

**INTRO. (1) Pic of Mark 1- CBS. (2) Txt, call, zoom, email. Ancient World- Papyrus.**

**PLUG: Thurs—Weekly Huddle... GET READY FOR WEEKEND.**

**What makes Mark unique among the 4 gospels?**

1. Earliest written gospel record of Jesus' life. 65 AD. (30yrs after Jesus rose)
2. John Mark. Travelled w/ Paul. Close companion to Peter- Living memories...
  1. Papias quote: 103 AD.
3. Captures Jesus' emotional life. 15 scenes vs Luke (7), Matt (6), John (4)
4. Pace and tone-
  1. "eutheos" 42 times = Immediately, at once. (12X NT)
  2. Abbreviated narrative. Quick thru the intro. Brisk, **URGENCY!**
  3. Crisis in Rome. Nero. Persecution. Colosseum.

**URGENCY— Jesus in vs 15. The time has come! (kairos) God's on the move!**

**5. Mark leans toward Jesus' actions vs. content of his teaching.**

**Mark's gospel is preeminently concerned with who Jesus is... Following Him.**

- **Line 1: "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the son of God..."**
- **Line 17: "Come Follow me..." Gets here quicker than any other gospel.**

**FOCUS: What does it look like when Jesus is calling us to follow Him?**

- **Go Deeper**
- **Renew our faith.**
- **First time.**

**1. PREPARATION. 2. PROMISE.**

**JESUS PREPARES US. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" 3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' Mal 3:1 & Isa 40:3**

**(1) Jesus prepares us to follow him by sending messengers into our life.**

**"Send" 3X: vs 2 God sends John. vs12 Spirit sends Jesus, 17. Jesus sends disciples.**

**We will see this pattern all throughout Mark... God sending messengers to prepare people to recognize Jesus.**

**ILLUS. Jared-** God's not done... You think best is behind. The best is yet to come!

- **Nic did a fantastic job explaining healthy prophetic words... check it out!**

**(R) Who has God sent into your life? Are you willing to be that messenger...?**

**(2) Jesus prepares by stirring in us a desire for CHANGE.**

**4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins... v15 Repent and believe the good news!**

**Jordan River. How many times does Mark reference Baptism vs 4-9? 5X!**

**John baptizes. Jesus is baptized. Jesus baptizes.**

**John's baptism-** a symbolic (simple choice) act representing repentance and forgiveness.

**Repentance = Change of mind. U-Turn. Being willing to change.**

**Repentance is MAKING ROOM FOR GOD. Illus. Old and new furniture. Dating. Jobs.**

**The call to Follow Jesus ALWAYS MEANS CHANGE.**

**vs. 18 and 19. What had to change for Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow Jesus. (Leaving nets and father)**

**Symbolic acts —> require our choice. help us participate. baby step. activate us.**

**Symbolic acts prepare us for significant change. Wedding Ring. Baton. Gifts.**

- **In our church... We sing... Raise our hands... take stands... lay on hands...**

**Look at vs 10. River—> Heaven torn! Water—> Spirit!**

**Simple choices can open us to God's power to create significant change.**

**Simple is not necessarily easy.**

**JESUS MAKES US A PROMISE.**

**16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 "Come, follow me," Jesus**

said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.

**Jesus gives us promises to inspire our faith to trust and follow him.**

**He rarely tells us how things are going to turn out if we follow up.**

**Turn to pg 12.** It's here Jesus gives us two key promises: **Presence. Purpose.**

**(1) He promises to give us his presence. “Come follow ME...”**

**To be in Jesus' presence is like being baptized = saturated by an indescribable LOVE.**

- Filled with the Spirit of God
- the Voice of God
- the Love of God

**vs.11 “You are my son whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”**

**Jesus wants to REVIVE that voice in your heart.**

**Only Jesus can tear through the barriers to hearing that voice.**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**What are the barriers to knowing that love in your life?**

**Sin? Guilt? Shame? Addiction? Doubt, busyness, disappointments,**

**Without God's love we are like fish out of water... we perish.**

**(2) He promises to give us a profound purpose in life. “I will send you out to fish for people.”**

**God's purpose for our life is to join him in his work to bring others home to God's love.**

**It's not making people a project. Allowing God's loving purpose to be the ctr.**

**No one loves the people in our life like Jesus.**

**NEXT STEP. ALPHA VIDEO.**