

INTRO

- Have you received any good news recently?
Why was it good news for you?

READ

Mark 1:1-15

(FYI: watch this 10min [video](#) for an overview of Mark)

REFLECT

Jesus stands as arguably the most dominant figure in all of history. The news surrounding Jesus is described as being good.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (v1)

Qu: what does 'gospel' mean? Why is it good news and who is it for?

The central focus in the gospel of Mark is discovering WHO Jesus is, WHAT it means for him to be the Messiah, and HOW he becomes King.

In ch1, Mark tells us how Jesus was baptized as a way of identifying with the sins of his people. As he emerges from the waters of baptism, we see an incredible example of the Trinity at work.

Qu: Although this isn't the focus of today's discussion, why is the Trinity a critical part of what we believe about God? How does it impact us?

Immediately, Jesus gets sent into the wilderness to be tested and tempted. After 40 days he emerges victorious over Satan, one of many confrontations he will have with the powers of darkness ultimately leading to the cross.

Then in verse 15, we see the good news according to Jesus:

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

According to Jesus, the good news involves fulfillment, kingdom, and response.

FULFILLMENT — *'The time is fulfilled'* means God hasn't forgotten to fulfill his promises. There was great anticipation for the Jews awaiting the Promised Messiah, and now that time had come. In other words, "good news" needs context and it is the story of God at work since creation.

Qu: how does the meta-narrative or big story of God (creation-fall-redemption-restoration) help us understand the good news more fully?

KINGDOM — *'The kingdom of God is at hand'*
Qu: what is your understanding of the kingdom of God?

Simply, the kingdom of God is the rule and reign of God over people's hearts and lives; God's kingdom extends beyond people and will one day result in the restoration of all creation (see Rev 21:1-5).

In saying the kingdom is at hand (or near), Jesus was claiming to do things through which the world would be healed, transformed, rescued and renewed. The rest of Mark unpacks this through Jesus' teaching, parables, and demonstrations of the kingdom invading earth (healing, deliverance, salvation, justice etc).

(FYI: watch this short [video](#) explaining the gospel of the kingdom)

RESPONSE — *'repent and believe in the gospel'*
Jesus calls each one of us to respond to this good news and our response is to repent and believe. Repent means we are to recognize Jesus as the Saviour-King who now calls for our allegiance and affection. We are to believe in this gospel—the good news of who Jesus is, what he *has* done on our behalf, what he *is* doing, and what he *will* ultimately do when he comes again.

RESPOND & PRAY

- What is your response to Jesus?
- Pray for God's kingdom to be extended both in and through your life.