

Scripture Text

Mark 1

Context

The context in the bible's storyline is that the people of God have been humiliated and awaiting a Saviour, for years and years. Are any of God's promises any good, and will they come to pass? This is the tension that you begin the book with. And then suddenly, like a quick docudrama you get the introduction of Jesus and His ministry, announced as the good news, the Christ, the Son of God.

Observation and Meaning

- How does the quote from Isaiah the prophet as well as the content of John's preaching (v7-8) introduce a sense of expectation about the arrival of this good news?
- God's Words to Jesus at His baptism are taken from Psalm 2.7. How does this help us understand who Jesus is?
- What is surprising about Jesus going into the wilderness after the affirmation He receives from His father? Who went into the wilderness in the book of Exodus, and how does Jesus fare in the wilderness compared to them? What is this showing us?
- What is the content of the Gospel (good news) that Jesus preaches, and how are we to respond to it?
- What kind of response are we to have to Jesus who calls us (v16-20)?
- What are the various ways demonstrates this good news in vs 21-45? How do the three different types of healing that Jesus performs show us what kinds of things He has authority over?

Big Idea

We are to believe the good news of Jesus Christ by repenting of sin, believing in Him, and following Him.

Connecting to the Bible's storyline

The passage describes the good news of the arrival of Jesus Christ, who is the long awaited king. His kingdom comes through repenting of sin and believing the good news, and involves following Him who has authority both in His teaching and in His power over demons, illness and defilement.

Sermon Outline

1. The Who of this good news: Jesus the King (v1-13)
2. The what of this good news: A Kingdom through suffering (v14-15)
3. The how of this good news: Repenting and believing (v15-20)
4. A glimpse into this good news: Reversing the curse (v21-45)

Application

- How do we receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ? What is involved in this receiving?
- What did it mean for the two sets of brothers to follow Jesus, and what does it mean for you to follow Jesus?
- Jesus says that those who follow Him will be made into fishers of men. How does Mark 1 show us how we can 'fish' for men and women?
- Whilst Jesus demonstrates compassion towards the suffering (v41) He knows he has been sent to preach (v38). What did Jesus preach (v14-15), and who can you begin to preach the Gospel to?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.