

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES FOR KINGDOM GROWTH
Mark Series: Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel

FOLLOWING THE FAITHFUL KING (UNTIL HE RETURNS)
Repent, follow and find life & service in God's beloved Son.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 1:12-20

23 September A.D. 2012

Introduction: *What this passage means to me is...*

Mark 1:12-13

12 Immediately the Spirit impelled Him *to go* out into the wilderness. 13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.

ONE: God takes pleasure in his faithful Son (and his younger siblings!).

Mark 1:11 and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Jesus is the only faithful son yet he gives life by/in the Spirit to us.

The faithful Son calls brothers and sisters to be faithful.

Evil is personal and the danger is real

The Father supports his servant sons & daughters

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,
15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

TWO: Repent & believe in the Gospel

Are we preaching what Jesus preached?

The time is at hand:

Elijah has come: *Mark 9:10-13* 13 "But I say to you that Elijah has ¹indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him."

Mark 1:14a; John 3:22-24; 4:1-3 Until John is handed over Jesus' disciples also baptize into the gathering remnant community. After the arrest Jesus moves them north to Galilee and they begin

to proclaim the Good News of God: *The kingdom of God is at hand! Repent & believe!* Elijah has come & the greater than Moses is here: *Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-24; John 1:21*

Believe IN the Gospel

What is true? (believe IN the Gospel)
AND THEREFORE
What to do?

Mark 1:16-20

- 16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.
- 19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

THREE: Belief is confirmed as we follow the Fisherman

Believing in the Gospel is confirmed by your following Jesus and investing in his call to fish for men/women.

The call (to follow) is all about Jesus: his person, attractiveness & authority

Are you following?

What are you doing to learn to fish for men and women?

Are you willing to expend effort and pay the price?

John was forerunner more than in mere announcement. Disciples can expect at times to be treated as their master...

Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

ORIGEN (Born A.D. 185): Now we can see how in a short time this religion has grown up, making progress through the persecution and death of its adherents and through their endurance of confiscation of property and every kind of bodily torture. And this is particularly remarkable since the teachers themselves were neither very skillful nor very numerous. For in spite of all, this word is being "preached in all the world," so that Greeks and barbarians, wise and foolish now are adopting the Christian religion. Hence there can be no doubt that it is not by human strength or resources that the word of Christ comes to prevail with all authority and convincing power in the minds and hearts of all humanity. ON FIRST PRINCIPLES 4.1.2.

Conclusion: Our King is still active on our behalf to form us unto faithfulness.