



SERIES 1: MARK 1:9-20

Sermon Notes

Text: Mark 1:9-20

Recap:

Mark reminds his readers of the two great stories of liberation from Israel's past to highlight the fact that God was announcing a new liberation movement in Jesus.

Mark 1:9-20

Jesus needed two things to survive his time in the wilderness (exile). 1) knowledge of his father's love and approval. 2) the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

"The whole Christian gospel could be summed up in this point: that when the living God looks at us, at every baptized and believing Christian, he says to us what he said to Jesus on that day." ~N.T. Wright

The barrier between heaven and earth tears open to release God's presence into the world.

Isaiah 64:1

Jesus begins his mission as messiah by collecting followers (apprentices) - v. 16-20

Being an apprentice of Jesus isn't a part time hobby. It will always require some leaving.

Genesis 12:1

Conclusion:

What do we need?

1. We need to know that God loves us, and approves of us.
2. We need to be anointed by the Holy Spirit.
3. We need to leave behind what needs to be left behind.

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Do you enjoy being alone, or do you prefer to be in groups? How have you managed the additional isolation that has come with COVID?

Study & Discussion:

1. What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you?
2. Jesus hears a message of love and approval from his Father even before he accomplished any of his tasks as Messiah. How important is it for kids to hear a message like this from their parents? Do you struggle with believing that God is “well pleased” with you? Why or why not?
3. When Jesus called Simon and Andrew to be his disciples, he promised to “send them out to fish for people.” What did he mean by that? How did their lives as fishermen prepare them for lives as apprentices of Jesus? If Jesus called you out of your career this way, what metaphor might he use?
4. Read Genesis 12:1-3. The call to discipleship is reminiscent of Abraham’s call in this passage. What do you notice about what God said to Abraham? How does it relate to what Jesus said to his new disciples in Mark 1:17? Does following Jesus always mean leaving where you are? Does it always mean stopping what you’re currently doing?

Application:

1. Spend time in prayer this week asking God if there is anything you need to leave behind as you apprentice with Jesus. If he identifies something, start taking steps of faith to do it. Here are some tips:
 - Tell a trusted friend what you believe God is calling you to leave behind. Ask them to help you remain accountable.
 - If it’s a physical item, you may need to literally dispose of it, or give it away.
 - If it’s something non-physical (like an attitude, or sinful behaviour), try performing a symbolic gesture of leaving it behind. For example, write the attitude/sin on a piece of paper then throw in the garbage or burn it (safely!!!).

Prayer: