

Mark 3-4

Mark is proving that Jesus is who he claims him to be in ch1v1; “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God...” And giving evidence that he is whom John the Baptist says he is “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

So what would you expect to see as Mark provides more evidence for this and why?

What have been the surprises (or would have been as these events unfolded) in the responses to Jesus so far?

Mark 3 – How should you respond to a death threat?

1. How does Jesus respond to the threat of 3v6, and the plot to kill him, in the rest of the chapter?
2. The teachers of the law can't ignore Jesus' miracles but they try to demean Jesus by claiming he is possessed. How does Jesus answer them?
3. Mark puts this incident as the filling in the sandwich of family, why? What connects them?

4. The Pharisees reject Jesus as do his family. So who does he turn to? (13-19, 34-35)

Mark 4 – Problematic Parables?

5. What is the purpose of parables?

6. How does the quotation in v12 from Isaiah 6 help us understand why Jesus tells parables?

7. God sovereignly determines who will understand but what is repeated in the passage that helps us see our responsibility (v1-25)?

8. How does the parable of the sower and the lamp on a stand flesh out what listening will mean and what the dangers are?

9. What do v26-32 remind us about God's word and his kingdom (Ezekiel 31v6, Daniel 4v2)?

So What?

What is the challenge for you from these chapters? What response does it call for and what will that mean going forward?