

Home Group Leaders' Notes

Week of January 11, 2026

Mark 1:14-45

Greetings Friends. We are on the second discussion in our series. Last week, the author, "Mark," introduced his writing as "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." He described the information he wrote as "good news" – an announcement of something people would want to hear.

This good news centered on the person named "Jesus" who Mark believed to be "the Messiah," the promised Savior from God written about hundreds of years prior. This person would bring about peace with God and restoration to our broken world. Mark also claimed that this Jesus is "the Son of God." Both of these titles would make this person unlike any other.

The remainder of last week's passage revealed **five affirmations** that support Jesus' identity and authority:

- 1) John the Baptist, who was prophesied of hundreds of years prior, affirmed the identity of Jesus as the Messiah
- 2) Heaven opened and God the Holy Spirit descended from heaven on Jesus
- 3) God the Father, spoke from heaven the affirmation of Jesus as His Son
- 4) Jesus was able to do what no one else has ever done; he resisted every temptation of Satan (the devil) and was without sin
- 5) Angels personally attended to Jesus

This week, we see the beginning of Jesus' ministry to bring the good news of God. His message was / is that "the kingdom of God has come near" (Mark 1:14-15). This will be our focus.

SOMETHING NEW

For months prior to 2001, there were massive promises that something was coming that would change life for every person in the world. Even Steve Jobs (of Apple Computers) predicted that future cities would be designed around it; some said this would be the most important invention since the computer. Some speculated that this device was a teleportation pod. Nope – it was a scooter. This personal scooter, made by Segway, is now used for tour groups. This news was not world changing. In recent years, personal devices have been promoted as 'must haves.' Jesus promised that the kingdom of God was near and this was authenticated by actions that did in fact change the world for all people and all times.

READ AND DISCUSS

Read together all of Mark 1:14-45 and discuss the questions set below.

Tips from the passage:

- Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee, a province 'of lesser importance' (v. 14)
- "The kingdom of God" means the dominion or rule of God that has come and is coming into our world that brings salvation, restoration, and reconciliation with God. Throughout the New Testament, the kingdom of God is both 'now and not yet.'
- The kingdom of God "is near / close at hand" because Jesus is the king and He is present (near). This means that "the endgame" of "God's plan of redemption and restoration has begun." (Mark Strauss, *Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*, p. 85)
- "Sabbath" means "rest, cease from doing." The Jews practiced a day of rest called Sabbath, that went from sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday. (v. 21)

- “Synagogue” was a Jewish house of worship (v. 23)
- An “unclean spirit” is also called a demon, a creature from the spirit realm that follows the orders of Satan (the devil). (v. 23)
- “The holy one of God” means one who is God’s instrument for service (v. 24)

What actions of Jesus stand out to you?

Jesus’ call to the disciples was the lead action. He then demonstrated why He came with compassion, authority, and truth.

What are some of Jesus’ key statements?

The kingdom of God has come near

I will make you fishers of people

That is why I have come

We know from other writers that the four fishermen had previous encounters with Jesus (prior to verses 16-20). Why might Mark have chosen these specific encounters? What do they demonstrate?

Mark chose encounters with people to reveal Jesus’ purpose, identity, and authority.

As one reads through this passage, there are multiple examples of Jesus’ authority as the Messiah, the Son of God. What examples did “Mark” select and what categories of authority do these demonstrate? **Mark chose authority to command people into Jesus’ purpose, power over the invisible world (casting out demons), power over disease to reveal his power to renew and rebuild the world, authority to proclaim truth, and authority over leprosy to proclaim that he can bring religious / spiritual cleansing to people.**

How might we summarize Jesus’ mission?

Jesus’ ministry was designed to reveal the Kingdom of God that comes through Him.

What do we learn about Jesus (his character, his ways) from this first chapter?

Fully God, fully human, all-powerful, all authority, compassionate, purposeful and missional, the perfect teacher and master, etc.

WHAT THIS MEANS

What is the big picture in Mark chapter one? What are we meant to see?

Jesus has all authority over all things and is inaugurating the kingdom of God.

How do we see Jesus’ identity and authority demonstrated throughout this passage?

Authority over every realm that can only mean that He is fully God the Son, the promised Messiah

What is the appropriate response to Jesus’ kingdom message? What does this mean?

Repent (humble yourself and turn to God, change your thinking, let God direct your path and direction) and believe (truth in God and not yourself or anyone or anything else).

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Though we sometimes don't notice it, we walk through our lives under authority – some visible, and some invisible. Sometimes, we are our own authority. The Bible presents God as the perfect authority, one who wants us to live in the kingdom led by Jesus. Do you want this for your life? Have you "left your nets and followed him?" If you have, then thank and praise God for His invitation and calling. If you are still considering, then meet with someone that you believe has followed Jesus and ask them to help you know more about him.

May our Amazing God fill your hearts with the fullness of Christ as you shepherd His people.

Steve