

Dear Padre,

Mark 1:15 quotes Jesus as saying, “Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Since the Gospels hadn’t been written yet, what was he referring to?

These days when we say the word *gospel*, we tend to be talking about one of the four written Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But the word *gospel* wasn’t originally tied to any particular written form of communication. In fact, the Greek word we translate to *gospel*—*evangelion*—simply means “good news.”

When Jesus says, “Repent and believe in the gospel,” he is basically saying, “Repent and believe in the good news.” For Jesus, the nature of that good news is clear: Jesus is announcing the coming of God’s kingdom, the initiation of the fullness of God’s reign on earth. Jesus preaches this good news in word and action and makes it real through his life, death, and resurrection.

After Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, many of his followers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to go into the world and continue Christ’s gospel proclamation. The apostles and disciples did this by word of mouth at first, but within a few decades they decided to commit the message of Christ’s good news to writing, giving us the Gospel books we know today.



SERMON ON THE MOUNT BY CARL BLOCH/WIKIPEDIA

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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

In these, our troubled times, rent by the tragedies of war and menaced by the baneful tendency to accentuate differences and to incite conflict, may the Good News that in Jesus forgiveness triumphs over sin, life defeats death, and love conquers fear, be proclaimed to the world with renewed fervor.

LETTER RECOGNIZING MISSIONARY WORK, OCTOBER 22, 2017



Calendar

Monday
JANUARY 25
Conversion of
St. Paul the Apostle
Acts 22:3–16 or
Acts 9:1–22
Mk 16:15–18

Tuesday
JANUARY 26
Sts. Timothy and Titus,
Bishops
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5
Mk 3:31–35

Wednesday
JANUARY 27
Weekday
Heb 10:11–18
Mk 4:1–20

Thursday
JANUARY 28
St. Thomas Aquinas,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church
Heb 10:19–25
Mk 4:21–25

Friday
JANUARY 29
Weekday
Heb 10:32–39
Mk 4:26–34

Saturday
JANUARY 30
Weekday
Heb 11:1–2, 8–19
Mk 4:35–41

Sunday
JANUARY 31
Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Dt 18:15–20
1 Cor 7:32–35
Mk 1:21–28