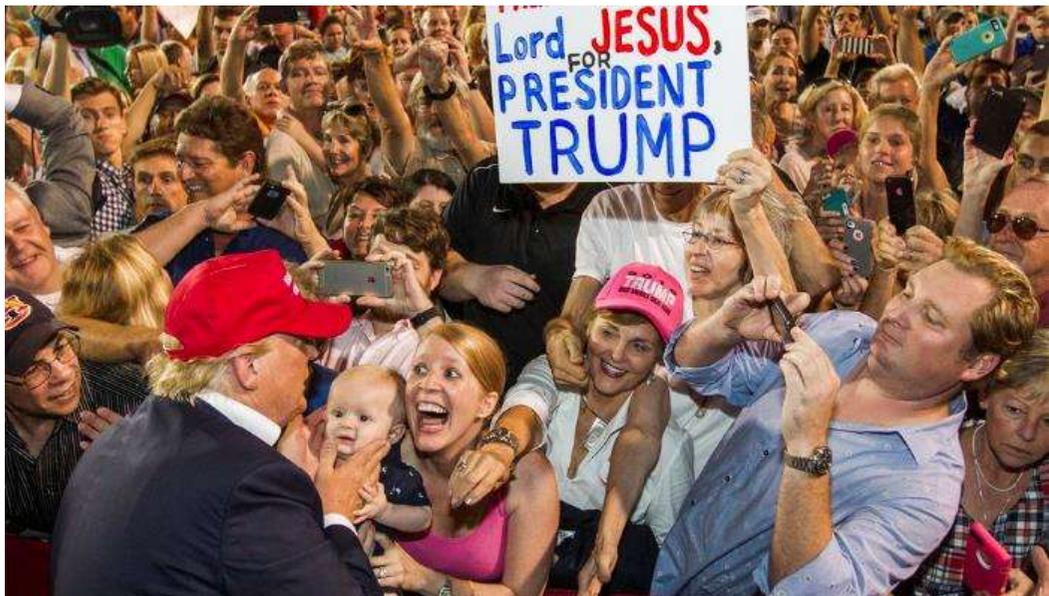
PTC **LEVEL 1**
CORE UNIT

euangelion

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, (Mk 1:1)

- **Good News = euangelion (Greek)**
- **Evangelisch: German for protestant**
- **Evangelical: Taking the Bible seriously and believe in Jesus as Savior & Lord.**

Unhelpful categorizations



Salvation history

- **Perfect creation.** (Genesis 1+2)
- **Sin → punishment and restoration.**
(Gen 3-11)
- **God chooses Abra(ha)m.** (Gen 12-50)
- **Slavery in Egypt.** (Exodus 1-12)
- **Redemption in the Exodus.** (Ex 13-15)
- **The Law.** (Exodus 19-23)

Salvation history

- **Arriving in the Promised Land.** (Joshua)
- **Ongoing sin and rebellion.** (Judges)
- **Kings... not God's plan but he redeemed it to foreshadow Christ.**
(1 Samuel – 1 Kings 10)
- **Worsening sin and rebellion.** (1Ki 11 – 2 Ki 23)
- **Punishment (exile) and restoration.**
(2 Ki 24 – Nehemiah)

Salvation history

- **Prophets proclaiming the Messiah.**
- **Luke 1: The time of fulfilment of prophecies is near.**
- **Jesus Christ is born**
Christos = Messiah

2 Samuel 7:12-16

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Samuel 7:12-16

I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Salvation history

- Prophets proclaiming the Messiah.
- Luke 1: The time of fulfilment of prophecies is near.
- **Christos = Messiah**
- **But what kind of Messiah would come? → Let's find out in the gospel!**

Messiah & Son of God

- **Messiah in the line of Moses, David and Elijah?!**
- **Deliverer, ruler, perfect king.**
- **But ‘*Son of God*’? What does that mean?**
- **Mark 1:11, 9:7, 15:39.**
- **What does that mean to us?**

2. Early Narratives

Matthew chapters 1 + 2:

- **Jesus is the true Israel.**
- **Genealogy starts with Abraham and focusses on the story of Israel of which Jesus is the 'fulfilment'. (1:1-17)**
- **The Holy Spirit brings this about supernaturally (1:18-25). Just like in the OT.**

2. Early Narratives

Matthew chapters 1 + 2:

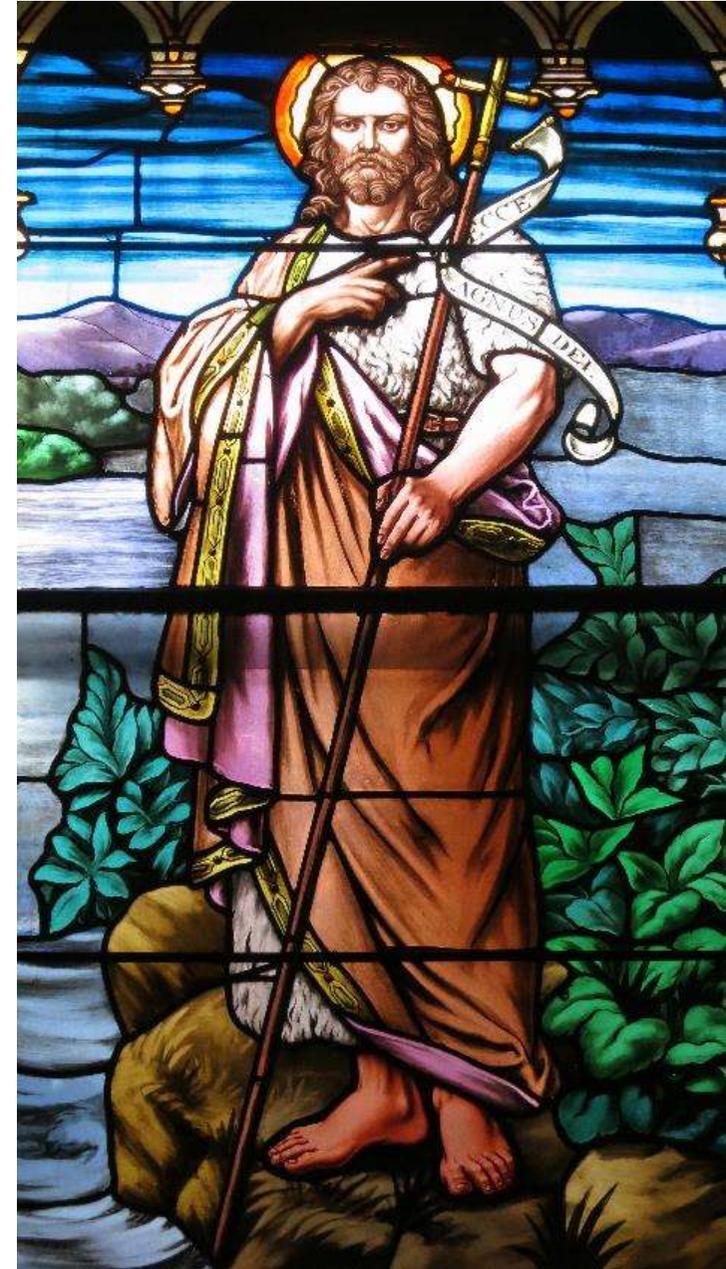
- **Jesus suffered under sinful leadership (2:7-18) like Israel in the OT.**
- **Jesus returned from Egypt (2:19-23) in a 'new beginning' like Israel in the Exodus.**
- **Jesus is a light to the Gentile Magi (2:9-11) like Abraham was supposed to become (Genesis 12:3).**

2. Early Narratives

- **Luke draws similar parallels.**
- **Jesus fulfils the words of the prophets in his ministry and on the cross.**
 - ==> the focus of the gospel narratives.**
- **The gospels are a continuation of the OT, foretold and fulfilled (Luke 2:22-38, 4:14-21).**

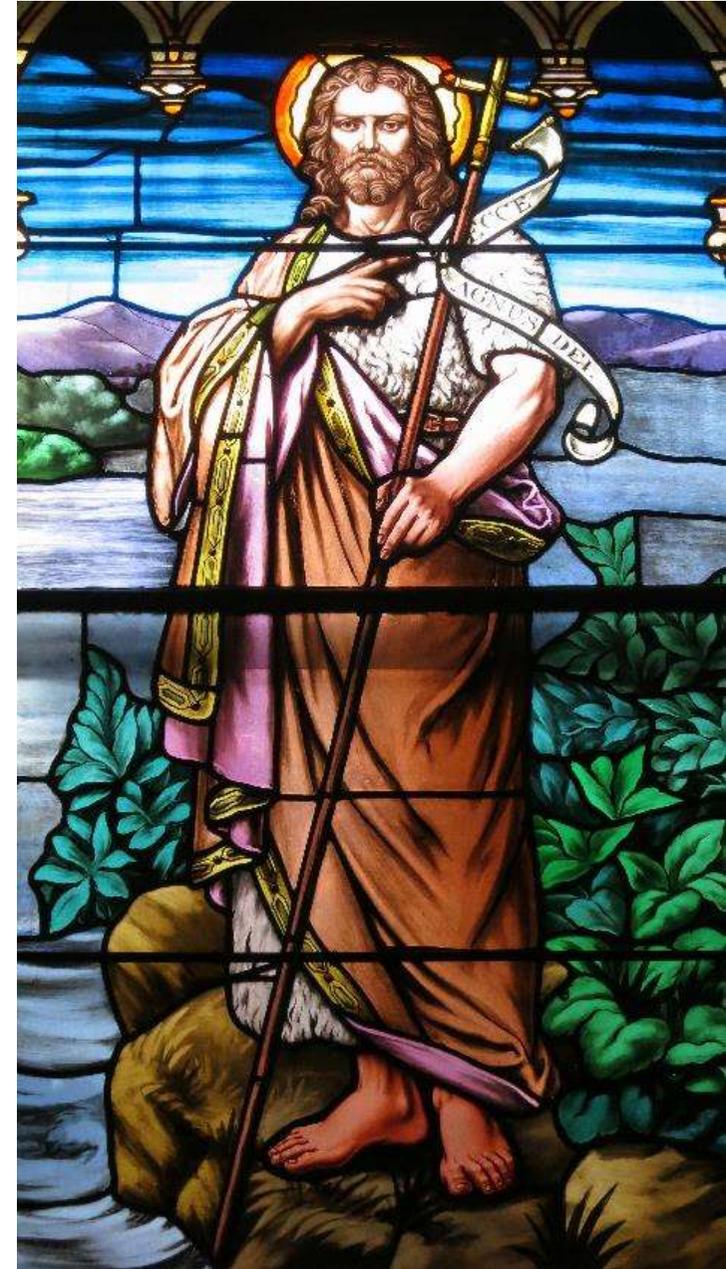
3. John the Baptist

- Foretold in Exodus 23:20, Isaiah 40:3 (Mk 1:2-3), Malachi 3:1.
- A new beginning ...
- The coming of the Lord was still to come; and is now!
- The time of repentance and forgiveness has come.



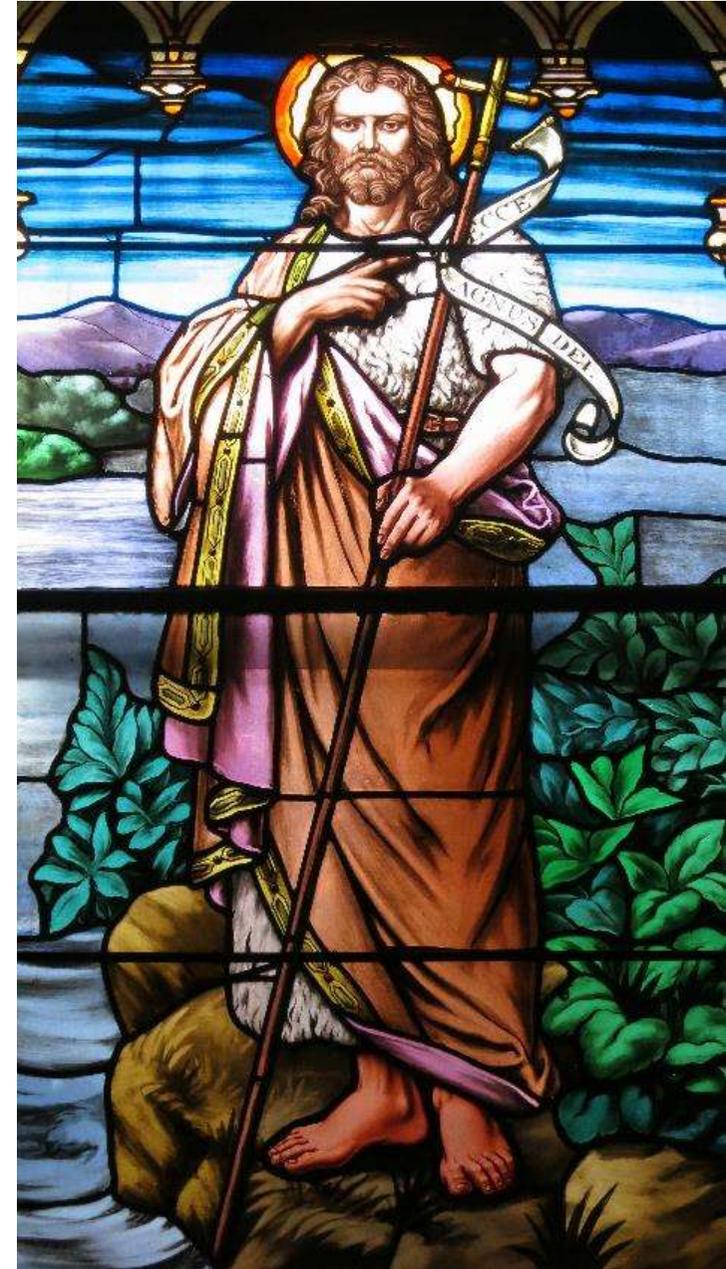
3. John the Baptist

- The Jewish baptism rite was for Gentiles → the people of Israel had become like Gentiles.
- A time for a different baptism had arrived (Ezekiel 36:24-27).
- God's people will be washed from their sin and be perfectly renewed.



