

READING FOR SUNDAY– APRIL 7, 2024 @ CAPC OAKLAND

Mark 1:1
COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

¹ The beginning of the *good news* about Jesus Christ, God's Son,

1 Corinthians 1:10-11, 17-31
COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

¹⁰ Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don't be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, Chloe's people gave me some information about you, that you're fighting with each other [about the quality of your baptism in function of who baptized you.]

¹⁷ Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the *good news*. And Christ didn't send me to preach the *good news* with clever words so that Christ's cross won't be emptied of its meaning.

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. ¹⁹ It is written in scripture: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent. ²⁰ Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today's debaters? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? ²¹ In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. ²² Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. ²⁴ But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. ²⁵ This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. ²⁷ But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. ²⁸ And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. ²⁹ So no human being can brag in God's presence. ³⁰ It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us. This means that he made us righteous and holy, and he delivered us. ³¹ This is consistent with what was written: The one who brags should brag in the Lord!

Matthew 1:1-17
COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

¹ A record of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

² Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar.

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Aram.

⁴ Aram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab.

Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

⁶ Jesse was the father of David the king.

David was the father of Solomon,

whose mother had been the wife of Uriah....

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary—of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Christ.

¹⁷ So there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen generations from the exile to Babylon to the Christ.

Luke 1:1-6
COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

¹ any people have already applied themselves to the task of compiling an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used what the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed down to us. ³ Now, after having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, I have also decided to write a carefully ordered account for you, most honorable Theophilus. ⁴ I want you to have confidence in the soundness of the instruction you have received.

⁵ During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations.

John 1:1-8
COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

¹ In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.² The Word was with God in the beginning. ³ Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being ⁴ through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

⁶ A man named John was sent from God. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. ⁸ He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. ...

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; ¹⁷ as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in the text?
- What strikes you in the comparison of how the four gospels begin?
- How do you hear the gospel as Good News? How might others not experience it as good news?
- What is Paul trying to say about the gospel and how we understand it as human being?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, as a church – to act, speak, be, or change, through this word of scripture?