



The Good News in Person !

Readings for the week : Mark 1:1-13

Introduction

- **Pray** : Take a few moments of silence and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.
- **Share** : What did you learn from this passage?

Quelques observations sur le passage

- The first word (“Beginning”) refers to the very first word in the Bible (Gn1:1). Mark thus shows that he is not telling a new story, but the fulfillment of a story that began long ago. He is telling something as radical as a new creation!
- The Good News (Greek: *euangelion*) refers to a promise that the prophets announced long ago: that God himself would come to restore his people and establish his reign! (Cf. Isa 52:7)
- Mark’s use of the word “gospel” (Good News) helps us to understand that the story he is about to tell us is the fulfillment of Israel's hopes, i.e. God coming to the rescue of his people once and for all. This story situates the Kingdom of God as something different from all the other hopes of this world (political, spiritual, moral, philosophical, psychological, etc.).
- John the Baptist is sent as a prophet to prepare for the coming of the Savior. When God wants to act decisively for His people, He first asks them to prepare themselves. This generation was visited by a prophet who should have made their hearts ready to recognize Jesus as the Savior King (Messiah). In spite of this, the majority missed the point, going so far as to crucify Jesus.

Video Teaching

Watch the following video and discuss what you find new or interesting about the word "Gospel".

https://youtu.be/txGfRrR9v_M?si=SJoHLBaIzWzpZO14

Applying this message to our lives

Today's passage allows us to reflect on two concrete elements for our lives: the notion of repentance and the act of baptism.

Repentance

As humans, many forces seek to dominate us. Many different things can demand our obedience or reverence. Think of all the implicit and explicit demands made on you by your family, your social status, your circle of friends, the society you live in, and so on. Think also of the behaviors you have but wish you didn't, those things that hurt you but you can't stop (e.g. addictions, compulsive behaviors, limiting thoughts, etc.). Recognizing the true King in a context where many things demand our allegiance and proclaim themselves kings, is no mean feat... Here's a suggestion for a first step.

Take a time of prayer by following these four steps:

1. recognize Jesus' ultimate kingship over our lives
2. ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us which voices are taking on royal authority in our lives (family, other people's opinions, work, culture, addictions, etc.)
3. renounce all other kingship
4. let us ask King Jesus to teach us the ways of his kingdom.

How can you take time apart (like John, who called people to come apart in the desert) to make sure you're listening to God's voice in your everyday life?

Baptism

Baptism is the sign that we are part of the new people that King Jesus has created.

- Have you ever been baptized?
- If not, what's stopping you? Talk to a pastor!
- If so, how would this event change your perception of yourself and your life in the world?

For more information on this series, or for more resources to help you move forward with God, please contact Ruben (ruben.binyet@icf-ge.ch).

To deepen and mature in your faith, consider registering for the next ICF-College session ([info on icf-ge.ch](http://info.icf-ge.ch)).