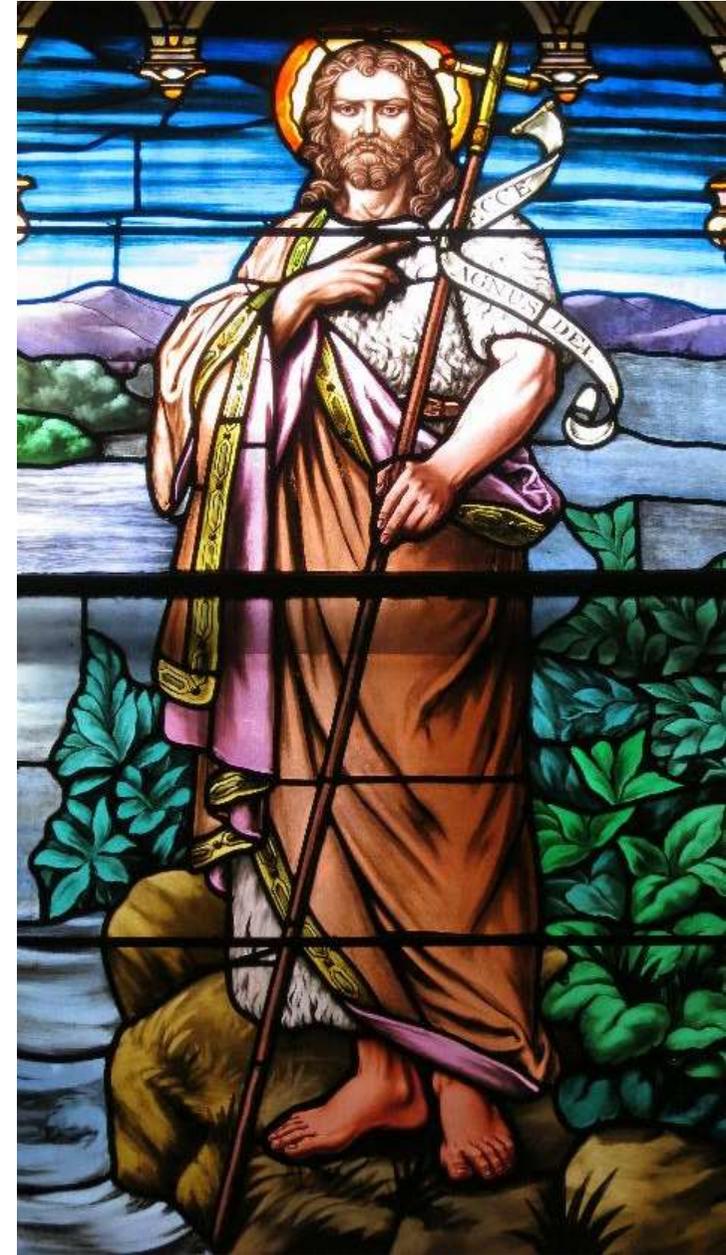
3. John the Baptist

- How would forgiveness come in John's 'water' baptism?
Forgiveness required sacrifices.
- Mk 1:7-8: "After me comes the one more powerful than I ... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

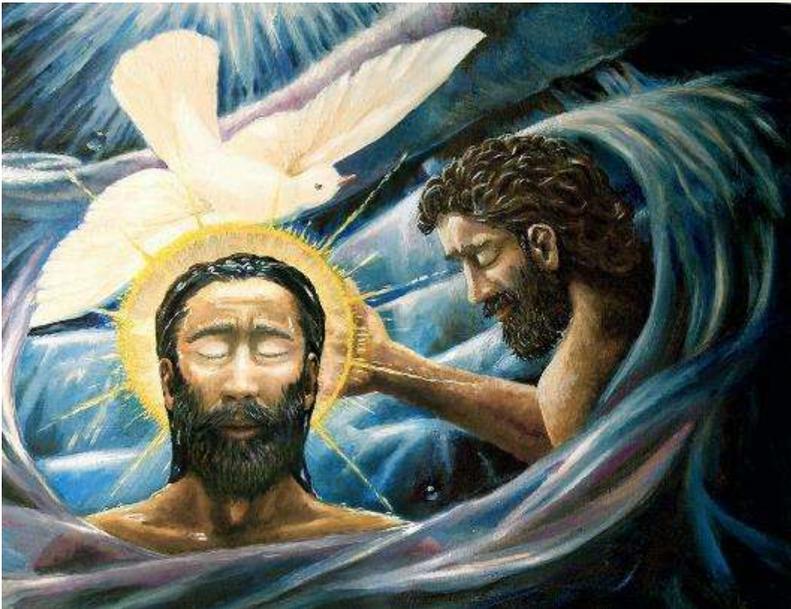


3. John the Baptist

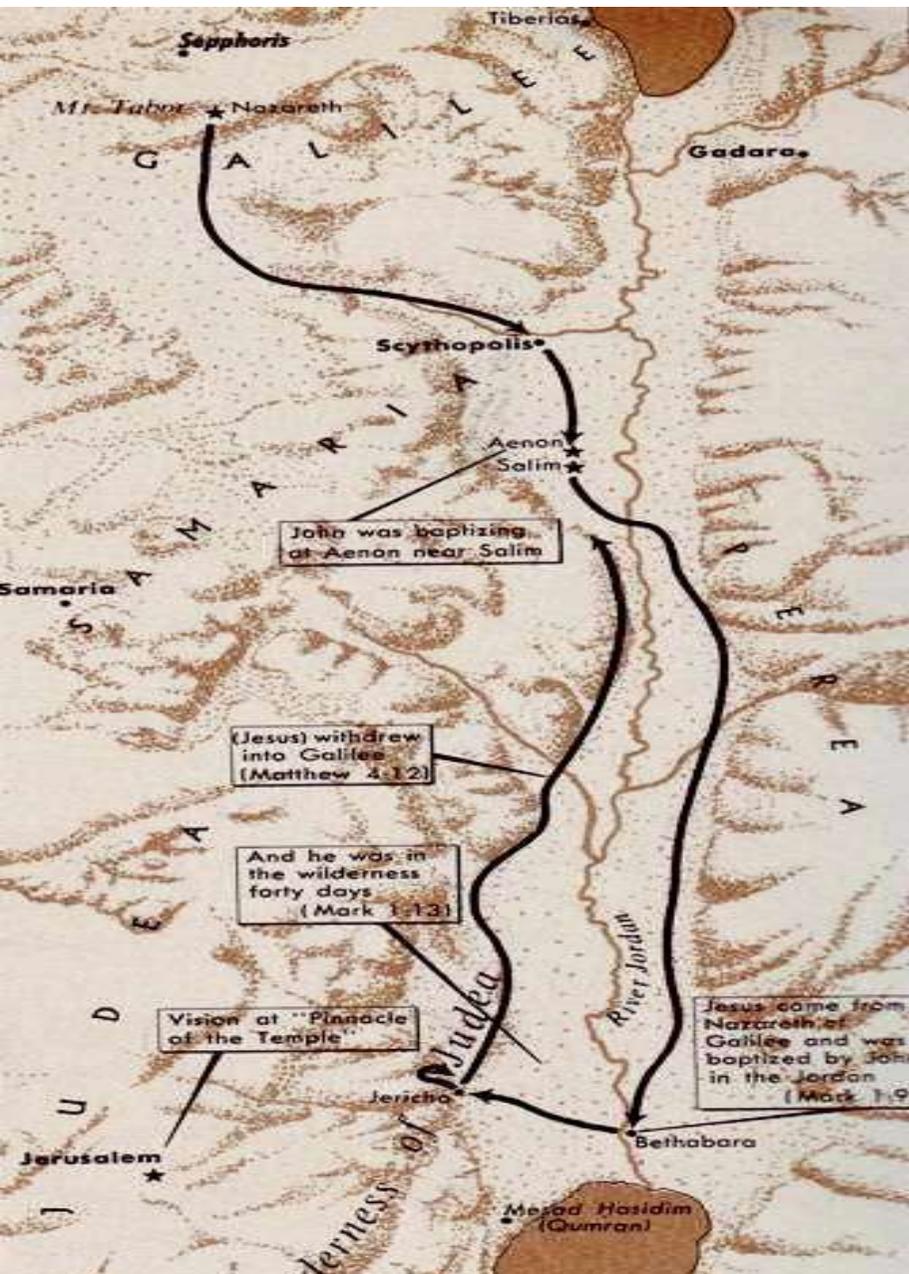
- John's baptism points to Jesus.
- Ecce Agnus Dei = Behold, the Lamb of God.
- Joel 2:28-32 – “Those days” have arrived!
- “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”



4. Jesus Arrives



- Jesus arrives to be baptized, identifying with sinful Israel.
- “... he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.”
(Mk 1:10)



4. Jesus Arrives

- Jesus is ...
 - The long-awaited Messiah!
 - Isaiah's Servant!
 - But God's Son?
- What kind of a Messiah will he be?

5. Jesus' Temptation

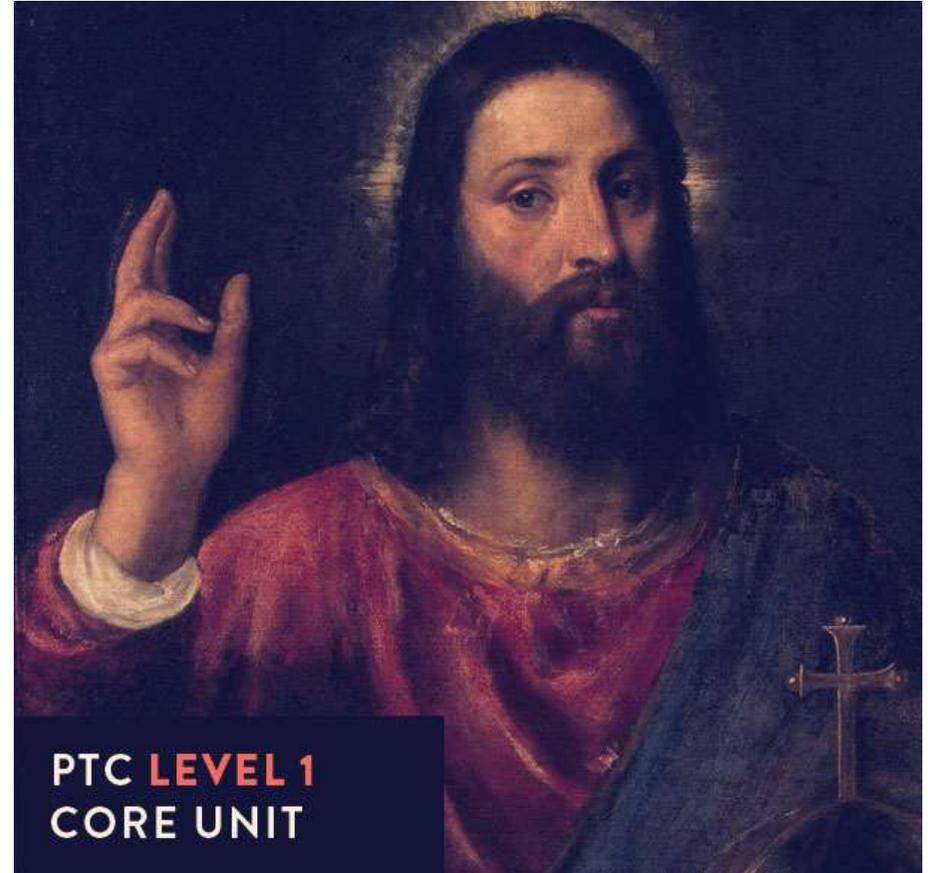
- **The Holy Spirit leads Jesus into Satan's presence.**
- **Redemption will come when the true enemy is overcome.**
- **Will Jesus stand firm or fall like Israel? (Ex 32)**



to be continued ...

Unit 3:

***The
Kingdom of
God is near***



PTC **LEVEL 1**
CORE UNIT

1. Jesus' Authority Revealed

The time has come...

- **OT prophecies fulfilled.**
- **The restoration of God's perfect creation (order) begins.**
- **The restoration of the relationship between humankind and God is 'at hand'.**

Kingdom of God foreshadowed

Earthly Kingdom Established

- Israel.
- Redeemed.
- Under his perfect rule.
- People of God.

God's True King Promised

- David and Solomon.
- True King will come.
- He will reign forever.

True Kingdom Prophesied

- New and perfect Kingdom will come.
- New Covenant.
- Promised to people in sin.

1.2 Jesus' Disciples

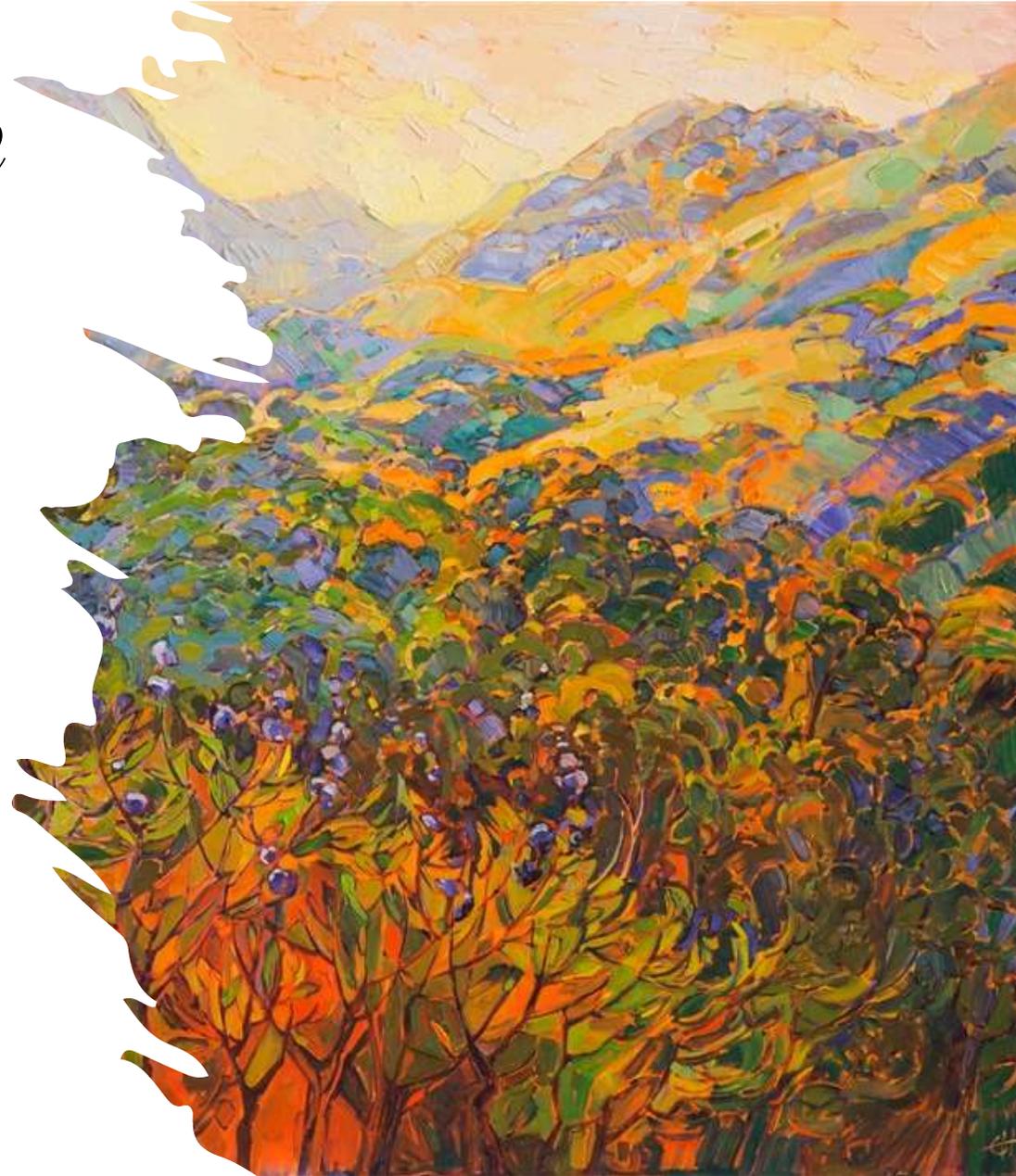
- **How will God's Kingdom look like? What kind of a ruler is God's King?**
- **Jesus 'employs' resilient guys from Galilee instead of high-flyers from Jerusalem.**
- **They respond at once** (Mk 1:18) / **without delay** (Mk 1:20).

