



SERIES 1: MARK 1:1-3

Sermon Notes

Text: Mark 1:1-3

Intro:

Gospel = “Good News”

Mark written around 70AD by Mark (see Acts 12, 1 Peter 5:13).

- Written with a sense of urgency (i.e. “immediately”)
- Dramatic present tense - making a story from the past feel like it’s happening in the present.
- Major emphasis on the journey to the cross.

Mark presents Jesus as a rival to Cesar

First punch:

- “Gospel” (good news) was used to refer to Cesar’s exploits

Second Punch:

- Messiah, son of God. Titles for Cesar.

Mark combines two prophecies (Malachi & Isaiah)

Mark’s gospel is good news, but it’s also a warning.

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What did you do for Thanksgiving this year? Was it different than other years? Do you prefer turkey to ham? Or something else?

Study & Discussion:

1. What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you?
2. Read Mark 1:1-3. We are starting on a journey through the book of Mark. What do you hope to get out of this series? What are some things about the story of Jesus that you've always wondered about? Or confused you? Or amazed you?
3. Read Malachi 3:1-4 & 4:5-6. These prophecies from Malachi talk about John the Baptist's job as "Elijah" - the one who would prepare the way for Jesus to come. What do they say about what will happen in the people aren't prepared? What do we need to do to be prepared for Jesus (today, and at his second coming)?
 - What was "great" about the arrival of Jesus. What was "dreadful" about it?

Application:

1. Over the next couple of weeks, challenge yourself to read through the entire Gospel of Mark at least once.
2. Spend some time in prayer considering how prepared you are for Jesus. If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready? If you were to die today, are you prepared to stand before God? What do you need to do to prepare?

Prayer: