

Messiah Comes!

Mark 1:1-13

- Get on Jesus' side because Jesus...
 - Is the supreme ruler, righteous King, the long-awaited hope, the ultimate victor, uniquely related to God, Yahweh Himself.
 - Brings the change everyone and everything needs.
- Get on Jesus' side by praying...
 - Jesus, we want what you want.

Getting Started: Think about a book or movie you enjoyed that had a clearly defined hero. How did the author pull you in to side with the hero? What was it about the hero that you liked?

Digging In: Read Mark 1:1-13. Observe how "the desert" is the setting that ties all these verses together. What does the context for the Scriptures quoted by Mark (Mal 3:1; Isa 40:3) teach about the Coming One? Why is John's preaching so important? In view of John's words in vv. 7-8, what kind of person is the crowd anticipating (Isa 32:15-20)? How would you describe John's message:

a) a wake up call, b) good news, c) doom and gloom, d) other? How was Jesus' baptism different from the people John baptized (John 8:45-46; 2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 1 John 3:5)? What do you think the dove and the words of the Father meant to Jesus when he came out of the water, went into the wilderness, and was tempted by Satan (vv. 10-11)? Why does Mark include this brief account of the temptation of Jesus in the very beginning of His gospel? How does it foreshadow conflicts to come in the book of Mark? Why would Mark 1:1-13 have been good news to Mark's original readers (Isa 32:15; 40:10-11, 42:1-9, 44:3, 63:11, 14)?

Living It Out: How does Mark 1:1-13 sound like good news to you? How would your life be better if you had a supreme ruler directing your every step? In what ways do you resist the rule of God in your life? Make a list of the different areas of your life (family, work, recreation, church, etc). Will you pray, "Jesus I want what you want," over each of these areas? To prepare for this series, read the book of Mark in one sitting. Plan to come Sunday night Jan 18, at 6:30 pm to celebrate what God did last year and commit together to pray "Jesus, we want what you want."