

MARK

Mark Wk. 1
Mk. 1:1-5

General:

- Mark's Gospel moves quickly and uses the word "immediately" over and over. Why do you think Mark tells the story of Jesus with such urgency? What might he want his readers to feel?
- Pastor Chip said one goal of this series is to help us be "reacquainted with Jesus." If someone asked you to describe who Jesus is, how would you respond?
- Mark opens abruptly with 'arché' — "beginning". Why do you think Mark begins with a declaration instead of a detailed explanation?
- What does the word "gospel" mean? How is the word being used here in the book of Mark?
- Pastor Chip emphasized that Mark is declaring that a new King has arrived. What areas of your life still resist the idea of Jesus as King rather than a consultant or moral teacher?
- Verse 2 reminds us, "as it is written..." this story is rooted in a much bigger story. How does seeing your life as part of God's larger story reshape the way you view your current season?
- Mark mentions "wilderness" which is thematically significant, especially for the people of Israel. Where in your life do you feel like you are in a "wilderness" right now?
- Mark is applying the Isaiah 40 passage to Jesus. What does it mean to you that Jesus fulfills promises that were spoken centuries before?
- How has this first sermon changed the way you look at the gospel of Mark?

Take Home 1: The Gospel is not good advice, it is an announcement (Mk. 1:1)

- If the gospel is an announcement of a King, not a list of tips for self-improvement, how should that shape your response?
- Do you primarily approach Jesus for inspiration, information, or allegiance?
- Caesar is not King; Jesus is King. What or who currently holds the most practical authority in your daily decisions?
- Where might you admire Jesus without fully submitting to Him?

Take Home 2: Repentance is realigning ourselves with the plans and purposes of God (Mk. 1:4)

- Where in your life do you sense misalignment with God's purposes?
- What are things that you need to resist or turn from to align yourself with Jesus?
- What usually makes repentance difficult for you? (Pride? Fear? Comfort? Something else?)

Take Home 3: God comes through the wilderness (Mk. 1:3)

- How do you typically react or respond when life feels dry, confusing, or stripped down?
- Do you tend to see wilderness seasons as punishment, preparation, or something else?
- What would it look like for you to prepare while in the wilderness?
- Looking back at a past wilderness experience, how did it change your understanding of God? Or did it?