1.3 Jesus' Authority

- **Authority in teaching the Word, unlike the religious authorities.** (note the parallel to the pre-reformed Church)
- **His authority is immediately tested by the evil one (spiritual warfare).**
- **Jesus shows his authority without revealing his full identity, yet. Why?**

1.4-6 Restoration

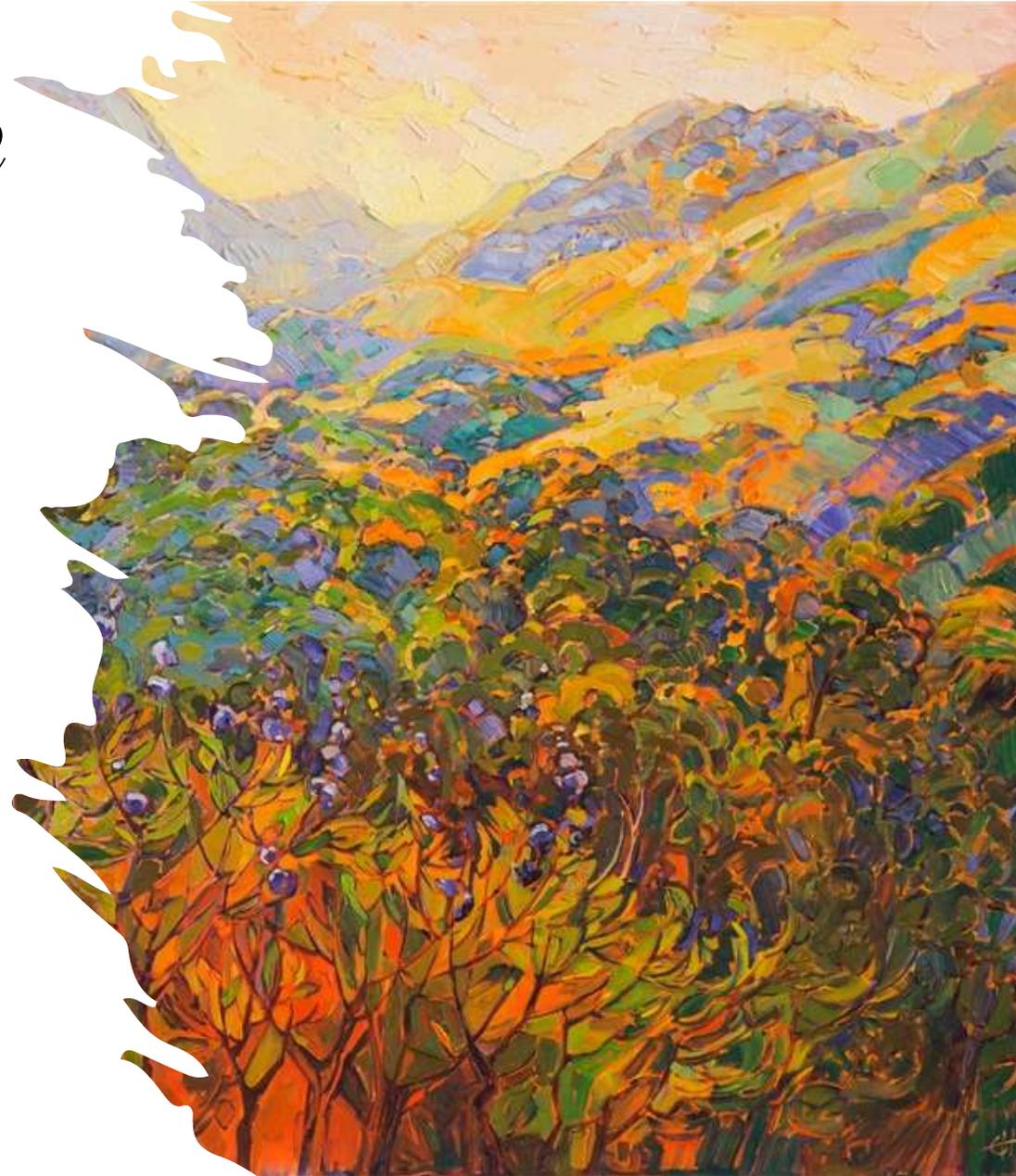
- **Progressive healing ministry.** (Mk 1:32-34)
- **Immediate restoration** (vs 31, 42)
- **The Kingdom is at hand. Effects of sin reversed, creation restored.** (Isaiah 43:19)



1.4-6 Restoration

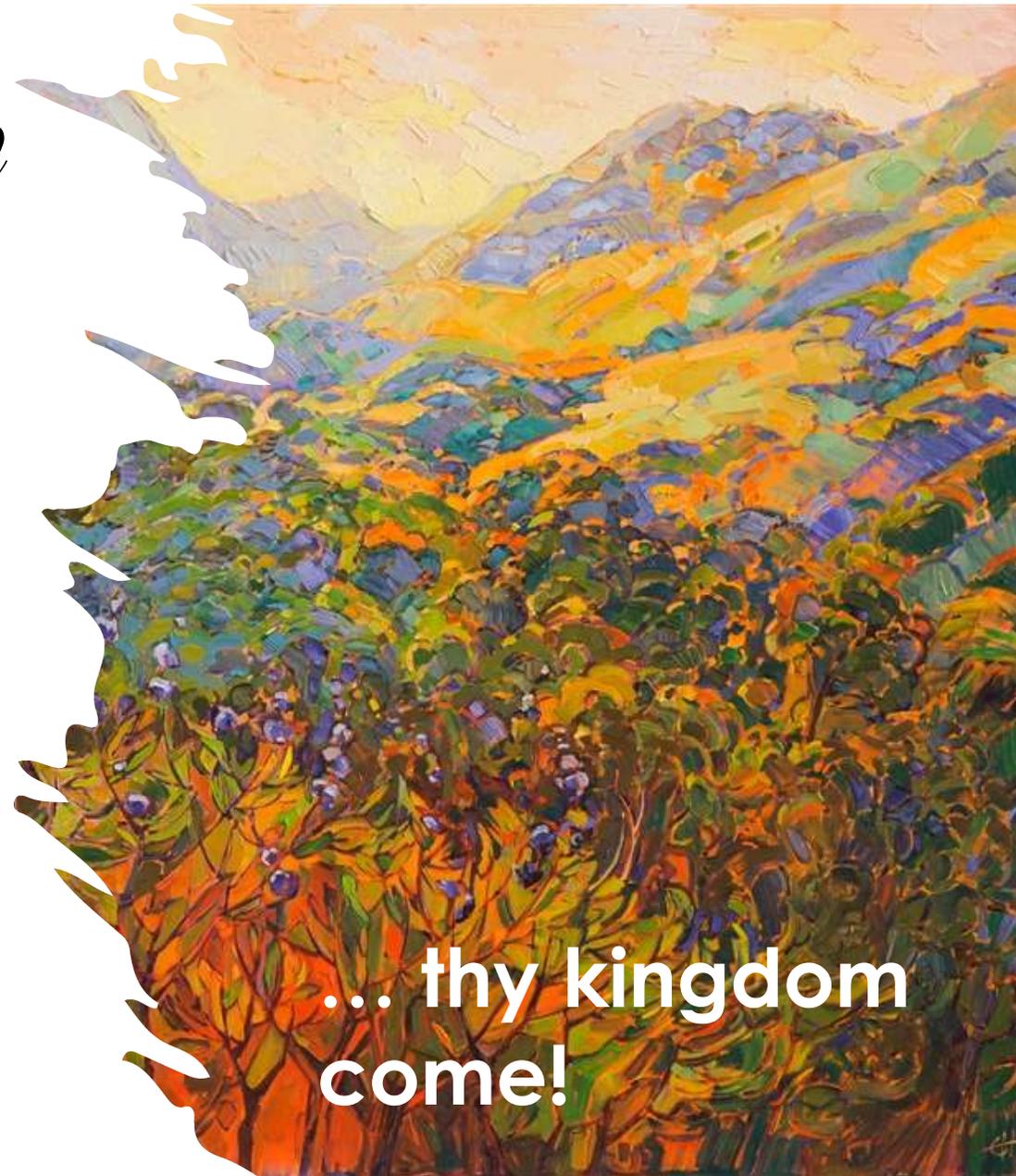
Mark 1:35-39

- **Connecting to the Father.**
- **Staying the course.**
- **Advancing the Kingdom.**



1.4-6 Restoration

“When God became man in Jesus Christ, He announced the coming of a different kingdom - a kingdom ruled by a servant king; a kingdom that liberates instead of conquers; a kingdom that advances through love instead of violence.”



**... thy kingdom
come!**

1.7 Forgiveness (Mk 2:1-12)

- **What was the greatest need of the paralyzed man? His greatest desire?**
 - **Physical healing, that's why he came.**
- **Jesus addresses the greater need and sets the man free from sin.**
- **The first confrontation with religious leaders.**

1.7 Forgiveness (Mk 2:1-12)

- **Further expansion of the Kingdom.**
- **Jesus reveals more of his identity.**
- **Son of Man (v 10)**
 - **Son of Adam, the initial 'ruler' under God's rule, but also the first sinner.**
 - **Jesus reverses the effects of sin (Romans 5:17)**
 - **Jesus is God's perfect ruler.**

*Kingdom
advancing...*



2. Extend of the Kingdom

If people accept Jesus as the Messiah, how far can he go?

- **Healing the sick** ☑
but not on Sundays...
- **Forgiving sin** ☑
but not accepting sinners...
- **Casting out demons** ☑
but not by assuming authority...



2. NEW!

- When Jesus is asked about the fasting habits of his disciples, he answers in parables.
- A new era is here, the old has gone, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)



A wide-angle photograph of a vast field of wheat under a clear blue sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the field. The wheat is in full bloom, with some stalks showing a mix of green and yellow. In the distance, there are some utility poles and a few trees on the left side.

Sabbath – A Day of Perfect Rest in the Lord...

- **Designed in creation - spoiled by sin.**
- **Restored in Jesus who forgives sin.**
- **Sign of the near Kingdom. (Hebrews 4:6-11)**
- **As Jesus declares himself to be Lord of the Sabbath, the religious leaders plan to kill him.**

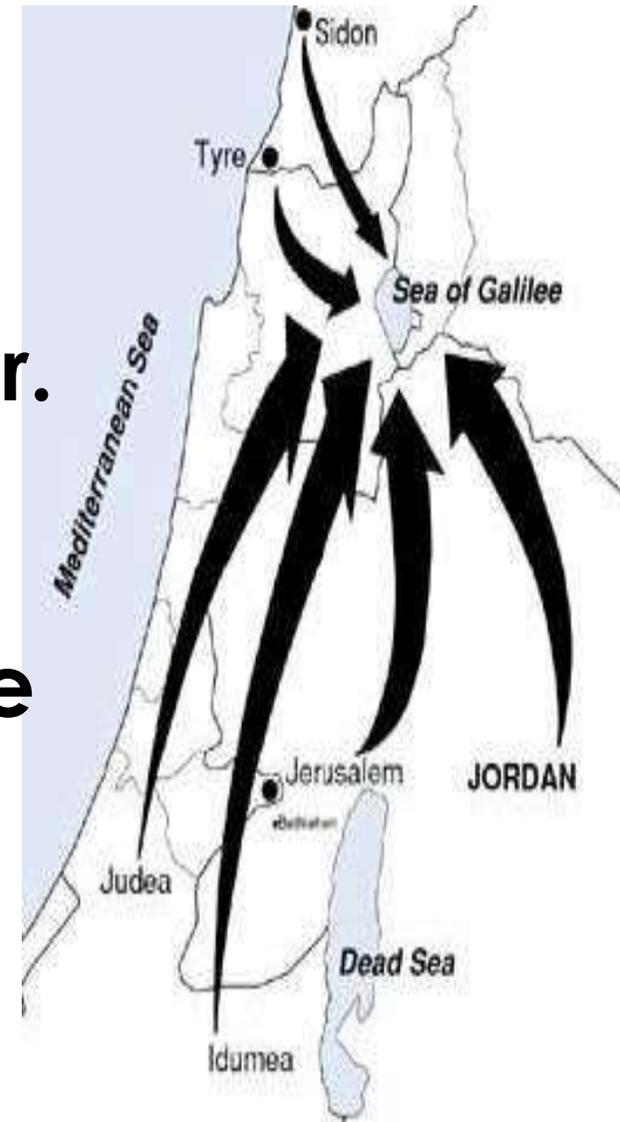
Growing Ministry

Mark 3:7-12

- Jesus ministry has become popular.
- The crowds become a challenge.

Mark 3:13-19

- Jesus appoints 12 co-workers for the expansion of the Kingdom.
- Learn, preach, heal, cast out.
- The continuity with the 12 tribes.



Growing Ministry

Mark 3:20-35 – Opposition and true followers.

- **Jesus' family opposes him.**
- **Teachers of the Law oppose him**
 - **Claiming that Jesus is possessed.**
 - **Claim is illogical.**
 - **Jesus exposes and warns them.**
- **Jesus dismisses his opposing family.**

Growing Ministry

Mark 3:20-35 – Opposition and true followers.

