

Sermon Series:
Who is this man? - The Book of Mark
Sermon Title:
Repent and Believe [Sermon #5]
October 2, 2016
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Introduction:

This week I listened on the bus & MTR to the audiobook that has just come out about a good friend of mine's life and ministry. 7 years ago he was killed by Al Qaida where he was serving in a 100% Muslim country. He has left all to follow Christ and paid the ultimate price for sharing his faith. He was such a fisher of men and a great brother.

As I read this passage in Mark this week over and over, I couldn't help but think of my friend and his example. I felt such conviction this week from the text.

One thing is for sure, this is something that we need to obey and not just know in our minds. I need to repent.

There is a time gap in between Mark 1 verses 13-14. It says, 'Now after John was arrested....' That's all it says. More details can be found in Matthew 4, Luke 4 and John 4.

Again, as we mentioned last week, Mark gives us a snapshot. A quick 'post' and not that many details.

Mark 1: 14-15 says,

'Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

So, this morning we want to look at the things that Jesus said and what his message was. It would be tempting in this passage to talk about all of the neat details of fishing and nets and how we could squeeze out all kinds of application from that, but we want to focus on Jesus' message.

I. Proclaiming the gospel of God- The good news of God. Now the scriptures clearly say that this is something good, but when you look at Jesus' actual words, it won't seem good. As I say over and over, there is no good news unless there is first, BAD NEWS. The situation must be bad in order to need something good.

Jesus is proclaiming. He is preaching. He is heralding. Maybe yelling. The situation requires him to begin his ministry, not with a 'fireside chat' but with a yelling out- Hear this!

God has broken into human history and time like never before, to provide a way of salvation for mankind.

So, the first thing that Jesus is saying is....

II. The Time is Fulfilled.

This is a historic moment. A particular significant time. A Kairos moment. Think about how important and significant this moment is in history and eternity! God in human flesh has come down and is opening his mouth to speak. They will hear his voice with their real ears. The one who the scriptures have spoken of for thousands of years....has arrived. NOW! The time has come.

The word **fulfilled** here literally means 'completely full'. John the Baptist said, "the time is coming soon" "He's coming soon". Jesus came and said, "I am here" "The time is here". It has begun.

God's plan of redemption is unfolding before their eyes. GOD IS BEFORE THEIR EYES.

III. The Kingdom of God is at hand

It is near. It has arrived. The KING has come. The KING has arrived. The king who spoke galaxies and super novas into existence with a word and who upholds them with his power- has arrived. He is a ruler. He is a sovereign. His kingdom is breaking in.

Is this good news?

Only for those who are willing to surrender their kingdom.

It's a crisis that this king has shown up.

It's terrifying yet glorious.

It's not safe but it is good.

How are we to understand it?

Has it already come? Will it come later? Is it coming now?

The answer is YES. Already, but not yet.

With Jesus coming out into the public, the kingdom of God had arrived. It kept arriving and kept growing and is still growing and will finally one day, come completely.

Illustration:

It's like when people come to our house to visit. The children always get really excited. Maybe they wait by the road. Maybe they look out the window.

'They're here', they will scream. Well, when?

- A. They see the bus coming down the hill and they'll say, 'They're here.'
- B. They'll see them getting off of the bus. 'They're here'.
- C. They'll see them in the parking lot. 'They're here.'
- D. or when they walk in the door. 'They're here'.

Which is true?

They're all true. Just different levels of here.

In the same way, the kingdom has come, it is coming and will come. Maybe now, Jesus is just getting closer to the door.

The kingdom of God coming; the king coming...creates a crisis. It demands a response.

IV. Repent and Believe in the gospel

Remember John the Baptist's message? What was it?

Matthew 3:2 says, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus comes announcing the same thing.

John was saying...it's coming soon.

Jesus was saying....it's here.

John was washing people in the Jordan....calling them to get their hearts *ready* to change.

Jesus would *actually* change people- when he baptized them in the Holy Spirit.

Well, their message was a hard word.....**REPENT**. (SAY IT?)

What does it mean to **REPENT!**

*Change of mind leading to a change of behavior.

*Change my mind about what?

Repent of what? Turn away from what?

*Turn from **sin** and turn toward Jesus.

Believe in what?

*Believe in the gospel.

What's the gospel?

The Gospel

1 God. God is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1). He is perfectly holy, worthy of all worship, and will punish sin (1 John 1:5, Rev. 4:11, Romans 2:5-8).

2 Man. All people, though created good, have become sinful by nature (Gen. 1:26-28, Ps. 51:5, Rom. 3:23). From birth, all people are alienated from God, hostile to God, and subject to the wrath of God (Ephesians. 2:1-3).

3 Christ. Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to bear God's wrath in the place of all who would believe in him, and rose from the grave in order to give his people eternal life (John 1:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 7:26, Rom. 3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:20-22).

4 Response. God calls everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and trust in Christ in order to be saved (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21, Rom. 10:9-10).

Only 2 possible responses when it comes to Jesus:

1. Repent and Believe & be saved.
2. Stay and pay it yourself.

Mark 1:16-20 Read

V. Follow me and I'll make you become fishers of men.

Jesus did a radical thing for his day. He called his own disciples to him. He chose them. In that day, you didn't choose your own students. People applied or asked to study under a master or Rabbi and if accepted, they were allowed. No one chose their own students.

Jesus had the authority to call people to himself.

In the Old Testament, God was the one who was doing the fishing. It was usually a bad thing when God went fishing. Not all the time, but mostly. It spoke of judgement.

-Jeremiah 16:16

-Ezekiel 29:3-5

-Ezekiel 38:4

-Amos 4:2

-Habakuk 1:14-17

Fishing for meat was closely connected to judgment. It still is.

The disciples would be catching people from where?

Snatching them from what?

Netting them from what?

JUDGMENT.

They would be rescuing people from judgment.

They would be saving people from judgment.

From original sin. From slavery to sin.

Catch them and bring them where?
To Jesus. To the kingdom of God.

Save them for what? Eternal life.

*Don't you see. Fishing for men means snatching people from God's judgment. People hear the gospel and they have a choice, repent and believe or face judgment.

'BECAUSE JESUS HAS COME, FISHING BECOMES NECESSARY'. William Lane

Application: The application is to obey not to gain knowledge.

1. Some of you are not saved. You know about Jesus, but you have never repented of your sins. You still don't think you're that bad. Repent and believe in the true gospel. You are bad.
2. We need to keep repenting and keep on believing the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the Greek it means this. It isn't something we do once at conversion and then we are ok. We must keep on repenting and keep on believing daily.
3. Maybe today you need prayer. You need to beg God to MAKE you a fisher of men. You need God to help you overcome your fears. It could be that you are the biggest obstacle to people coming to Jesus because you don't really believe it. Oh yeah, you believe it but not to the point that it costs you.

4. Maybe today you have lost your zeal for the gospel. Your life has become so busy in HK. You're working, eating, commuting and sleeping. You've got no time for fishing for men. You are too busy cleaning the nets to even fish. You need to be revived, refreshed, renewed. You need to repent. Change your mind and change your actions.