

Group Study Week Three: Mark 1:14-20

Intro: Jonathan Leeman begins his book *Church Membership* introducing a new word, “Imperium”. Leeman says, “Imperium means supreme power or absolute dominion, and it gets at the idea of where the buck stops in a society”. Jesus in Mark 1:15 is saying He has imperium. Only He is using different language, Jesus says, “The kingdom of God is at hand”. To say the kingdom of God is at hand is to pronounce, “the king is here!” Jesus begins his ministry with a direct declaration of who he is, the King! The buck stops with Him. All those who hear are called to repent and believe. The kingship of Jesus is good news for all who turn from their sin and believe. The rest of the Gospel of Mark is going to show us the power and authority of the king and why His imperium is good news for us.

Prayer

Read: Ask some one to read Mark 1:14-20

Summarize: Have 2 group members who didn’t summarize last week share how they would summarize the passage in their own words.

Discussion Questions:

1. If Jesus is king that means he has supreme authority. *What have been some of your experiences with authority? Share good and bad examples; include experiences that led to trusting or distrusting authority.*
2. At the end of verse 15 Jesus says, “Repent and believe the gospel”. *Why do you think Jesus didn’t just say, “Believe the gospel”? Did Jesus have to add the word repent? What does repentance have to do with “believing”?*
3. *Share the times in your days and weeks where it is easy for you to forget the Kingship of Jesus. What moments for you are difficult to remember Christ is Lord of all?*
4. Reread verses 16-20. *What do you most notice about this passage?*
5. A part of reading Mark’s narrative is imagining how you would respond to Jesus. Put your self in the shoes of Andrew, Simon (Peter), James and John. *Would you have responded the same way they did? Why or why not?*

N.T. Further Reading:
Matthew 4:17-22; Luke
5:1-11

O.T. Further Reading:
Psalm 2, 2 Sam. 23:2-4

Further Study: As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

6. What “net” (obstacle or hindrance) do you need to drop to follow Jesus more faithfully?

Response Questions:

Personal: Discuss with your group one area of your life you want to grow in living under the kingship of Christ. (school, work, marriage, parenting, singleness).

Church: Discuss a way this week you can lay down your life (“net”) to more faithfully follow Jesus in the context of our church. (serving, disciple another, giving, hospitality)

World: Talk through ways your group can grow in being an ambassador for the Kingdom of Christ. (See 2 Cor. 5: 20-21)

Pray Together:

Notes or Thoughts from discussion:

Meditating on Scripture:
Verses From chapter 1 for memorization Mark 1:14-15