

Behold

Mark 1:1-8

Behold

- Aramaic word Hava – to be or become
 - + behold, +see clearly, +cleave, +seek, +take heed, +walk in, +tremble
 - It means to thoroughly hold something in your mind, attention, emotions with the intent of understanding it more deeply
 - When this word is used, it is generally introducing something new or unexpected
 - This word indicates that we need to pay close attention to what follows it
 - Words like “Look” or “See” alone don’t accurately convey the meaning of this Aramaic word

Behold

- The English word is “behold”
 - To behold is to do more than just glance or look at something
 - To behold is to be captivated
 - When you behold something, you see it with your eyes, but you also hold your gaze on it in order to search and to understand
 - Behold is more of an intense indicator- something more along the lines of “stop, look and listen”, “don’t miss this”, “this is super important”, or “this changes everything”
 - The word behold is alerting us that we really need to pay attention so that we can truly see and thoroughly understand
 - We want to behold what comes next because it is so important!

Behold

- **Isaiah 7:14 ESV**, Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 - **Isaiah 43:19 ESV**, Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
 - **Luke 2:10 ESV**, And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”
- So, it should not surprise us as Mark was recording the words of the Apostle Peter’s teaching, behold is his mindset and should be ours as well

Scripture

- **Mark 1:1-6, 7-8 ESV**, The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight’”
 - 4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
 - 7 And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

- Gospel – “Good News”
 - Refers to the announcement that Jesus has brought the reign of God to our world through his life, death, and resurrection from the dead
 - **Mark 1:14-15 ESV**, 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
 - **Romans 1:3-4 ESV**, 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord!

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

- Good News – There is an answer to our sin debt before a holy, righteous God who has declared us guilty
 - There is a cross where our sin debt was placed upon the innocent Son of God
 - **Isaiah 53:6 NIV**, We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
 - There is a resurrection morning promised to us because Jesus' tomb is empty
 - **Acts 2:24 NIV**, But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

- Good News – There is an answer to our sin debt before a holy, righteous God who has declared us guilty
 - Sin no longer has domination over us
 - **Romans 6:14 NIV**, For sin shall no longer be your master
 - **Romans 6:18 NIV**, You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness

This gospel, “*good news*” must be heralded

- In the Bible, a herald was a messenger or representative of a king or nobleman who delivered messages and proclamations to the people
 - Heralds were often loud-voiced and had a great deal of authority
 - Their role was to carry out the king's message exactly as intended
 - To ensure that the people understood the message and made necessary preparations for the king's arrival and obey his message to them

This gospel, “*good news*” must be heralded

- **Isaiah 40:3 NIV**, A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
 - God provided His own herald we call, John the Baptist
 - Was he a charismatic, slick talking, well dressed herald?
 - **Mark 1:6 NIV**, John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

This gospel, “*good news*” must be heralded

- **Isaiah 40:3 NIV**, A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
 - Did he come to the finest, most holy places in Israel to make his voice heard?
 - Where did the Wise Men first come when looking for the new king?
 - **Mark 1:4 ESV**, John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness
 - Behold the Gospel of Jesus Christ came into the wilderness lives of people
 - **Matthew 4:16 NIV**, the people living in darkness, living in the land of the shadow of death (*Isa. 9:12*)

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 - Did he come to the finest, most holy places in Israel to make his voice heard?
 - **Mark 1:4 ESV**, John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness
 - ❖ This describes the wilderness in people’s lives
 - ❖ Just like Jesus came into the wilderness to be tempted
 - ❖ **Matthew 4:1 NIV**, Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted (*tried or tested*) by the devil.

This gospel, “*good news*” must be heralded

- **Isaiah 40:3 NIV**, A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
 - Did John use big theological words to show off his knowledge?
 - **Matthew 3:1 ESV**, In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - **Mark 1:4 ESV**, John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

This gospel, “*good news*” must be heralded

- **Isaiah 40:3 NIV**, A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
 - Did John make it about himself?
 - **Mark 1:7-8 ESV**, And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
 - **John 1:19-20 NIV**, 19 Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”

This gospel, “*good news*” must be heralded

- **Isaiah 40:3 NIV**, A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
 - Did John make it about himself?
 - **John 1:29-30 ESV**, 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’”

The Gospel of Jesus still comes into our wildernesses today

- People are still living in darkness, living in the land of the shadow of death
 - And the only answer today is still the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - **Acts 2:38 NIV**, Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - **Acts 4:12 NIV**, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”
 - Simple message with eternal consequences

The Gospel of Jesus still comes into our wildernesses today

- Today we spend so much time on why our one denomination is more true, more right than others
 - We spend more time pointed out our differences than pointing to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - We seem to be more concerned with how God calls, chooses, predestinates, how Scriptures are interpreted rather than the simple message of **John 3:16-18 NIV**

The Gospel of Jesus still comes into our wildernesses today

- Today we spend so much time on why our denomination is more true, more right than others
 - **John 3:16-18 NIV**, 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.
 - Or John's message, **Matthew 3:2 ESV**, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Behold

- Not everyone who heard John's message believed and obeyed God's message
 - The Spiritual Leaders thought they knew more than John and challenged him ultimately rejecting his message
 - The Political Leaders didn't want anything to do with John's message because it had the potential to disrupt their power
 - Some rejected because they did not believe a Messiah would ever come
 - Some rejected because John did not look like their image of a Prophet of God
 - Some didn't have time, said "later", "what can he do for me today"

Behold

- Not everyone who heard John's message believed and obeyed God's message
 - But there were many we received the message from John, repented of their sin, were baptized to reflect that decision and desire in their hearts and began telling other as they went through life about the coming Messiah
 - What about you today?
 - Have you ever had the "Behold" moment of salvation?
 - If you have, have you lost the "Behold" of Jesus Christ in your life?

Behold

Mark 1:1-8