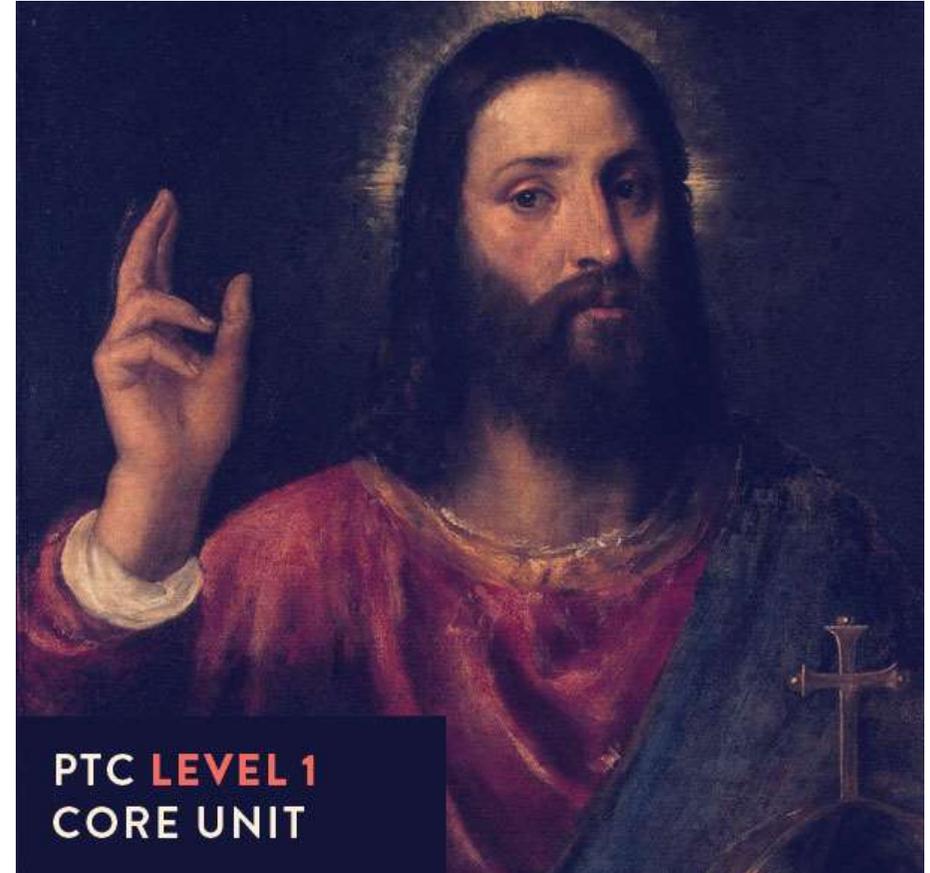
- **Who are my mother and brothers?**
 - **Those who do the Father's will.**
 - **Those 'near' Jesus.**
 - **Jesus' Kingdom co-laborers for the growing ministry.**

The Kingdom draws near

Kingdom foreshadowed	Signs of God's everlasting Kingdom are visible in Jesus.
Miracles	Do we believe what we see?
Power/Authority	Jesus is the new King with authority.
People of God	Followers of Jesus doing God's will.
Something new	Old is gone, new has come.
Opposition	To the point of death but no victory.

Unit 4:

***Jesus spoke
to them in
parables***



PTC LEVEL 1
CORE UNIT

1.1 Listen!

- **Jesus constantly invites/challenges people to decide about their allegiance.**
- **Calling disciples, miracles, teaching, even in parables.**
- **As we listen, how will we react to the Son of God?**
 - **Obedience? Intellectual arguing? Rejection?**

1.2 Parables

- **There are different types of parables just like there are different stories today.**
- **Though parables used everyday context, they were not easily understood.**
- **They provoke the listener to search for the message rather than to instruct.**

2. Example of Interpretation

Luke 15

- **Jesus is surrounded by his disciples, tax collectors and Pharisees (vs 1-2).**
- **He tells the parable of the Prodigal Son...**

2. Over-Allegorizing

The father	↔	God
Elder son	↔	Jew
Younger son	↔	Christian
Owner of the pig pen	↔	Devil

2. Over-Allegorizing

The robe	↔	God's sonship
The ring	↔	Baptism
The feast	↔	Eucharist
Slaying the calf	↔	Jesus' death

2. Example of Interpretation

Luke 15 – The Prodigal Son

- **Pharisees – rejecting the younger son's and the father's behavior...**
 - **reject or repent?**
- **Sinners – do they see their parallel to the younger son?**
 - **reject or repent and accept the father's love?**

2. Example of Interpretation

Luke 15 – The Prodigal Son

- **Disciples – they are in a more neutral position. Are they?**
 - **Are they truly on Jesus' side?**
- **The response that counts is not to the fictitious story but to the story-teller: Jesus**

2. Example of Interpretation

Luke 15 – The Prodigal Son / Teaching points

- **Sin and repentance.**
- **Forgiveness and acceptance.**
- **Sonship for the redeemed.**
- **Legalism and hypocrisy.**

2. Interpretation

- 1. Setting and context.**
- 2. Listeners – who are they and how do they tick?**
- 3. How would the listeners have responded?**
- 4. Identify the theological concepts.**
- 5. How does the parable challenge the listeners to make a response to Jesus?**
- 6. The greater context in the gospel.**

3. Mark 4:1-34

- **Parables were not easy to understand. (v 13)**
- **Parables were not meant to be easy to understand. (v 11)**
- **They aimed to draw disciples in. (3:34)**
- **Understanding is given by God. (4:11-12)**
- **Rejection and hardening of hearts. (Isaiah 6:9-13)**

3. Secret of the Kingdom

- In the parable of the sower, only the 4th batch of seeds produces fruit.
- Only few listeners desire to understand the parable. They dare to ask.
- To them, Jesus explains the full meaning.
- They shall bear 30x, 60x, 100x fruit!

3.3 Context of Mark 4:1-8

- **Jesus is bringing and teaching about the Kingdom of God.**
- **He had called his disciples.**
- **The listening crowd still had to decide...**
- **The parable shows that there will be different responses.**
- **But God's Word (spread by Jesus in Mark 1-3) will fulfil its purpose (Is 55:11)**

3.3 Interpretation in 4:13-20

- **1st negative response: hardened hearts.
(v 15)**
- **2nd negative response: shallowness and
pre-occupation. (v 16-17)**
- **3rd negative response: want but can't...
(v 18-19)**

3.3 Interpretation in 4:13-20

- **4th response: positive!!! They hear and accept the Word. (v 20)**
- **It's also a beautiful picture of the Word of God restoring the world like in a lavish spring.**



3.3 Truth in Mark 4:1-8

- Kingdom proclaimed.
- Responses will vary.
- Kingdom secret found?
- Kingdom unstoppable.
- The meaning of this parable is the same then and today.

3.4 A Lamp on a Stand

- Parable from everyday life.
- Spoken to his disciples in private.
- The lamp could be himself, or the Good News. Both shall not be hidden.
- Vs 24-25... Let us be careful with what we receive. Do we realize the goodness, or do we discard it?

3.5 Growing Seed

- **The sower sows faithfully.**
- **The seed's fate is in the Lord's hand.**
- **When the time of harvest arrives, the harvest will be plentiful.**
- **The disciples shall not worry about fruit.**
- **We shall not worry about fruit.**
- **The great harvest will come at the end.**

3.6 Mustard

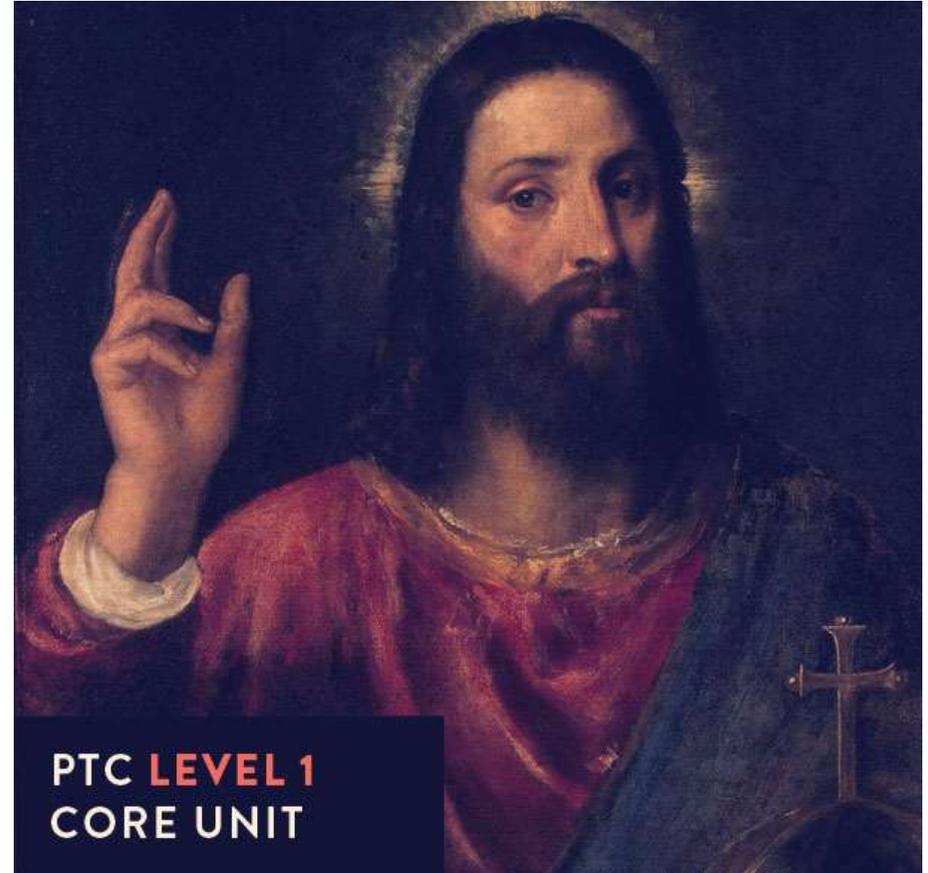
- **Jesus is bringing the Kingdom. But signs were small. (Born in a stable, persecuted by Herod, little fanfare)**
- **The messengers of the Kingdom stayed few. How will it grow?**
- **The early Church saw explosive growth by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **The Kingdom will one day be everywhere.**

3.7 The Message of the Kingdom

- **Jesus repeats the same message in different parables.**
- **Encouragement to his disciples.**
- **Challenge to respond to all who listen.**
- **We are still disciples of a Kingdom movement. Do we have the right words to excite people for God's Kingdom?**

Unit 5:

*Jesus cares
for the
perishing*



PTC LEVEL 1
CORE UNIT

1. The Storm at Sea

**Mark 4:35-41 – Jesus
calms the Storm**

- **Who is Jesus? (Mk 1-8)**
- **He heals people from
sickness, demons
and sin. ==> Powerful!**



1. The Storm at Sea

- **He controls nature by his word!** (v 39)
- **God spoke nature into being.** (Genesis 1-2)
- **Only God can...**
→ **Jesus is God!**



1. The Storm at Sea

- **The story foreshadows the end times when Jesus will deal with rebellion forever.**
- **In the storm, the disciples tried to fight.**
- **In the face of God, the disciples are terrified.**



1. As the Storm Calms Down

- The disciples will find out that Jesus cares.
- They will learn that they don't need to be terrified of Jesus.
- From fear to faith.
- Mark 4:35-41 sets the stage for the next leg of their journey with Jesus.



2. Peace and New Life

Mark 5:1-20 – The Demoniac

- **Set in Gentile territory.**
- **Evil causing havoc. (vs 3-5)**
- **The demoniac is a living corps.**
- **Jesus sets him free, and he is free, indeed. (v 15)**
- **He comes in fear and leaves in faith. (vs 7+20)**
- **The crowd reacts with fear... (v 17)**

2. Peace and New Life

Mark 5:21-43 – The dead girl and the bleeding woman

- **Another “Markan sandwich”.** (vs 21-24 / 25-34 / 35-43)
- **Jairus, one of the synagogue leaders comes to Jesus in faith.** (vs 22-23)

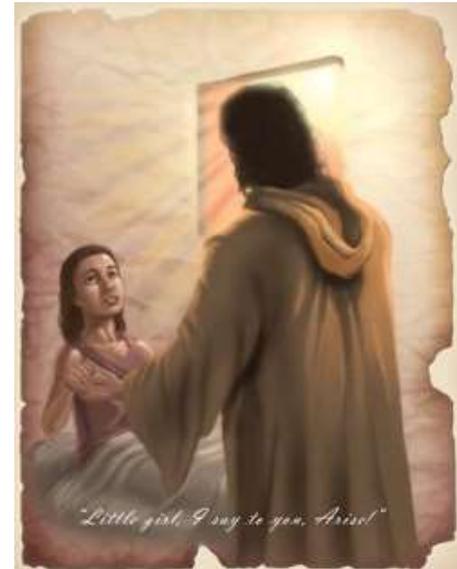
2. Peace and New Life

- **On their way, the bleeding woman seeks healing in faith by touching Jesus' clothes. (v 27-28)**
- **When Jesus arrives at Jairus home, his daughter had died. (v 35)**
- **Like the Demoniac, the woman and the child are not among the living. Touching them makes other unclean.**



2. Peace and New Life

- **Jesus restores both to new life in the community.** (v 34+42)
- **From fear and anxiety to peace, like in the storm.** (v 33+34)
- **Jesus has authority, even over death.**
- **A glimpse of God's Kingdom under King Jesus, where all that is wrong in this present age will be put right.**



2.3 Faith and No Faith...

Mark 6:1-6a – Jesus being refused at home

- **Up to this point in the gospel, reactions to Jesus are ‘upside down’...**
- **Family and disciples should believe but respond with rejection and fear.**
- **Demoniac, bleeding woman and Jairus should be skeptical but respond in faith.**

3.2 Miracles and Faith

- ***Daughter, your faith has healed you.***
(Mark 5:34) ==> **Does faith cause healing?**
- ***What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.*** (John 2:11)
==> **Do people believe because of miracles?**

3.2 Miracles and Faith

Does faith cause healing/miracles?

- **Yes and no...**
 - **Leper, 4 friends, Jairus, bleeding woman come with faith.**
 - **Man with shriveled hand, disciples in the boat, the hungry crowd show no indication of faith.**
- Yet, Jesus performs miracles for all.**

3.2 Miracles and Faith

Do people believe because of miracles?

- **Yes and no...**
 - **The paralytic and the Demoniac respond with faith.**
 - **Others walk away 'untouched'. (Luke 17:17)**
- Jesus performs miracles to show forth God's Kingdom which might provoke faith.**

3.2 Miracles and Faith

If only God will heal ... I will accept Jesus!

So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you?”

(John 6:30)

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)

3. The True Shepherd King

Mark 6:6b-44

- **Another “Markan Sandwich” (6b-13 / 14-29 / 30-31)**
- **Jesus sends out the twelve. They are messengers of the true King bringing good news and life-giving miracles.**
- **Herod is the false king. Self-centered, bringer of death, like his family members.**

3.4 The True Shepherd King

Mark 6:32-44 – The Feeding of the 5,000

- We often focus on the miracle: 5 loaves and 2 fishes.
- But again, it's about who Jesus is..



