

# The kingdom comes

## Mark 1-8

## Introduction

- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Getting ready                | Mark 1:1-13    |
| 2. Gone Fishing                 | Mark 1:14-39   |
| 3. The Doctor                   | Mark 1:40-2:17 |
| 4. More than meets the eye      | Mark 2:18-3:6  |
| 5. Crowding Jesus               | Mark 3:7-35    |
| 6. Kingdom Parables             | Mark 4:1-34    |
| 7. Who is this?                 | Mark 4:35-5:43 |
| 8. The folly of unbelief        | Mark 6:1-29    |
| 9. The shepherd of the sheep    | Mark 6:30-65   |
| 10. Traditional or true worship | Mark 7:1-23    |
| 11. Jesus among the Gentiles    | Mark 7:24-8:10 |
| 12. Open your eyes              | Mark 8:11-30   |

Leader's notes

## Introduction

The message that Jesus preached from the beginning was that the kingdom was near and that people needed to repent and believe the good news. Unfortunately people had very little idea of just how near the kingdom really was. It all depended on whether they had eyes to see and ears to hear. In the first half of the gospel of Mark what will become apparent to those who have eyes to see is that the kingdom comes into our world with the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Philip Calman  
October 2010



# 1. Getting ready

Mark 1:1-13

---

## Introduction

If suddenly you found out that the PM of Australia was in the neighbour and that she or he was planning to drop into your house with her or his entourage what do you feel you would need to do in order to get ready for his or her arrival?

The beginning of the gospel is all about getting ready. It is all about what God did to prepare his people for their King (1:1-8) and what the Son of God did in order to prepare for the work he was about to undertake as their king (1:9-13). The gospel itself is the good news of this king. The first verse of the gospel makes this clear. Jesus is identified as this long awaited king for the word “Christ” translated a Hebrew term which meant “anointed one”. In the OT this term was used of this long-awaited king that God had promised his people. Please read Mark 1:1-13 to discover what getting ready involved.

## Getting the people ready

Please review the first 8 verses to understand how the Lord prepared his people for the coming of His son.

1. What sort of person did God use to get his people ready? What was his job description?<sup>1</sup>

2. How were God's people to get ready for their king?

3. How did the people of God respond to the message?

4. Why were people baptised by John?

5. Who was John preparing the people of God for?

---

<sup>1</sup> Mark not only refers to the words of Isaiah from Isaiah 40:3 but preferences them with words from Malachi 3:1. It might be helpful to look at the context of both these passages.

## Think about it

The people of God needed a fresh start. God's people had turned their backs on God and rebelled against him. They need to repent and be forgiven and cleansed from all their sin so that they might be prepared for the coming king and his kingdom. This was the message that John preached.

Why is this message still relevant today for people?

Who are the messengers today that announce the king and his kingdom?

What did it mean to repent (c/f Matthew 3:7-10)?

Do you think people today ought to still respond to this message by being baptized?

What is the significance of baptism for those who are baptized?

What would it mean to be baptized with the Spirit?

What difference would the Spirit make in the lives of God's people (c/f Ezekiel 36:25-28)?

### Preparing the king

Israel was not left to guess who John might have been speaking about. In the preparation of the king for his public ministry the Lord Jesus was identified to be this coming king. Please read Mark 1:8-12.

6. How did God make it clear that it was Jesus of Nazareth who John was speaking about?

7. Why did Jesus go out into the desert?

## Think about it

The testing in the wilderness occurs just before the Lord Jesus began his work among the people of God. What do you think was being revealed about Jesus and the work he was going to do?

If John's baptism was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin and if Jesus' was without sin why would it have been necessary for him to be baptised at the beginning of his public ministry?

## Conclusion

The coming of Jesus meant that the time had come for the people of God. The promised King had come and he who would conquer their greatest enemy and bring forgiveness and cleanse them of their sin. This is the message of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and all of us need to respond to it and welcome him. The gospel of Mark poses the question whether we are ready for the kingdom of God.

## Think about it

How do people prepare themselves for the coming kingdom?

What are we to do to help people to be prepared for the kingdom of God?