

DISCUSSION IDEAS

SENT TO SERVE

Mark 1

August 23rd, 2015

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Think back to the study of Hebrews which we just finished.

How does understanding the historical and cultural context help us understand what the Biblical text is telling us?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE – Gospel author, Mark's emphasis.**

Knowing that Mark was writing primarily to Roman gentile readers:

Why did he skip Jesus' early life?

Considering what we know about Roman outlook on life, what impact would the theme stated in Mark 10:45 have on people?

How similar is that issue in our modern world?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO – Prophetic credibility.**

Look at Mark 1:2-4:

Why would the prophecies about John (the Baptizer) be important?¹

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE – "Baptism"**

Note what Mark says about the purpose of John's baptism in vv. 4-5:

What was the purpose of John's baptism?

Note that the New Testament word "repentance" has a simple literal meaning of "to change ones mind". Contrary to much Bible teaching, it does not mean to turn around or turn away from anything.

Example: If I accept that I am not an inherently good person, but am a sinner in need of healing, I have changed my perspective, I have repented.

The repentance preached by John was preparing for a specific event. What was it?

When you have time, later, you might want to study the passages in Malachi and Isaiah to see what was being predicted.

A Messiah was coming! John points out that He was here now!

What did Jesus later preach (see Mark 1:15)?

¹ In case you have noticed that the quotations are from both Malachi 3:1 and from Isaiah 40:3, why does John Mark say the quotes are from Isaiah?

Answer: The Jews called the writings of the Prophets, by a single name: "Isaiah", since that was the first book in the collection.

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What was the "Kingdom of God"? (Hint: it was not Christianity.)

Note John the Baptist's statements contrasting baptism by Jesus' in v. 7:

How does Jesus' statement in John 14:16-17 clarify what John the Baptist meant?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT FOUR – Jesus being baptized.**

Read Mark 1:9-11:

What three events took place as Jesus came up out of the water?

What were the significance of each of these?








Since John was baptizing people to have them make a public recognition of sin, why did Jesus submit to this baptism?

In your answer, consider what was the over-all purpose of John's ministry (see vv. 2-3).

♦ **REFLECTION AND PERSONAL STUDY:**

There is a LOT more "neat stuff" in Mark chapter 1!

On your own, you might like to think about:

-  The validation by a recognized Prophet that Jesus is the Son of God (John 1:29-34).
-  The purpose of Jesus' testing in the wilderness (and its intensity).
-  The character of Jesus' ministry in not being "pushy".
-  The evidence of how much compassion Jesus has.
-  The total commitment required of His disciples, and how that contrasts to any idea that all Believers are "disciples".
-  SINCE our Lord served others (Mark 10:45), what about our call to serve?
-  SINCE our Lord endured the necessity of suffering, what about our willingness to suffer for Him? (Phil. 1:27-30, 3:8-11, Rom. 8:16-18, 2 Cor. 3:1-7)