

Who Do You Say I Am? – Mark Scenes 1&2

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Mark 1:1-13

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Mark wrote down the story of Jesus Christ and it was an announcement of good news

We may have heard the story over and over and have formed an idea of what it means.

*Why would it be important to try to get a fresh perspective on this old story?

*How could you find new ways to look at scripture?

*If you are using the companion book and read the whole story of Mark, what kinds of things stood out to you? Did the translation or reading it all in one sitting make you see things in a new way?

Read and discuss Mark 1:1-13 (translation from Nicholas Zola, Lincoln Christian University)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus the Anointed One, Son of God.

Just like it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Look, I am sending my messenger before you,

who will prepare your way;

a voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord,

Make his paths straight,"

John the Immerser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming an immersion of repentance for forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being immersed by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate grasshoppers and wild honey. And he was proclaiming, "One stronger than I is coming after me, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I immersed you in water, but he will immerse you in the Holy Spirit."

Well, in those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was immersed by John in the Jordan. And immediately, while coming up out of the water, he saw the sky being torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down into him. And there was a voice out of the sky, "You are my precious Son. I am well-pleased in you." Then at once the Spirit drives him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tested by the Accuser. And he was among the wild beasts, but the angels were serving him.

*What is this passage saying to you?

*What is Mark proclaiming in these verses? What does his purpose seem to be?

Mark tells us he is bringing good news

*Why do you think Mark uses the category of news?

*Where does your mind go when you hear the phrase 'good news'?

*If we didn't already know this story, how might we hear this as good news today?

Mark's purpose is to present to us Jesus Christ and call us to what we would do with that story

How would we answer these questions: Who is this Jesus? Why did he come? What does he mean for my life?

*How do you want to consider these questions more deeply or in a fresh way as we embark on this study of Mark?