

September 11/12, 2004

Study Questions
The Good News of Jesus According to Mark
Repent and Believe
Mark 1:14-28
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Opening Discussion

1. A 2002 ABC poll indicates 83% of Americans consider themselves Christian. Yet a recent Barna poll would indicate only 4% have a biblical worldview. Barna defined a biblical worldview as follows:
 - (1) belief that absolute moral truth exists;
 - (2) belief that such truth is defined by the Bible; and
 - (3) firm belief (a) that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life; (b) God is the all-powerful, all-knowing Creator of the universe; (c) salvation is a gift of God that cannot be earned; (d) Satan is real; (e) Christians have a responsibility to share their faith with others; and (f) the Bible is accurate in all of its teaching.*

Why do you believe there is such a gap between those who call themselves Christians and those who actually hold to biblical doctrine?

2. Satan's lies to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 were:
 - God is not as good as you think He is.
 - You can be your own god, determining for yourselves good and evil.
 - There are no real consequences to disobedience.

What evidence do you see that people are still believing those same lies today? What are the consequences of believing those lies?

Bible Study

1. Who is Jesus according to Mark 1:1-13?
2. Read Mark 1:14-28. According to Mark, Jesus' message was the gospel of God, meaning the "good news" of God. Do people today consider the preaching of the gospel good news? Why or why not?

When we think of total commitment to being a follower of Jesus, do we tend to think of what we will have to give up or what we will gain? Why is that?

3. Jesus announced that the "kingdom of God is at hand." If Jesus announced His kingdom and Himself as the King, what does that imply about how *we* should respond? Is the kingdom of God a democracy or monarchy? What are the implications for us?
4. How should people respond to Jesus according to Mark 1:15? What do people need to repent from and what do people need to believe?

5. The good news of Jesus is that He is calling you to follow Him and He will make you a fisher of men. Why is this calling “good news”? What does it mean for you to become a fisher of men?
6. The people were amazed at Jesus’ teaching because He taught as one with authority. Why is it so important that our source of authority for truth is the Bible? Is there absolute truth? Why or why not?
7. Did the demons question the authority of Jesus?

Compare James 2:19. Jesus didn’t just claim to have authority; He demonstrated His authority over the powers of darkness.

Application

1. Mark presents three specific areas in which we need to repent and believe:
 - (1) to believe that His purpose is what ultimately matters;
 - (2) to believe that His truth is absolute truth;
 - (3) to believe that His power is absolute power over any issue in our lives.

In light of this, complete the following sentences:

“Because I believe His purpose is what ultimately matters I will...”

“Because I believe His truth is absolute truth I will...”

“Because I believe His power is absolute power over any issue in my life I will...”

2. Why is the message of 1:14-28 “good news”?
3. Pray that God will open your eyes to His calling, His truth and His power.

* www.barna.org Dec. 1, 2003 Update: *A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person’s Life*