

## **Mark 1:1-15**

### **I. A word on the Gospel of Mark**

- a. Shortest of the gospels; carries a sense of urgency ('immediately' used often)
- b. Be alert, a new kingdom has arrived to confront the real enemy: not Rome but Satan and his dark kingdom forces
- c. Generally regarded as the first gospel written and from Peter's perspective

### **II. The Beginning—v. 1—The One for Whom the Stage is Set**

- a. Gospel—good news— word used to announce the coming of King
- b. Jesus the Christ
  - i. Messiah—anointed one; Jews were awaiting their coming king to save them
  - ii. Christ (Greek)= Messiah (Hebrew)
- c. Son of God—recognition of Jesus' divine nature (also in contrast to Caesar who was sometimes referred to as a son of god.)

### **III. Vv. 2-8— Herald in the Wilderness**

- a. John the Baptist—important figure- greatest of prophets of the old covenant
- b. Preparation for God's Kingdom—Repent
- c. Fulfillment of prophesy (Isaiah/Malachi prophesy; 2 Kings 1:8- likens him to Elijah; *Malachi 4:5-6*)

### **IV. Vv. 9-13— Lord in the Wilderness**

- a. Wilderness indicates something not quite there, about to burst in
- b. Anticipation and preparation (parallels Israel's 40 years in wilderness)
- c. Why baptism? Signifies the beginning of the ministry and chosen-ness of Jesus
- d. Temptation in the Wilderness
  - i. Connection point with original readers
    - 1. Roman martyrs faced wild beasts in the arena
  - ii. Why the temptation?
    - 1. Sets stage for conflict between the Son of God and forces of Satan
    - 2. God's kingdom is penetrating into enemy territory

### **V. Vv. 14-15— Onto the Scene**

- a. Kingdom of God is at hand
  - i. It has come in Jesus
  - ii. Refers to God's reign; God has inaugurated His Kingdom in this world (On earth as it is heaven)

### **VI. So what?**

- a. Do you recognize you're an exile in the wilderness or are you trying too hard to make this world your home?
- b. What do you understand about Jesus in light of your world? How do we prepare our hearts for Jesus; For whose kingdom are we living?
- c. What does it mean to you in this moment to 'repent, for God's kingdom is at hand'? Do you need to 'wake up' and turn from old ways into a new life?