

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 09/21/14

Mark 1:1-15 — “In the Beginning,” Nathan Sherman
Series: *Who Is This Man?: A Study in Mark*

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In a sentence: Mark begins his gospel with an announcement in Jesus Christ has come all that the Old Testament has been looking forward to.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

1. A New Movement (1:1-8)
2. A New Messiah (1:9-11)
3. A New Mission (1:12-13)
4. A New Message (1:14-15)

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT WITH YOUR GROUP

1. If the book of Mark could be summed up in a question, what would it be? Why did you answer that way? How do various characters in Mark's gospel account answer that question? What is the significance of Jesus "last name"?
2. What are some unique features about Mark's gospel that make it different from the other gospel accounts?
3. Nathan's sermon had four points that started with the same letter. What were his four points? In a sentence, what were each of them about?
4. Nathan mentioned a number of details in Mark's gospel that indicate that Jesus brings a "New Exodus." What were some of these details? What does it mean that Jesus brings a "New Exodus"?
5. Sometimes Mark is mocked as not knowing his Old Testament when he says he's quoting Isaiah but then quotes from Exodus and Malachi. Why is this actually an evidence that he knows his Bible better than we do?
6. How did John the Baptist's presentation of himself indicate about his role in God's plan? It might help to recall Nathan's Davy Crocket illustration.
7. What is the significance of Jesus' being sent into the wilderness?
8. This was the first sermon in a new series, *Who Is This Man?: A Study in Mark*. What are you looking forward to most in this series?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

David Garland: "A stunned synagogue crowd asks, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority!" (Mark 1:27). Livid theological experts ask themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (2:7). Spooked disciples ask, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him! (4:41). A resentful hometown crowd asks, "Where did this man get these things? . . . What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! (6:2). Vexed priests ask, "By what authority are you doing these things? . . . And who gave you authority to do this?" (11:28) The truth suddenly hits a centurion in the execution squad when he sees how Jesus died: "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (15:39). The Pharisees think he is in league with Satan. Herod's best guess is that he is John the Baptizer come back to life to haunt him for his sins. Some think he is Elijah; others, one of the prophets (6:14-16; 8:27-28). The disciples are captivated by his powers but are baffled as to who he is for much of the opening chapters. Only Peter, James, and John are let in on this mystery at the Transfiguration. They hear the voice from the clouds proclaim that Jesus is God's beloved Son."