



SERIES 1: MARK 1:4-8

Sermon Notes

Text: Mark 1:4-8

Recap:

1. Mark starts his gospel by presenting Jesus as a rival to Cesar; therefore, a challenge to Cesar's authority and power.
2. Mark's gospel is good news. But it's also a warning

Mark 1:4-8

John served as Israel's alarm clock - waking them from slumber to be prepared for the arrival of Jesus.

1. Who was John?

Relative of Jesus

A prophet like Elijah (Luke 1:17)

2. What was John doing?

Baptizing at the Jordan river - an image that reflected back on the Exodus.

Calling people to come out of sin (repent)

- Jeremiah 51:45

- Revelation 18:4

Repentance was also a theme in Jesus & Peters' preaching (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38)

Two ways that Christians sin:

1. Separation from the world:

Pulling away and withdrawing from culture. Creates lack of relevance and a loss of influence.

2. Syncretism:

Blending your Christian faith with the values, attitudes and actions of popular culture.

This is a half-practiced comfort based Christianity.

How do we avoid these sins?

v. 7-8 - by being baptized in the Holy Spirit!

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Prayer:

Warm up:

1. Do you hit the snooze button on your alarm clock? Why or why not?

Study & Discussion:

1. What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you?
2. Read Luke 1:5-17 - What does this passage say about John the Baptist? What will his ministry be?
3. Read Acts 2:36-41. How does this passage relate to this week's passage in Mark, specifically regarding repentance and baptism?
4. What does the sin of separation from culture look like? Can you think of examples of how Christians do this?
5. What does the sin of syncretism with culture look like? Can you think of examples of how Christians do this?

Application:

1. Pray together for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
2. If you haven't been baptized in water, talk with your Life Group leader or a pastor to organize a time to do it.