3.4 The True Shepherd King

- **Moses asked God for a shepherd to lead them → Joshua. (Number 27:15-23)**
- **The LORD prophesies through Ezekiel that he will be the shepherd of Israel. (Ez 34:1-31)**



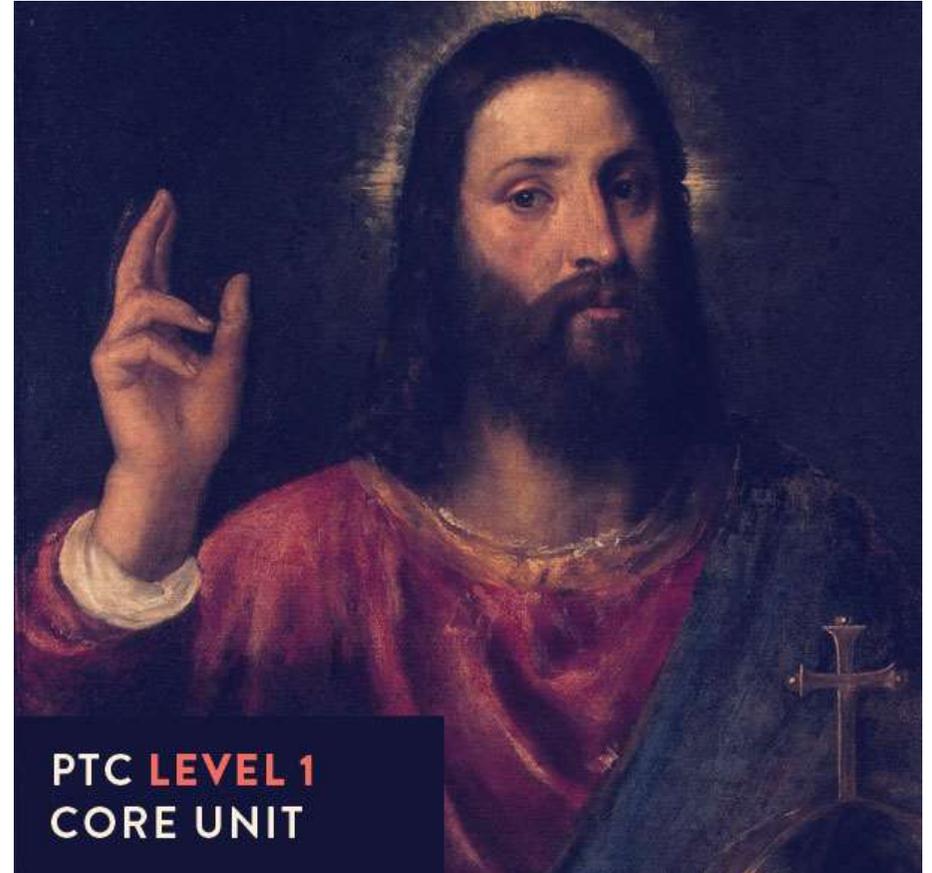
3.4 The True Shepherd King

- In the time of Jesus, the people were again without a shepherd. (Mk 6:17-28 + 34)
- Jesus gathers them (39), feeds them with the Word (34), with food (41-42) and with compassion (34)!



Unit 6:

***Responding
to Jesus***



PTC **LEVEL 1**
CORE UNIT

1. Walking on Water

Mark 6:45-53

- **Mark's story-telling**
 - **Clear evidence of eye-witness.**
 - **Draws the reader in.**
 - **Promotes faith!**
- **Jesus cares... but do the disciples respond in faith?**



1. Walking on Water

Mark 6:45-53

- **“It is I” – Jesus identifies himself as the Son of God, God himself!**
 - **The great “I am”.** (Exodus 3:14)
 - **God who ‘passes by’ in time of need.** (Ex 33:22; 34:6; 1 Kings 19:11)
- **Disciples still don’t see... (note Matthew 14:33)**



Jesus Prays

- **Mark 1:35-38** Jesus' popularity is rising. He prays and affirms his God-given mission to all Galilee.
- **Mark 6:45-46** The people don't understand who Jesus is. He prays and walks on water to continue his mission.
- **Mark 14:32-42** In the night of his betrayal, Jesus prays and then completes his mission.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' prayers renew his resolve to follow along 'the way' in line with his God-given mission. (Mk 1:2)



2.1 Heart Problem

- Ceremonial washing was man-made.
- Mark explains carefully to help the Gentile readers (and us!) to understand.
- The problem was not how the disciples would wash their hands but the inclination of the hearts of the leaders – Israel's shepherds.
(Mk 7:9+13)



2.2 A Gentile Understands

- **Jesus ventures into Gentile territory.** (Mk 7:24+31)
- **The Gentile woman understands the parable! (Faith and understanding given by God!)**
- **Jesus brings the Good News about him to the Gentiles by delivering the girl from a demon.**



2.3 Good News for the Gentiles

- Isaiah 35 foretells a time when Gentiles and Jews – the redeemed – will worship God together.
- Jesus' trips into Gentile areas are a sign of Kingdom restoration.
- Abraham's descendants (Jesus + disciples) fulfil Genesis 12:3!
- His disciples – though Jews originally – now include us – same mission!



2.4 Good News for the Gentiles

- **Jesus heals the deaf man with a speech impairment in Mark 7:33-35 in fulfillment of Isaiah 35:5-6.**
- **Jesus miraculously feeds the Gentiles.**
- **A Shepherd for all of God's children has arrived.**
- **But still no faith in the disciples. (Mk 8:4)**

3.1-2 Opposition + Unbelief

- Back on the Jewish side of the lake, the Pharisees challenge Jesus. He rejects them. (Mk 8:11-13)
- Miracles won't convince people, the Holy Spirit will.
- The eagerness to know Jesus will one day lead to salvation.

3.1-2 Opposition + Unbelief

Mark 8:14-21

- **On the other side of the lake, the disciples show their unbelief.**
 - **They can't see past the bread to the giver of all provisions.**
 - **Even the miracles have not yet led to faith in Jesus.**
- How long still???**



3.3 A Blind Man Sees

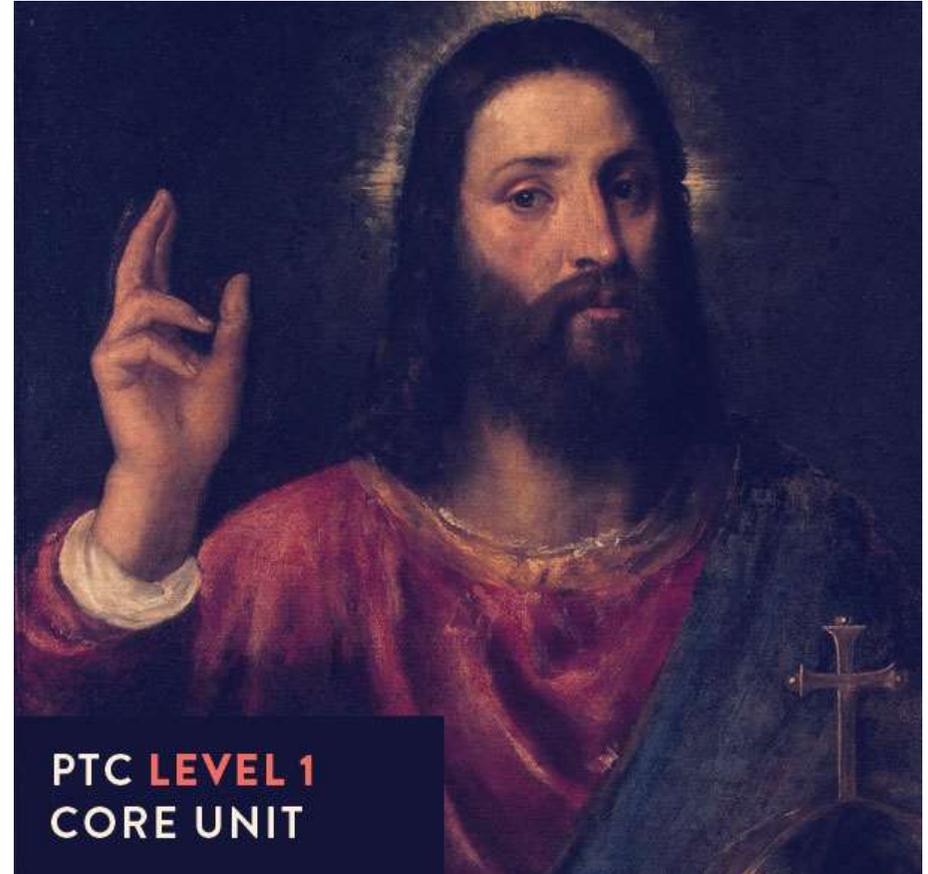
Mark 8:22-26

- The blind man is brought in faith. (v 22)
- Jesus takes the man by the hand, like Saul was led by the hand to come to an understanding who Jesus is.
- Healing happens in two parts to demonstrate the incomplete sight of the disciples.

-----> to be continued...

Unit 7:

*Following
Jesus on
'the way'*

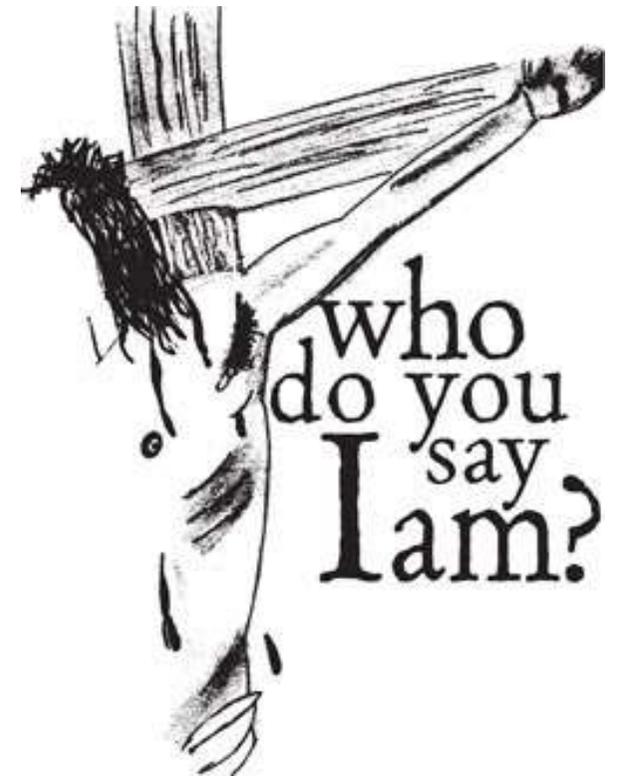


PTC LEVEL 1
CORE UNIT

1. Turning Point

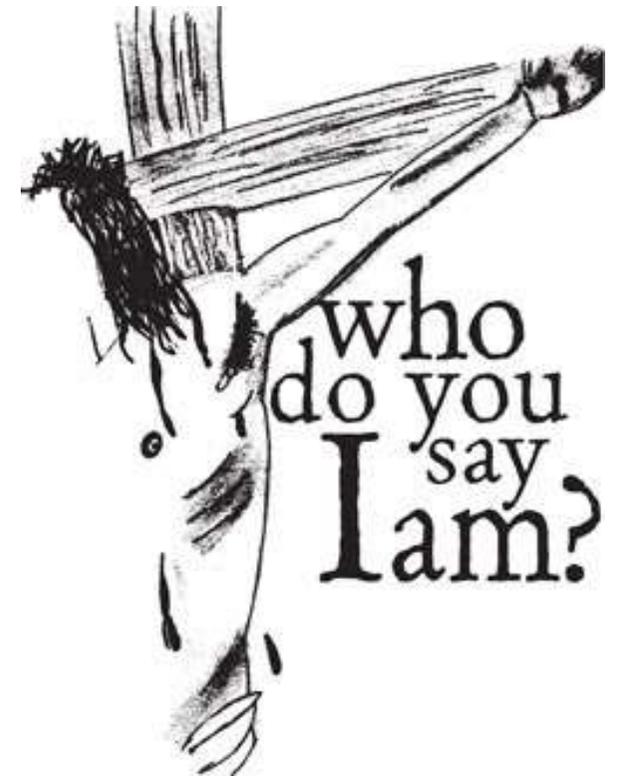
Mark 8:27 – 10:52

- **On their way to ...**
 - **To Caesarea Philippi (8:27)**
 - **Back in Galilee (9:2+30)**
 - **Region of Judea (10:1)**
 - **Toward Jerusalem (10:32)**
- **Who do people say I am?**
 - **John the Baptist.**
 - **Elijah or one of the prophets.**



1. Turning Point

- Jesus puts the disciples on the spot.
- ***‘You are the Messiah!’*** (Mk 8:29)
- If Jesus is the ***Messiah***, the disciples have to follow him.
(vs 34-38)
- Following Jesus means to go with him on the way of suffering. (v 31)



2.1 Passion Prediction (1)

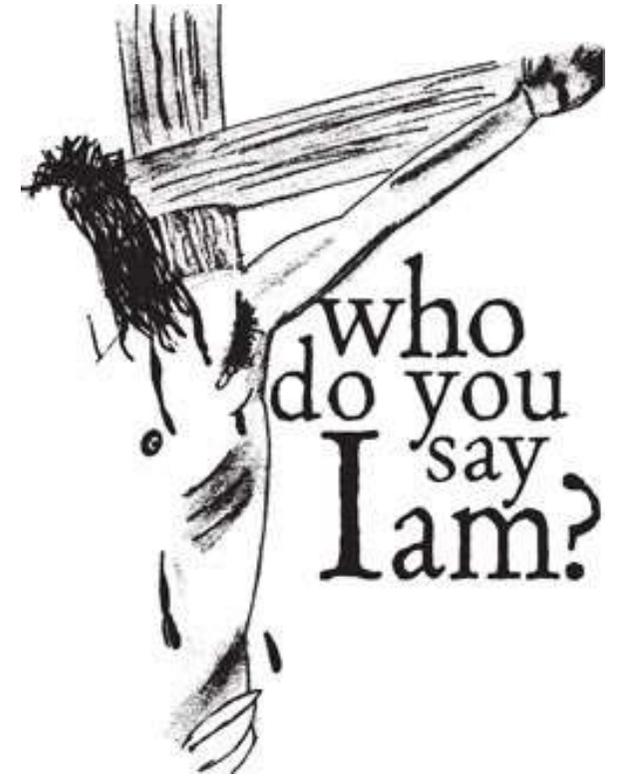
Mark 8:31-33

1. Divine plan

- **Son of Man must suffer... (8:31)**
- **The concerns of God. (8:33)**

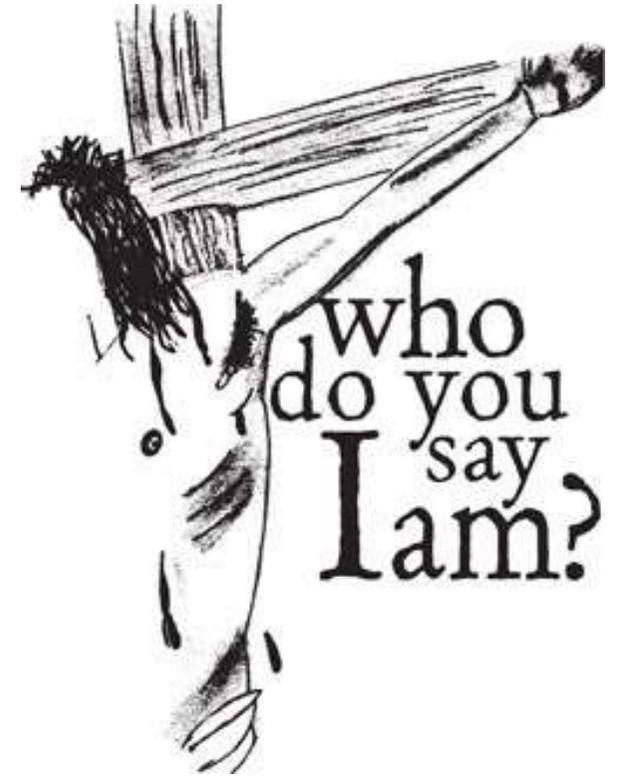
2. Messiah shall die???

