

“Immediately:” The Gospel of Mark’s Concise Guide to Following Jesus
“What Is the Kingdom of God?”

Mark 1:14–34

Page 8 in the ESV Scripture Journal

The Lord’s Day Morning

August 30, 2026

The key to understanding Mark is understanding the phrase “Kingdom of God.” Jesus uses the phrase 14 times in the book of Mark. It is a central theme that ties the book together. Understanding what this phrase means is the key to understanding the identity of Jesus, what he came to do, and why you should follow him. Here’s a working definition from theologian, Patrick Schreiner: “The kingdom is the King’s power over the King’s people in the King’s place.” There are four things you need to know about the Kingdom of God:

1. It was _____ at Jesus’ baptism and will be consummated at his return.
2. It _____ a diverse community of people who gladly deny themselves to follow King Jesus.
3. It _____ through non-violent persuasion marked by truth, logic, love, and service.
4. It _____ inexorably against all obstacles and opponents.

Read and meditate on next week’s text: Mark 1:35–2:12