

Study 2 – Mk 1:14-28

Mark 1:14-28 ¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!" ²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching-- and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Read Mk 1:14 – 28 and make a note of any thing that stands out for you. Think about any reoccurring words or ideas, main characters and supporting characters, geography and the content of discussion etc.

Q. How would you break up this section and why?

Q What seems to be the focus of Jesus' proclamation?

Q. What do you think he means when he says 'The kingdom of God is near?' How does repentance relate to this?

Q. Try to imagine the implications, socially and financially of the decision for these men to drop what they were doing to follow Jesus. What do you think was the hardest aspect?

Q. How would you answer this call by Jesus today?

A correlation is made in the opening verses of this section between the content of Jesus' preaching and the command to follow him. The 'Good News' is what Jesus proclaims, involving the call to repent (turn back) and believe. Each person named in this section so far has responded by following Jesus. This section highlights therefore that the implication of a repentant and believing heart is to follow Jesus. This section also then, gives some insight into what Jesus means by 'The kingdom of God is near', being so closely tied up with following Jesus.

Q. Who is the subject and what is the topic of verses 21 and 22?

Q. How does Mark sum up the teaching of Jesus and how does this compare with the teachers of the law?

Q. What do you think Mark is drawing out for the readers in these verses early on in the gospel?

Q. How does the authority of Jesus' teaching impact your life today? How do you come under the teaching of Jesus?

The teachers of the law are representatives of God, His law and His way of life to the people of God. They are the hands and feet in a sense to the world around them, yet misrepresent all that God is. Jesus on the other hand is the complete revelation of God to the world and presents God to the people in all His fullness. Throughout the gospel, Mark will highlight situations and events where Jesus will re-orient or completely supersede the teachings and examples these teachers have placed before the people. Part of the reason why Jesus ushers in the new kingdom is because he presents the rightful view of God the father to the people of God that they may see Him in all his power and glory through Jesus' words and actions. Authority is a big theme in Mark and here Jesus shows his supreme power over the impotent teachers of God's law.

Read verses 23-28 again.

Q Are there any reoccurring words or ideas from the previous verses?

Q. Again, who is the subject and what is the topic of discussion in this section?

Q. Why do you think the people say 'What is this? A new teaching –and with authority!'

Q. What does this section tell us about Jesus' authority over the demon world?

Q. Is this also true of evil?

Q. Is this a good passage to show someone who has a dualistic view of good and evil? Why or why not?

Q. Think and pray about the things in your life that may be holding you back from following Jesus wholeheartedly?

Q. Pray in your group about what you must do to change these.