- **Where are the 'forever' promises?**



2.1 Passion Prediction (1)

- **Fulfilment of OT prophecies**
- **Son of Man (8:31)**
 - Daniel 7
- **Rejected servant**
 - **Isaiah's servant must suffer.** (Is 49:7, 50:6, 53:3-9)
- **Resurrection**
 - **Isaiah's servant will see the light of life.** (Is 53:11)



Who is this?

- **The Messiah King of 2 Samuel 7:12-16.**
- **The suffering and vindicated servant in Isaiah 53.**
- **The Son of Man of Daniel 7.**



2.2 Implications of Following Jesus

If Jesus is the Messiah who will suffer and rise, what does it mean to follow him?

- **Jesus addresses the crowd. (Mk 8:34)**
 - **denying self – opposite of the world**
 - **Taking up the cross – a sign of rejection, punishment and torture.**
 - **Following Jesus – does anybody want this?**

2.2 Implications of Following Jesus

- **Loss of life as we enjoy it.** (v 35)
- **But gain of soul, our whole being and purpose.** (vs 36-37)
- **Receive God's appreciation → Receive the crown of life!** (v 38, James 1:12)
- **Living our life for the gospel!** (v 35, Phil 1:27)

'The Law will no longer condemn, prophets no longer need to point to Jesus.'



2.3 Transfiguration

- **Disciples behold Jesus' true nature.**
- **This is my Son... (Mk 1:11)**
- **This also, is the Christ we follow!**

2.3 Elijah Must Come First

Mark 9:11-13

- **Foretold in the OT. (Malachi 4:5)**
- **Elijah coming first points to and is fulfilled by John the Baptist. (v 13a)**
- **Son of Man must suffer much. (v 12)**

2.3 Elijah Must Come First

Jewish hope:

Elijah returns → Resurrection + Kingdom

Our hope:

**Elijah returned → Christ inaugurated
Kingdom → Christ suffered and died →
Christ rose → Now but not yet → Christ fulfils
the Kingdom**

2.3 Foretaste of Resurrection

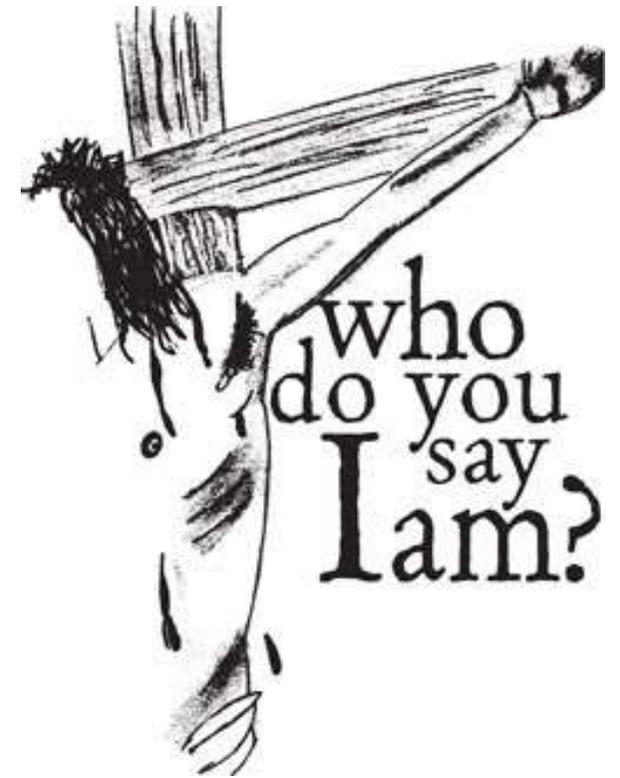
Demon-possessed boy (Mark 9:14-29)

- **After his baptism-like revelation, Jesus is again confronted by the evil one.**
- **Jesus bring the boy from corps-like to life.**
- **Disciples lack dependence on Jesus.**

3.1 Passion Prediction (2)

Mark 9:31-32

- **Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.**
- **Disciples are still reacting with fear. (v 32)**



3.2 Entering the Kingdom

- **Who is the greatest? Even a child is worthy of full attention in God's kingdom.**
(9:33-37)
- **A person is part of Jesus workers because he is doing the will of God in Jesus' name.**
(Mk 9:39-41, 3:35)
- **Do not stumble anyone in the faith!**
(vs 42-48)

3.3 Entering the Kingdom

- **Don't turn God's Word upside-down! (10:2-9)**
- **Pharisees testing Jesus again with no intention to listen. Hardened hearts.**
- **Child-like faith in Christ is better than learned men with hardened hearts. (10:13-16)**
- **Law-obedience and efforts won't bring us into the kingdom unless our hearts are right. (10:17-22)**

3.2 Entering the Kingdom

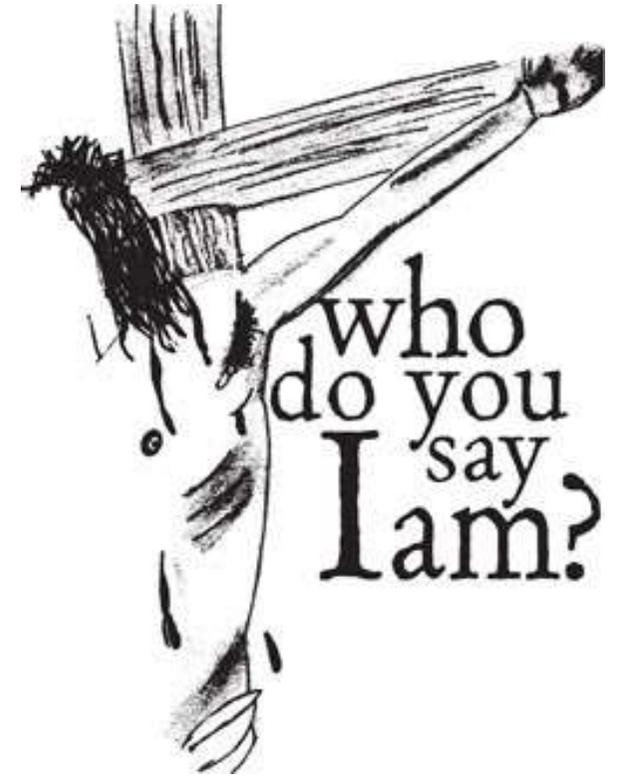
Who then can be saved? (10:26)

- **The answer lies in our relationship with Jesus, not in our efforts. (10:17-24, 27)**
- **But our sacrifices and living for the gospel (Phil 1:27) will receive eternal rewards. (10:28-30)**
- **There is no man-made hierarchy in the kingdom. (10:31)**

4.1 Passion Prediction (3)

Mark 10:32-34

- **Facing his destiny in Jerusalem.**
(10:33a, Acts 21:13)
- **‘hand him over to the Gentiles’**
(10:33c) → **the Romans, the people who don’t fear God → No mercy!**
- **Disciples still unclear.** (10:32)



4.2 Greatness in the Kingdom

An appalling request? (10:35-45)

- **What do we think of**
 - **The religious leaders? → Hardened hearts.**
 - **The crowds? → Amazed sheep without a shepherd.**
 - **The suppliant? → Receiving the compassion of Christ.**
 - **The disciples? → Blur like sotong...**

4.2 Greatness in the Kingdom

An appalling request? (10:35-45)

- **Drinking the cup of God's wrath.**
(Isaiah 51:17)
- **Baptism as in being engulfed in water up to the neck.** (Psalm 69:1-2, 14-15, Jonah 2:3-6)
- **John and James can drink the cup and be baptized as a benefit of Jesus' suffering.**
(Isaiah 53:10-11)

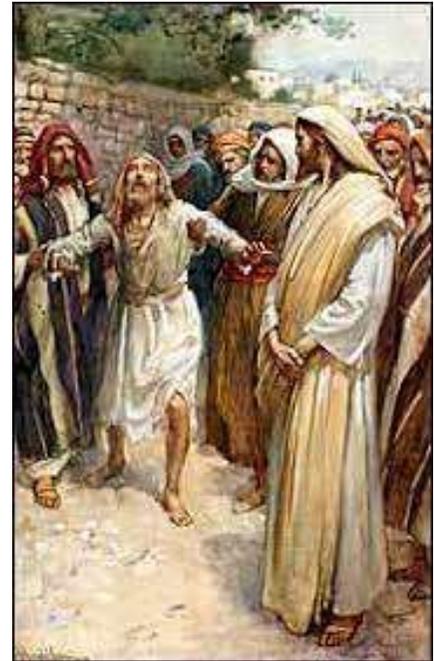
4.2 Ransom for Many

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (10:45)

- Ransom price paid for the redemption of somebody in slavery. (Exodus 6:6, Isaiah 52:3)**
- Jesus is not just the servant of all but the one who will give his life for others, even us.**

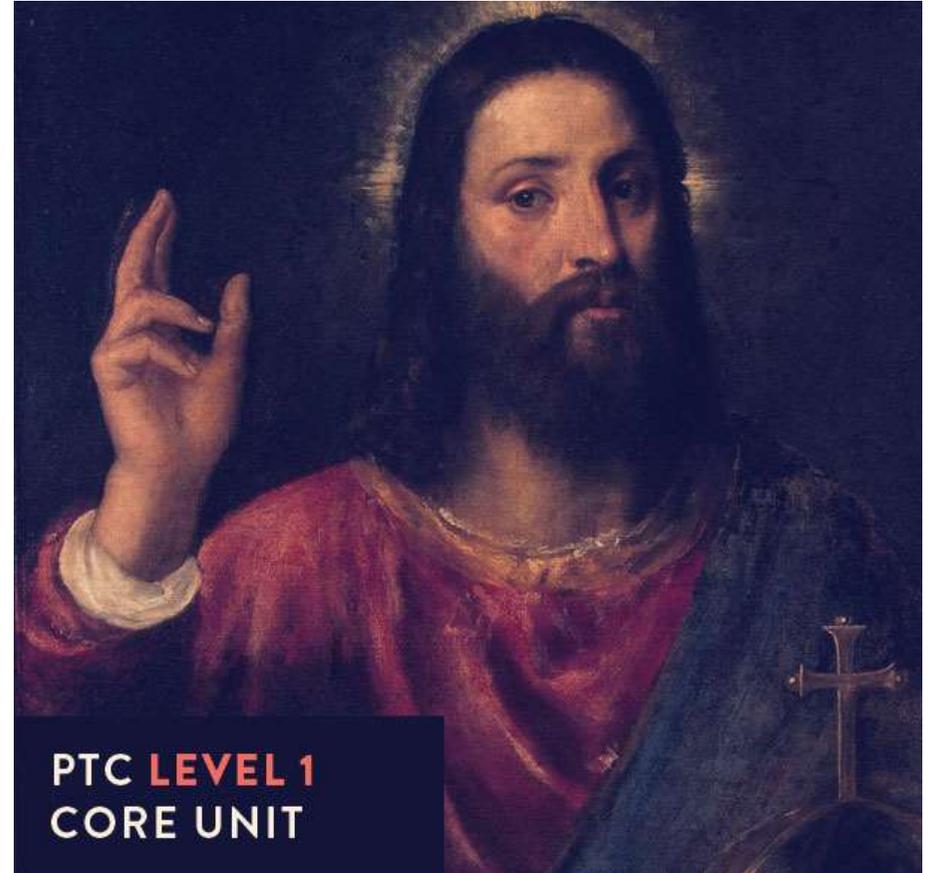
4.3 Bartimaeus

- **Another blind man receiving sight at the eve of a significant event. (8:22-26)**
- **It magnifies the faith of the suppliant and the lack of faith of everybody else, even the disciples.**
- **Bartimaeus becomes a follower of Jesus into Jerusalem where he will see the suffering of his healer...**



Unit 8:

*Jesus
comes to
Jerusalem*



PTC LEVEL 1
CORE UNIT

1.1 Palm Sunday



His disciples

- Follow Jesus' instructions.
- Enter Jerusalem together with Jesus.

The crowd

- Are in hyped Passover Festival mood.
- They hail Jesus as he entered but don't know who he is.

1.1 Palm Sunday



As readers

- **We see the connection to OT prophecy.**
- **Zechariah 9:9-12**
 - **The king comes on a donkey. (9)**
 - **He will bring peace. (10)**
 - **His kingdom will go to the ends of the earth. (10)**
 - **It will be a messianic reign. (11-12)**
- **We understand the significance of Jesus' entry.**

Day 2: Fig Tree and Temple



- **Another “Markan Sandwich” (Mk 11:12-14 / 15-18 / 19-25)**
- **Jesus expected some fruits, even out of season. But there was none.**
- **He then enters the temple a 2nd time and finds the temple abused.**
- **Occupying the courts prohibited the Gentiles to partake of Israel’s blessings.**

Day 2: Fig Tree and Temple



- **The temple authorities are responsible for this abuse.**
- **Once again, Jesus makes the point that Israel's leaders have brought down the nation.
(v 20: withered from the roots...)**
- **It is time for the messianic King!**

Day 3: Fig Tree and Temple



- The fig tree has withered.
- Jesus teaches his disciples about praying for God's Kingdom to come.
- Mountain to be thrown into the sea is end-time language. (v 23)
- As we stand praying, let's be ready! (v 25)

Day 3: In the Temple

- **Jesus' 3rd temple visit.**
- **Challenge: By who's authority...?**
- **Jesus responds with the parable of the tenants.**
- **The leaders are about to kill the Son whom God loves.**
(Mk 1:11, 9:7, 12:6)



Day 3: In the Temple

- **Mark 12:1-11 is a vineyard parable like Isaiah 5:1-7.**
- **God has poured everything into the vineyard, but in vain.**
- **The tenants have failed and will be judged. (Mk 12:9)**
- **From now on, the King's followers will be tenants.**



Day 3: In the Temple

- **Trap of the Pharisees: Give to Caesar what is Caesar's. (13-17)**
- **Trap about the resurrection. (18-27)**
- **Trap about the greatest commandment. (28-34)**
- **None came for an answer, all were hypocrites.**



