

SERIES TITLE: Servant King

PART ONE: INTRODUCING

TEXT: MARK 1:1-20

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant on the move. Using the word “immediately” over 40 times, he shows Jesus ministering. Obedient to the Father’s will, Jesus preaches the good news, heals the sick, teaches his followers, and performs miracles. All the while, he heads toward his sacrificial death on the cross. Mark 10:45 sums up his mission: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark’s gospel reveals Jesus to be the perfect Servant and the perfect Sacrifice. Those who receive him as the good news are empowered to serve in his name.

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

Mark’s gospel is known for being action-packed and moving deliberately toward an understanding of Jesus as Savior and Lord. These first verses exemplify this. Jesus is introduced initially as the Son of God and then proven to be worthy of worship through several brief but powerful scenes.

FOCUS QUESTION

What is the strangest or most impressive introduction you have heard? How did it affect your view of the person?

EXAMINATION

Vv.1-3 Why wouldn’t Mark begin with the birth of Jesus? What does he accomplish by quoting Old Testament prophecies?

Vv.4-8 What is special about John the Baptist? Look at Luke 7:28.

Mentioning a leather belt seems intended to connect John to the prophet Elijah (see 2 Kings 1:8). Why is this significant?

How does John express the worthiness of Jesus?

Vv.9-11 Why did Jesus get baptized? What was the purpose?

Vv.12-13 Immediately Jesus is tempted by Satan. Not only did God allow it, but the Spirit pushed Jesus to the place of temptation. Why?

Vv.14-20 Why did the first disciples leave everything behind and immediately follow Jesus?

EXPLORATION

- Genesis 1:1-5
- John 1:1-18
- Malachi 4:4-6
- Philippians 2:6-11
- Revelation 5:6-14

APPLICATION

- How do you express the worth of Jesus in your own life?
- What is the difference between testing and tempting? (See James 1:13-14)
- The first disciples responded immediately to the call of Jesus. What are some reasons, responsibilities, or excuses that keep people from following him today?
- How is it possible for Jesus to be pushed aside, even in churches? What kinds of things (even good things) can sidetrack us from Jesus?

SUMMATION

- Fact: What are key truths that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?