

The Gospel of Mark Message Series

Discussion Guide based on the December 6, 2009 message,

"Are You Ready?" – Mark 1:1-8

Big Idea: Prepare yourself for Jesus to take His rightful place in your life.

Leading the Session Helps/Discussion Questions

- ❖ What distinguishes the Gospel of Mark from the other Gospels? (It was the first one written in 65 AD and was used as a source for Matthew and Luke. The fact that it was written so close to the life of Jesus lends credibility to it since many of the people who knew of Jesus and his life were still around to refute and discredit Mark's writings.)
- ❖ John the Baptist was a "Nazarite". What vow did he have to make to be a Nazarite? What is significant about that? (His mission was known by him from the outset of his life.)
- ❖ John knew his mission in life was to prepare the way for Jesus. How do you think knowing this affected the way he lived? How would it affect you if you knew your mission in life? Why don't you know it? Is it possible that 90% of your mission has already been revealed to you?
- ❖ Larry made this statement (or something similar): "When I'm gone I hope the only thing people really remember about me was that I pointed them to Jesus." Is there a mission contained in that statement that we all can claim?
- ❖ How do we know that John the Baptist was humble? What Scripture passage references that?
- ❖ What was the spiritual climate of God's people just prior to Jesus coming? (a couple hundred years of silence, they were waiting on and desperate for a word from God.) How does that climate compare to our world? To you personally?
- ❖ What is the irony of the fact that John lived out of and people heard his voice from the desert or wilderness? (Special things have happened between God and His people in the wilderness. What are they?)
- ❖ When a person encounters Jesus, Larry said, it pushes them to a crossroads. Why did he say that?
- ❖ What was John's message to the people? (Repentance) What does repentance mean? (turn) What does a baptism of repentance mean? (Turn from sin) What is a baptism of the Holy Spirit? (At the point of salvation, believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.)
- ❖ Why do we (Baptists) believe that believers get the Holy Spirit upon their conversion and not at a later date in another experience? (If the Holy Spirit comes later, that would mean your salvation was incomplete, and therefore that Jesus is not enough to save completely. 1 Cor. 12:13 teaches that we (Christians, the Body of Christ) have all been baptized into the Body of Christ.)

Application

- ❖ If you are not "living the dream" in your occupation and do not feel like you know your mission or reason for living, realize that your mission is somewhat the same as John the Baptist. You are to point people to Jesus. Do that in your home. Do that in your workplace. Do that as you encounter people in general.
- ❖ If you have never encountered Jesus, seek Him out this week through His word, through a trusted Christian friend, and/or with a pastor. Finding Him will help you find purpose. If you have not encountered Jesus lately, concentrate on your personal worship time alone with Him this week. Praise Him and His presence will surround you.