

Jesus is the Good News
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Mark 1:14-20
Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

If you hear nothing else today hear this good news: In Jesus of Nazareth the Kingdom of God makes a *personal* appearance.

The good news is the rule of God showing up in Jesus. When Jesus shows up, we have a choice. We can turn away from what we're doing and follow Jesus, or we can turn and walk away.

I would prefer that we meet and follow Jesus.

I.

Four Questions

Mark 1:14 "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee"

Today I want to ask and answer four questions:

1. What is the good news?
2. What does the good news have to do with Jesus?
3. How does the good news begin?
4. How do we get involved?

READ Mark 1:14

Mark 1:14-15 is major shift

Time: After John arrested (Mark 1:1-11)

Place: Galilee (north from Jerusalem, west of sea)

Content: *Good News* (Mark 1:1, 14-15))

Word occurs 3x in Mark 1

Shift in 1:21 Jesus teaches, heals

*This is important! Pay attention! GOOD NEWS!

II.

What is the Good News?

Mark 1:14 “Proclaiming the good news of God”

“Good News”: What is this?

- What would be *good news* for you?
- What was good news for these people?

READ Mark 1:15 “Time is fulfilled”

Time-ly = decisive and now

time (*kairos*) *decisive* moment

fulfilled (*plerao*) something expected *now*

E.g. baby coming after 9 months

READ Mark 1:15 “Kingdom of God”

Jesus favorite phrase

Content:

READ Psalm 97:1-2

Who = Yahweh

What = justice and righteousness

Where = on earth

Jesus’ first sermon

READ Isaiah 61:1-2

Good news is God’s rule now!

- pagans out
- oppression over
- God shows up

*They expected Yahweh to show up and rule now

*Do you want God to show up in your life right now?

- What would that look like?
- How would you know?

III.

What Does the Good News Have to Do with Jesus?

Mark 1:15 “The Kingdom of God has come near”

READ 1:15 “Come near”

Near: space or time?

- 2x other than here in Mark; 24/35x in NT, always spatial
- Touch the good news in Jesus

E.g. Ghost in your car in Haunted House at Disneyland
*person near startles you

Other NT references:

- Hebrews 1 = God speaks in a Son
- Col 1 = Jesus is image of the invisible God
- Phil 2 = Equal with God, emptied, a servant
- John 1 = Word of God became flesh

*God shows up in Jesus

*Good News isn't:

- plan = SMART Goals
- program = Refocus, Strategic Initiatives

*Good news is a relationship, getting to know a person

*How do we get to know Jesus?

- Heart
- Hands
- Feet

IV.

How Does the Good News Begin?

Mark 1:16 “As Jesus passed along the sea”

Right after proclaiming the good news is near:

READ Mark 1:16-20

Good News begins with Jesus meeting people

- Jesus goes where they are (Sea of Galilee)
- Talks to them about what they do (fish)
- Forms a group/congregation

*Lesslie Newbigin: gospel doesn't come through the roof directly to me, it comes when people go next door

Good News Begins:

- *God starts where we are
- *God forms a group

-Go where people are: talk, pray, form a group

V.

How Do We Get Involved?

Mark 1:15 "Repent and Believe in the good news?"

If the good news is God showing up

If the good news isn't a program but a person

If the good news begins with meeting Jesus and people

How do we get involved?

READ Mark 1:15

Jesus says, "Repent and believe in the good news"

Turn and Trust Jesus (Good News)

- Personal = about meeting Jesus
- Turn = taking a step away from past
- Trust = taking a step towards Jesus

Bonhoeffer: *The Cost of Discipleship* (ch 2 Call to Discipleship)

"Only those who believe are obedient;
only those who are obedient believe."

Repent/Obey and Trust in Jesus

“Trust and Obey” hymn

Simon and Andrew, James and John

-took a step away from past = left boats

-took a step towards Jesus = followed Jesus

*Same is true for us

-some say “I can’t believe”

-truth is we won’t believe

-we cannot let go of something

-belief and obedience go together

-disciples obey and then believe

Today:

George MacDonald on rich ruler

“Had he done as the Master told him, he would have soon come to understand. Obedience is the opener of eyes.”

Turn and trust Jesus or turn and walk away?