

SERMON NOTES

Preacher: Andy deHoog

Date: May 12, 2024

Text: Mark 1:14-15

Title: Jesus Begins His Ministry

Big Idea: In the kingdom of God we get the primacy, nearness, and goodness of Jesus.



I. Life in the kingdom of God does not guarantee personal comfort and safety here and now.

“The arrest of John and the beginning of Jesus’ ministry are intentionally correlated to show that the gospel is proclaimed and known in adversity and suffering, not in ease and comfort.” - James R. Edwards

- What we get in the kingdom of God is the presence and **primacy** of Jesus. This is good news because, often, the thing I want is very different from the thing I actually need.

II. Life in the kingdom of God means that everything you do should be directed by God.

- This could seem detached and isolating (i.e. *Am I just a little pawn in some deity’s grand scheme?*), but what we get in the kingdom of God is the **nearness** of Jesus.

“It came down to this: if the story Jesus was telling by his words and actions was true, the climactic moment in Jewish history had arrived in person.” - N.T. Wright

III. Life in the kingdom of God will demand everything from you.

1. Repent: “meta” = *beyond* and “noeō” = *mind*. *Go beyond the mind that you have*. This is not merely about being a better or more nice person; it is about a completely new orientation, one that is towards Jesus.
 2. Believe: with an implication of complete *trust* or *faith*. Jesus himself is the good message, therefore, inherent in the call to repentance and belief is a call to *follow Jesus*.
- In turning away from former things and following Jesus, we get, in the kingdom of God, the **goodness** of Jesus. He is the only one who is truly good with a truly good plan for the world and for your life.

At the Table of the Lord’s Supper, Jesus is not merely a side dish; he’s the whole meal! As we partake of the communion elements we are reminded of the primacy and nearness of Jesus as he fills us up with his goodness.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.

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Carefully read through the passage. What stands out to you? Is there anything you don't understand? What words, phrases, or verses might you want to study further?

What do you want?

What do you desire most in your life? Are there fears that drive those desires?

How has getting Jesus been better than getting what you think you want?

Reflect on and respond to the idea that, in God's kingdom, everything you do ought to be directed by him. What thoughts and feelings does this raise in you?

What is your conception of a *kingdom*? How might that be similar or different to the kingdom of God?

What *is* the kingdom of God?

How would you explain *repentance* to someone who has never heard it before?

What does it mean to "*believe* in the gospel"?

How do the concepts of repentance and belief go together and what are the implications of Jesus' call to "repent and believe in the gospel"?

How have you known the goodness of Jesus as you seek first his kingdom through repentance and belief?

Pray:

- For new desires that place Jesus at the center of your life.
- For a renewed sense of the nearness of Jesus.
- For faith to abandon all for the sake of following Jesus.