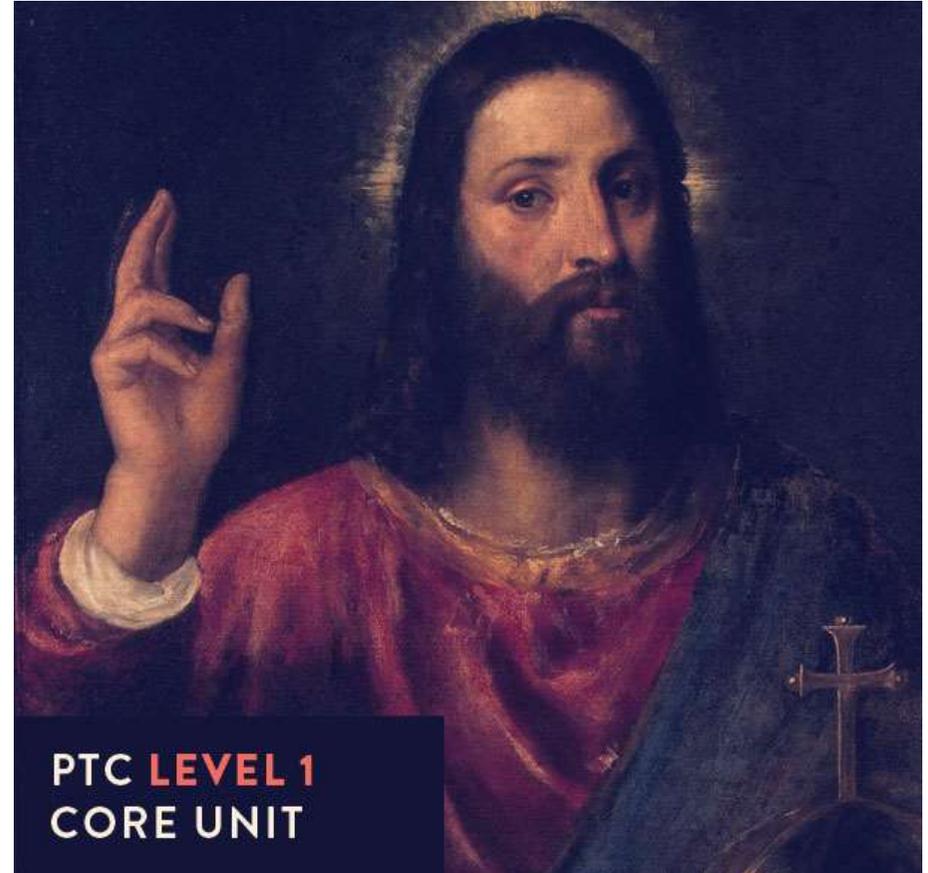
Day 3: In the Temple

- **Who are you waiting for?
A king like David? Or God's King? (35-37)**
- **Beware of your conduct while waiting. (38-40)**
- **Even the kind of society we are building. (41-44)**
→ **To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)**



Unit 9:

***The Coming
of the Son of
Man***



Mark 13 - Timeframe

- At the end of an intense day... “Look, Teacher! What magnificent buildings!”
- “Not one stone here will be left on another ...”
- A private conversation about timeframe. (v 4)
- Is Jesus’ answer of relevance for the disciples or for future generations, only?
- Integral or outside Mark’s gospel narrative?

Mark 13 - Timeframe

- Clues in v 14 'the abomination that causes desolation' and in v 26 'the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.'
- Daniel 7:13-14 'and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven ... and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.'

Mark 13 - Timeframe

Daniel 7-8

- **Four beasts appear with the power to rule temporarily.**
(7:2-8)
- **As they 'rule', the Ancient of Days takes up his ultimate rule.** (7:9-10)
- **The beasts were silenced.**
(7:11-12)



Mark 13 - Timeframe

Daniel 7-8

- The Son of Man appears and takes his seat in the presence of God. He is given authority forever. (7:13-14)
- Daniel 8 identifies the beasts/rams as the kingdoms of Greece. (8:19-25)



Mark 13 - Timeframe

Daniel 7-8

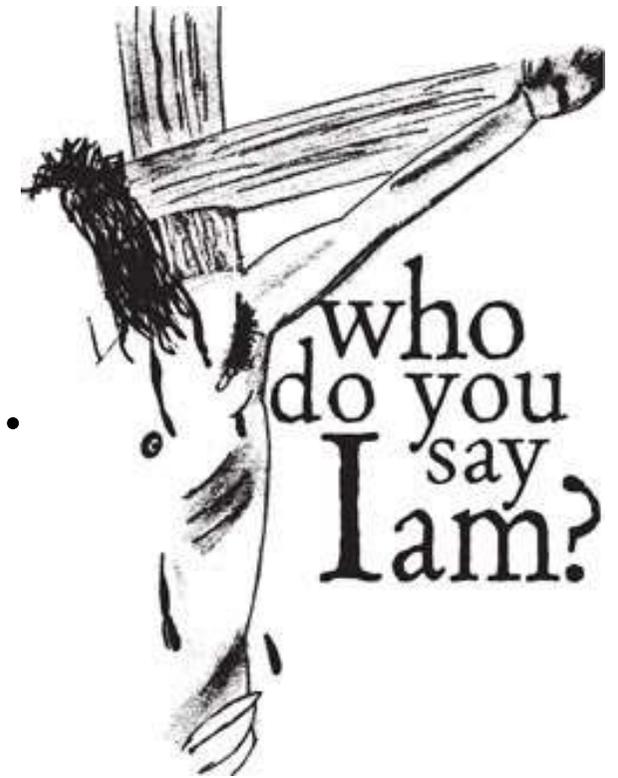
- Eventually, one of these 'smaller kings', the 'little horn' will desecrate the temple by offering pigs on the altar.
→ 'Abomination that causes desolation.'

(1 Maccabees, Josephus)



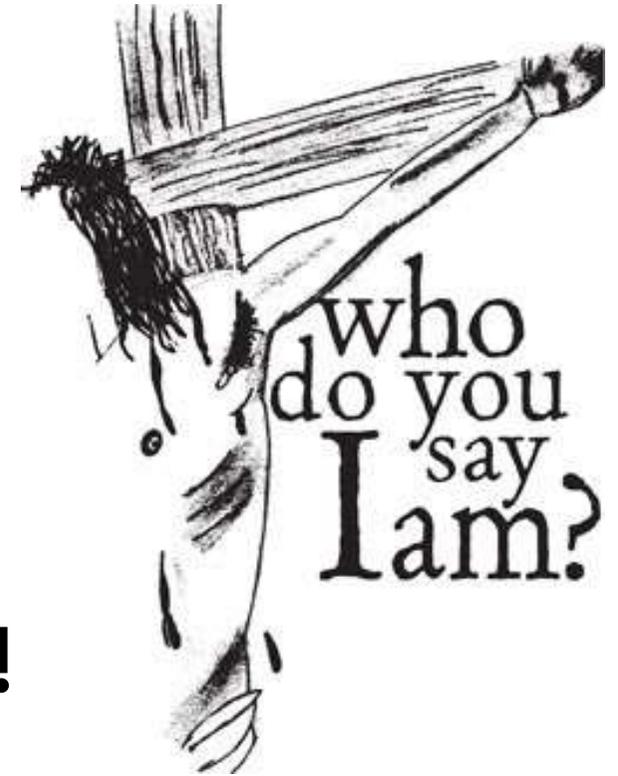
Mark 13 - Timeframe

- When will this Son of Man come and his Kingdom be established?
 - Mark 2:10 – He has authority to forgive sins.
 - 8:31 – He must suffer and be rejected.
 - 9:9 – He will rise!
 - 8:38 – He will judge.



Mark 13 - Timeframe

- When will this 'desolation that causes abomination' happen?
 - On the cross.
 - The Son of God betrayed, tortured and executed.
- Daniel prophesies immediate events, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.
- Death will not be the end → Easter!



Mark 13 – Watch out!

- What will be the sign?
 - ‘Watch out that no one deceives you.’ (13:5)
 - These won’t be the signs. (7-8)
 - Continue your mission! (10-11)
 - You will be persecuted. (12-23)



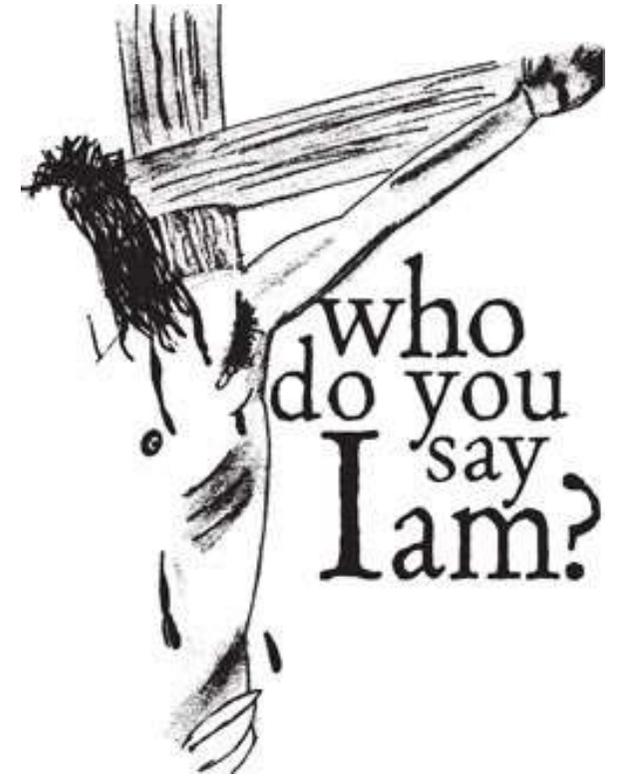
Mark 13 – Watch out!

- When will it happen?
 - Jesus does not give a clear answer.
 - The Bible does not give a clear answer!
 - Jesus' 1st coming is 'historic', 2nd coming is 'soon'.



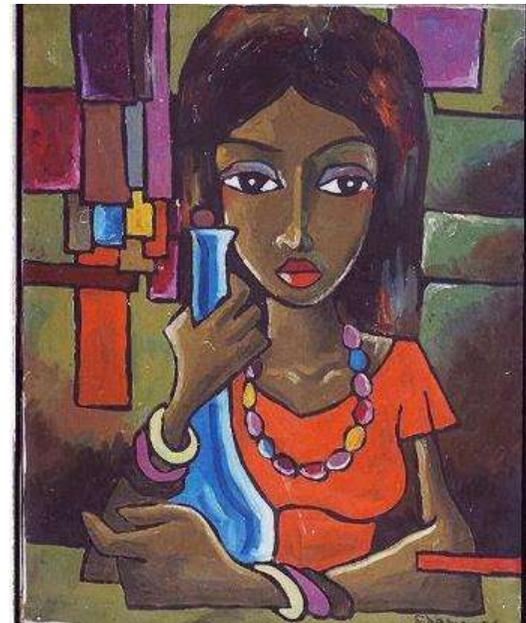
Mark 13 – Be ready!

- **Parable of the fig tree. (13:28-31)**
→ **Things will happen soon, ‘right at the door.’ (Crucifixion)**
- **Parable of the servants keeping watch (34-37)**
→ **It will come ‘suddenly’. Don’t sleep, watch! (2nd coming)**



3. Preparing for Death

- Plot to kill. (14:1-2)
 - The woman with the alabaster jar anoints Jesus for burials. (3-9)
 - Judas betrays Jesus. (10-11)
- Who knows Jesus' true identity and is willing to follow him?



4. From Passover ...

- **Passover meal. (12-26)**
- **Jesus is in control! (Parallel to his parables in 13:34-37)**
- **Jewish tradition to explain the Passover meal.**
- **Jesus re-interprets the meal according to the New Covenant!**

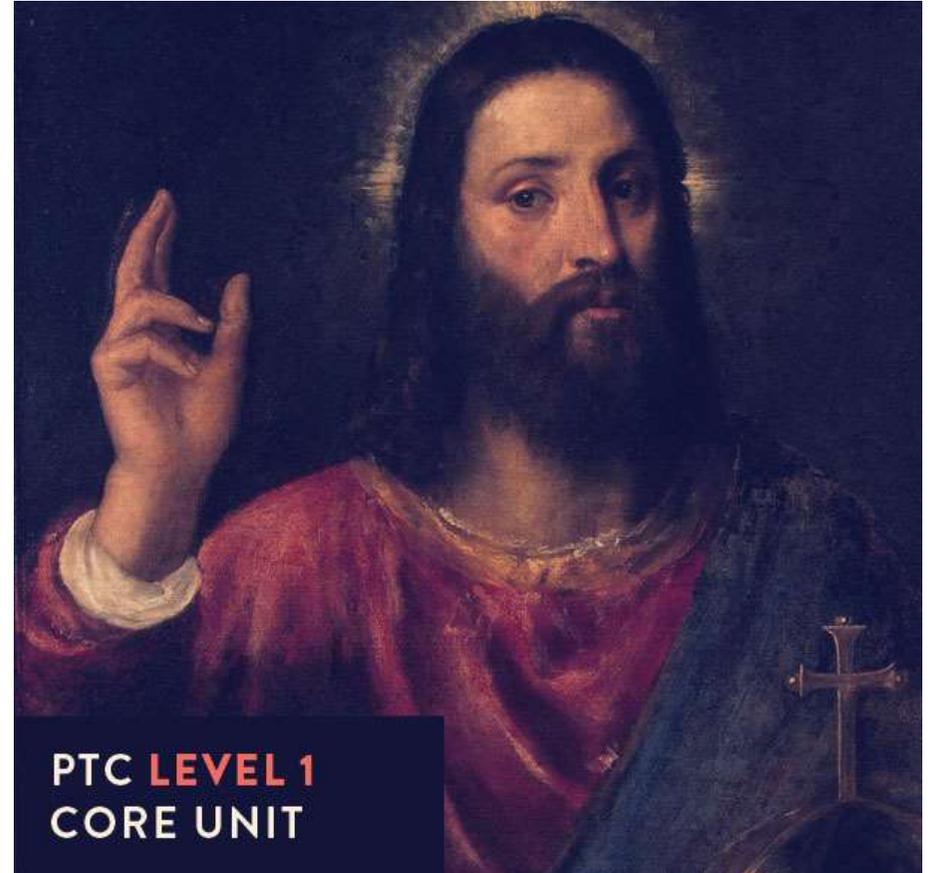


4. ... to Eucharist

- The bread – My body. (v 22)
- The cup – My blood. (24)
- A New Covenant. (Exodus 24:3-8)
- Death for many. (Isaiah 53:12)
- The Kingdom of God. (Isaiah 25:6-8)

Unit 10:

***The King
and his
Kingdom***



PTC LEVEL 1
CORE UNIT

Mount of Olive / Gethsemane

- **Waiting**
 - For the arrest? For the Son to be glorified!
- **Desertion**
 - All will fall away.
→ Zechariah 13:7

Mount of Olive / Gethsemane

- **Disciples - Watch / Sleep**
 - For the Son of Man. Yet, they don't...
- **Jesus - Prays**
 - For the cup of wrath to pass. Yet, your will be done.

Mount of Olive / Gethsemane

- **Betrayal / Arrest**
 - Judas uses a respectful greeting as betrayal.
 - Jesus does not resist.
- **Desertion**
 - Mark 14:27+50
 - A deserted scene...

The 1st Hearing

- Chief priests, Sanhedrin, High Priest.
- Confusion and lies.
- One significant question: “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” (Mark 14:61)
- One decisive answer: “I am” (v 62)
- Unity in condemnation. (v 64)





Oh Peter ...

