

Mark 1:14-39

“Meet the King!”

International Bible Church, Jurbise, September 2019

Text (ESV)

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;[e] repent and believe in the gospel.”

16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”[f] 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

29 And immediately he[g] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Summary of author’s aim: Mark wants us see close up the amazing authority of Jesus, God’s promised and anointed King. He has divine authority to banish evil and illness. Mark wants us to see how King Jesus’ reign is a good reign - the consequences of mankind’s fall are being overturned and Satan’s oppression is being crushed. We are meeting God’s King and the only appropriate response is repentance and faith, which means following Jesus, leaving our own priorities and taking on his.

Study Aim: We want to be gripped by Jesus’ divine authority and the goodness of his rule. He is our serpent crusher and the one who can overturn the consequences of our own

rebellion. He is the King that we need. We want to see that more clearly and thus follow him more sincerely as we turn from our own priorities and live for him and his kingdom.

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Study Questions

Some general questions

- What is the main impression that we get of King Jesus as we meet him in this passage?
- How does this passage show us the divine, kingly authority of Jesus?

Some questions about the passage

1.16-20

- What is striking about the way Jesus calls his disciples and their response?
- How does this show us what repentance and faith in the gospel is?
- What might “leaving our boats and nets” mean for us?

1.21-28

- How is Jesus’ teaching so different from that of the scribes/teachers of the day?
- What is so striking about what the demon makes the possessed man say?
- What has Jesus come to do?
- Why is that so important if we think of the whole Bible, beginning to end? (cf. Gn 3.15)
- Why is that personally comforting?

1.29-34

- Why is healing illness such a wonderful picture of salvation? (cf. Is 35 and 61)
- Why is it helpful to see this as a preview (like in the movie theater) of what Jesus will do when he returns rather than an absolute promise to heal today?

1.35-39

- What is Jesus’ priority? What should we learn from that ourselves?

In summary i. who is Jesus? ii. why has he come ? iii. how should we respond?

Prayer: in the light of this passage - worship, thanksgiving, evangelism