

Mark 1-4 review

IGG | 4 November 2020 | George Diwakar

Introduction

Three points and three applications:

- The spectacular arrival of the king → repent!
- The shocking rejection of the king → choose!
- The certain growth of the kingdom → listen!

The spectacular arrival of the king

a. The king has come



Mark's announcement

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” — Mark 1:1 ESVUK



Scripture's announcement

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’” — Mark 1:2-3 ESVUK



John's announcement

“I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit,” — Mark 1:8 ESVUK



God's announcement

“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” — Mark 1:11 ESVUK

b. To preach the kingdom



The king's announcement (1)

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”— Mark 1:15 ESVUK

JESUS'S AUTHORITY OVER THE EFFECTS OF THE FALL

- 1:21-28: Authority to cast out Satan
- 1:29-31: Authority to heal disease

JESUS'S AUTHORITY OVER THE CAUSE OF THE FALL

- 1:40-45: Authority to cleanse the unclean
- 2:1-12: Authority to forgive sins

c. To preach repentance



The king's announcement (2)

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”— Mark 1:15 ESVUK

- Literally “be repenting and believing in the gospel”
- 1:16-18, 19-20, 2:13-24 - Leave business/family/career and follow me

Apply:

Discussion (10 minutes): How does this section make you thankful for Jesus and his kingdom? How does it challenge you to “be repenting and believing in the gospel”? What would that look like in your life?

The shocking rejection of the king



Introducing the Pharisees and scribes

- Self-appointed experts of a complex system of religion and ritual to supplement the Jewish law
- A social elite who impose their rulebook on others to extend their own influence
- A growing hostility to Jesus for not sticking to their system (1:22, 1:44, 2:7, 16, 18, 24, 3:2)

a. The kingdom cannot be squeezed into the Pharisees' agenda

- 2:18-22: Asking the bridegroom to fast at his wedding feast

“On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
He will swallow up death for ever” —Isaiah 25:6-8 ESVUK

- 2:23-28: Telling the Son of Man what to do on the Sabbath

“There came one like a son of man...
And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.” —Daniel 7:13-14 ESVUK

b. The Pharisees reject the kingdom to keep their agenda

- 3:1-2: Watching in order to accuse him
- 3:4: Refusing to allow life-giving on the Sabbath
- 3:6: Using the Sabbath to plot murder

Apply:

Discussion (10 minutes): How do the Pharisees help us to see why people reject Jesus? In what ways are we tempted to do the same? How does Mark persuade us that Jesus's kingdom is worth giving up our agendas for?

The certain growth of the kingdom

Question: How can Jesus's kingdom grow when so many people reject it?

a. The kingdom grows as Jesus's word bears astonishing fruit in a few

- Three parables—the sower (4:1-9, 13-20), the seed growing (4:26-29), and the mustard seed (4:30-32)

Three parables about growth



- An unpromising seed (4:4-7, 27, 31)



- A seed which grows exponentially (4:8, 28, 32)



- A seed whose growth culminates in a new reality (4:8, 29, 32)

- The seed = the word (4:14a)

Three parables about the word



- An unpromising word (4:4-7, 27, 31)



- A word which grows exponentially (4:8, 28, 32)

- Individually as people hear the word and bear fruit (4:1-9, 13-20)

- Globally as the kingdom emerges and grows (4:26-29, 30-32)



- A seed whose growth culminates in a new reality (4:29, 32 cf. Joel 3:13, Daniel 4:10, 21-22)

b. The kingdom grows as Jesus's word bears astonishing fruit in those who listen

“To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,
and may indeed hear but not understand,
lest they should turn and be forgiven.” — Mark 4:11-12 ESVUK

Apply:

Discussion (10 minutes): How does this section grow your confidence in Jesus's word to grow his kingdom? When do we find it hardest to believe this? What would it look like to listen to Jesus's word carefully this year?

Share an application which has particularly struck you and pray about them in your group.