- **Wants to be loyal.**
(Mark 14:29, 47, 54)
- **But can't...**
(14:37, 47, 66-72)
- **Shamed, even by a servant girl. How weak are we...**
(compare Mk 1:12-13)

Pontius Pilate

- **Mark's account is short, not much mention of Pilate's conflicts.**
- **Pilate is a Gentile. 'Perfect Israel' has been handed to 'the nations'.** (Deuteronomy 28:64)
- **Jesus is charged as 'King of the Jews', a convenient accusation, bringing shame upon themselves.**



Mockery and Crucifixion

- He needed to be mocked to fulfil prophecy. (Isaiah 50:6)
- Even on the cross, the mockery by everybody continues.
- Jesus died forsaken by all, even God.
→ God's wrath...
- Death is a new beginning when the temple curtain tears.





Death of Jesus

- **Death is God's judgement.** (Genesis 3:19)
- **Darkness was God's doing.** (Exodus 10:21-22)
- **God quickened the death.** (Mk 14:27)



Death of Jesus

My God, why have you forsaken me? (v 34)

- **Forsaken on behalf of mankind.**
- **Forsaken for the benefit of mankind.**
- **The Trinity enduring wrath.**

Jesus – Son of God!

Surely this man was the Son of God!
(Mark 15:39)

- **The voice from heaven.**
- **The confessions of demons.**
- **Forgiveness of sins and walking on the sea.**
- **The statement of the “I am”!**
- **On the lips of a Roman centurion.**



Coming of the Son of Man

- **Jesus prophesies the abomination that causes desolation. (Mark 13:14)**
- **It precedes the coming of the Son of Man. (13:24-26; 14:62)**



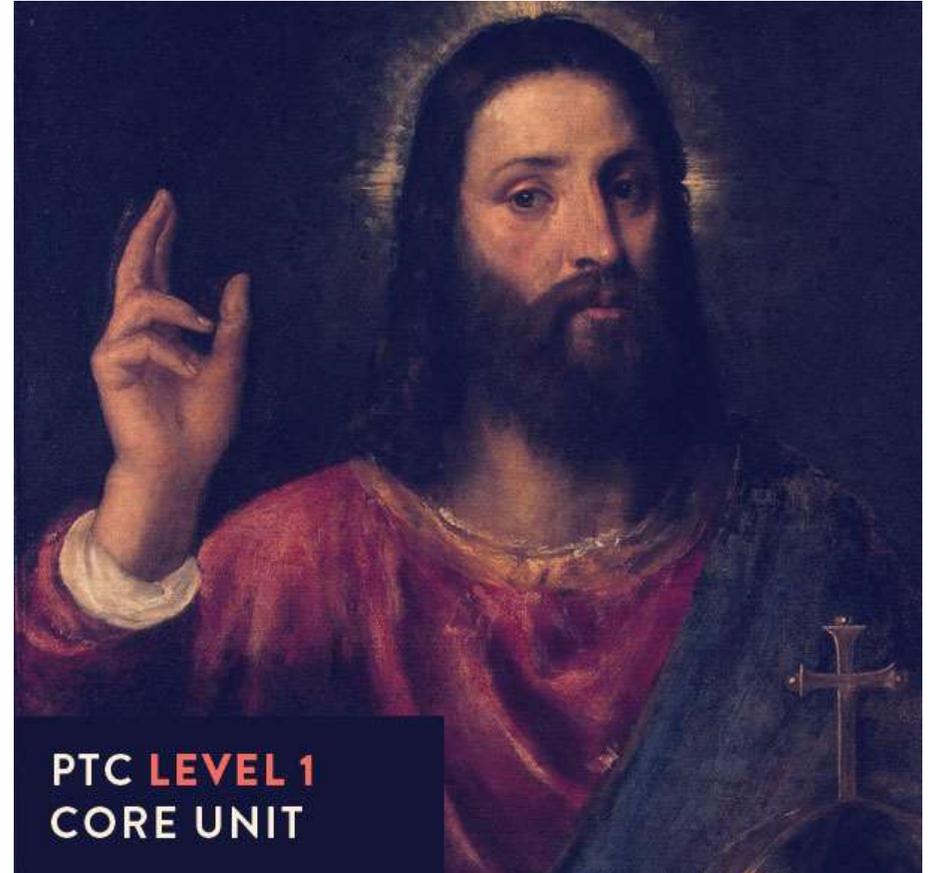
Coming of the Son of Man

- On resurrection day, the grave is empty, the Son of Man has arrived.
- Have we kept watch?
- Do we see the Risen Lord?
- Will we keep watch?



Summary

The Gospel according to Mark



PTC LEVEL 1
CORE UNIT

Unit 1: The Gospels

- **Synoptic gospels: Mt, Mk, Lk**
(follow the same synopsis or structure)
- **Who is Jesus?** (Mark 1:1-9:13)
- **Why did he come? What does it mean to follow him?** (Mk 9:14-16:20)
- **Mark written between 60-65 AD.**
- **Mark reports Peter's account.**



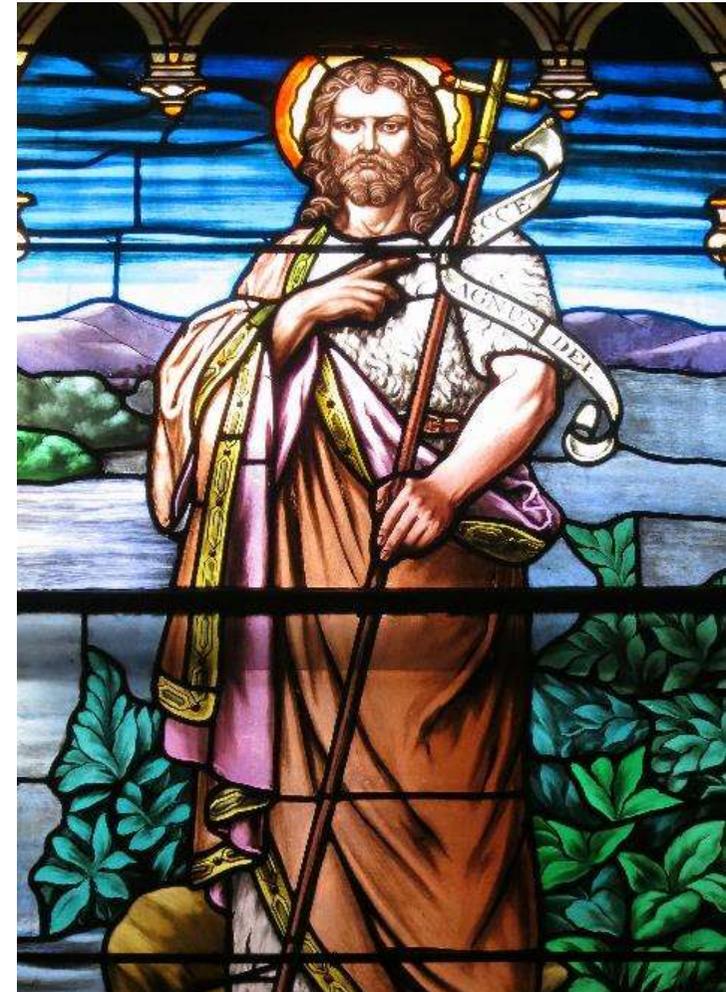
Unit 2: Good News

***The beginning of the good news about
Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,
(Mk 1:1)***

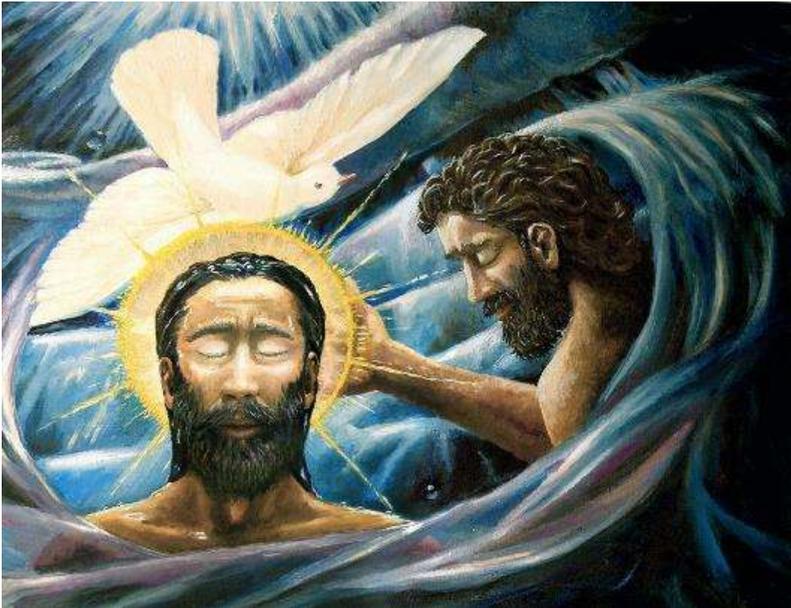
- **Good News = euangelion (Greek)**
- **Evangelical: Taking the Bible seriously and believe in Jesus as Savior & Lord.**

Unit 2: John the Baptist

- Foretold in Exodus 23:20, Isaiah 40:3 (Mk 1:2-3), Malachi 3:1.
- A time for a different baptism had arrived (Ezekiel 36:24-27).
- John's baptism points to Jesus.



Unit 2: Jesus Arrives



- Jesus arrives to be baptized, identifying with sinful Israel.
- “... he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.”
(Mk 1:10)

Unit 3: The Kingdom draws near

Kingdom foreshadowed	Signs of God's everlasting Kingdom are visible in Jesus.
Miracles	Show forth God's power and the care for his creation.
Authority	Jesus is the new King with authority.
People of God	Followers of Jesus doing God's will.
New Wineskin	The New Covenant supersedes the old.
Opposition	To the point of death but no victory.

Unit 4: Parables

- **Parables were not easy to understand.**
- **Parables were not meant to be easy to understand.**
- **Understanding is given by God.**
- **They aimed to provoke a reaction ...**
 - **I want to understand and follow Jesus.**
 - **I don't care and reject Jesus.**

Unit 5: Jesus Identity

- Jesus has authority over nature, even over death!
- Jesus cares.
- He is the true Shepherd King.
- From fear to faith.



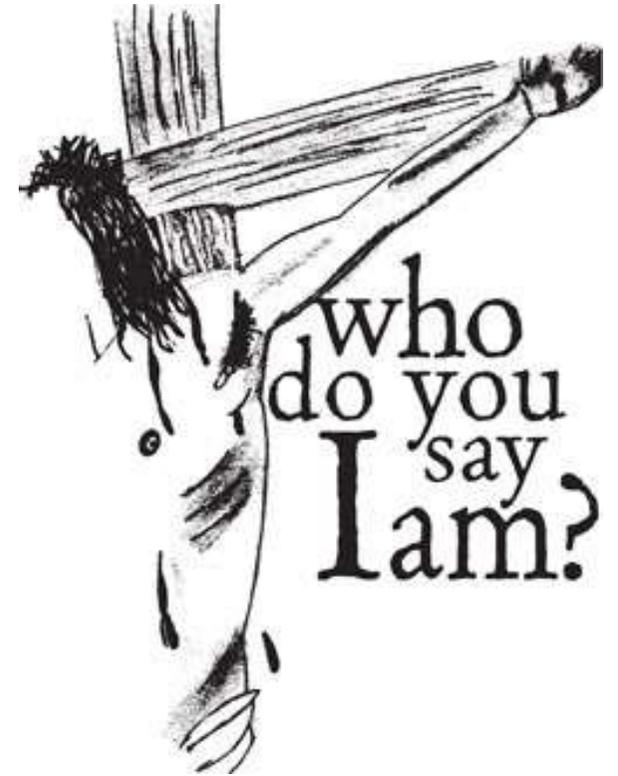
Unit 6: Good News for the Gentiles

- Isaiah 35 foretells a time when Gentiles and Jews – the redeemed – will worship God together.
- Jesus' trips into Gentile areas are a sign of Kingdom restoration.
- Abraham's descendants (Jesus + disciples) fulfil Genesis 12:3!
- His disciples – though Jews originally – now include us – same mission!



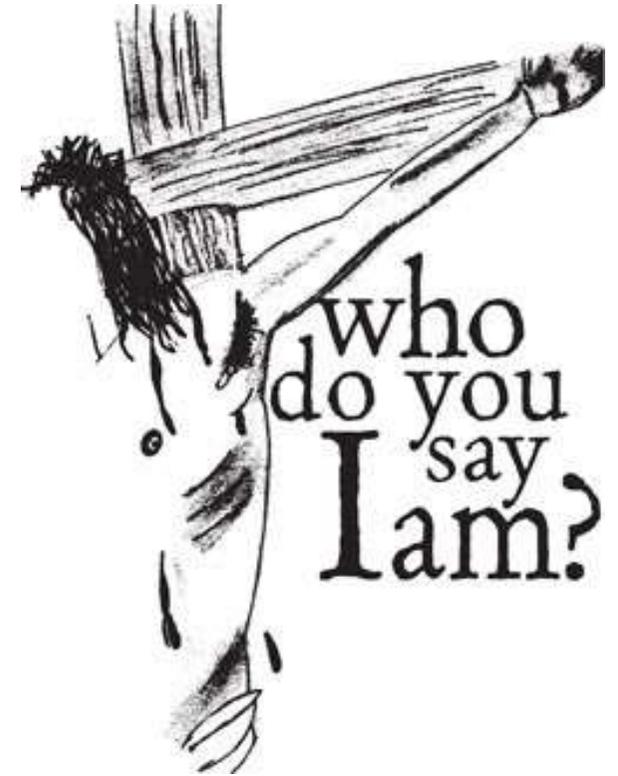
Unit 7: Turning Point

- Who do you think I am?
- *'You are the Messiah!'*
- If Jesus is the Messiah, the disciples have to follow him.
- Following Jesus means to go with him on the way of suffering.



Unit 7: Passion Predictions

- Fulfilment of OT prophecies
- Son of Man
- Rejected servant in Isaiah
 - Isaiah's servant must suffer.
- Resurrection
 - Isaiah's servant will see the light of life.



Unit 8: Palm Sunday



- **When we see the connection to OT prophecy, i.e. Zechariah 9:9-12**
 - **The king comes on a donkey.**
 - **He will bring peace.**
 - **His kingdom will go to the ends of the earth.**
 - **It will be a messianic reign.**
- ... we understand the significance of Jesus' entry.**

Unit 8: Fig Tree and Temple



- The temple authorities are responsible for this abuse.
- Once again, Jesus makes the point that Israel's leaders have brought down the nation.
- It is time for the messianic King!
- Keep watch!

Unit 9: Getting Closer

- Jesus predicts the 'Abomination that causes Desolation'.
- It points to the cross.
- It will not be the end.
- Beware of lies.
- Continue to follow him.



Unit 9: Passover and Eucharist

- The bread – My body. (v 22)
- The cup – My blood. (24)
- A New Covenant. (Exodus 24:3-8)
- Death for many. (Isaiah 53:12)
- The Kingdom of God. (Isaiah 25:6-8)

Unit 10: Son of Man is glorified!

- **God's wrath is poured out.**
- **It is born by the Trinity on the cross.**
- **The Son of Man has come!**
- **We are his witnesses!**



Philippians 1:27a

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.