

Week beginning Monday 12th October 2020

Prepared by Ken Sykes

Mark 1 After 400 years of prophetic silence John the Baptist (dressed like Elijah (2Kings 1:8/Mk 9:12) bursts on the scene and Malachi's prophecy links the end of the OT to the Messenger and the Message.

Augustus Caesar was celebrated as 'Good News', titled 'Son of God' and claimed special authority. Mark's Gospel says, Wrong, Jesus is The Good News, is The Son of God, and has absolute authority.

'Repent' - meaning what? & in practice? Being 'baptised with the Holy Spirit' means what? v15 'The time' i.e it was God's time. v17 Jesus chooses 4 disciples, simple uneducated fishermen with 'Come, follow me' He invites us to participate in His mission. No training required! All our competence comes from God (ref Q, above re Holy Spirit). Find e.g.'s of three characteristics of Jesus' ministry: compassion, authority, faithfulness – NB not fame!

Chapter 2 Forgiving sins, calling sinners, religion v relationship and...?

Is faith needed for healing? Who knew that they needed spiritual help, tax collectors or the religious leaders? Who was blessed, changed and followed Jesus?

Stale rituals must be replaced with a fresh relationship with Jesus.

Chapter 3 It's easier to heal a withered hand than a stubborn heart

Opposition grows. Crowds want instant solutions. Jesus wants disciples – what are their characteristics?

Which would hurt Jesus most, his family's assessment of him or the Pharisees' assessment?

Why is the unpardonable sin unpardonable?

Notes: 'At once/immediately/just then' a word used 40+ times in Mark.

John Mark was probably Peter's 'scribe' - watch out for personal details (eg 14:51,52). It was probably written about 30 years after Jesus death and resurrection.

The [gospels of Matthew](#), [Mark](#), and [Luke](#) include many of the same stories, often almost word for word they probably used Mark's work .

Chapter 4 – Parables of the Kingdom. Who is Jesus?

Why is the Bible (and sermons) sometimes boring and sometimes exciting?

Which of the four soils does your own discipleship best fit?

What do the 4 parables teach us who have ears to hear? 1) The seed becomes the sower 2) ...? 3)...? 4)...?

'Teacher, don't you care?' How do we react when squalls hit us? Did the disciples want Jesus with them or his power? v35 What does this say about their safety?

If they had remembered this lesson how would it have changed their attitude to his teaching on the cross and resurrection?

Chapter 5

A miserable wreck becomes an evangelist! What's your story?

Demons turn tail and take a running jump. Locals tell Jesus to do the same! Why?

Two people fall at Jesus' feet. How desperate do we have to be before we humble ourselves?

Augustine wrote, "Flesh presses, faith touches." How do our intercessions go?

Reflect on what we learn of Jesus' character and nature in this chapter.