

KINGDOM

the gospel of mark

Week 3 | Kingdom: The Gospel of Mark | January 18, 2015

Opening Up:

In Mark we have seen Mark healing, forgiving sins, casting out demons, and eating with sinners. Jesus brings with the kingdom of God emotional, physical, social, and spiritual healing.

In what ways have you witnessed the Kingdom of God as described in Mark's gospel?

Read: Mark 1:35-2:17

Discuss:

1. In 1:28 we discovered that Jesus' fame was spreading and in verse 33 that the crowds were gathered together at his door. Jesus deals with the demands of life by praying in verse 35. What does Jesus teach us about how to handle the demands of life? How do you typically handle these demands? What needs to change in light of the example of Jesus?
2. In verse 38 Jesus decides it is time to go preach. Jesus balanced word and deed ministry. Why is it important to practice both word and deed ministries? What are the downsides of focusing on just word or just deeds?
3. In 1:40-45 we see Jesus healing the leper emotionally and socially. Do you tend to think of Jesus as a compassionate king? How does this scene in Jesus' life help you to relate to him? How does it teach you to relate to others?
4. In verse 2:1-5 Jesus heals the paralytic spiritually by forgiving his sins. How does being forgiven by God bring healing? What happens when you cannot forgive others? What happens when you cannot forgive yourself?
5. In verse 9 Jesus poses a question. He asks, which is easier, to forgive sins or to heal a body? When you think about how hard it was for Jesus to forgive you, do you find strength to forgive others or yourself? What are your barriers to receiving or giving forgiveness?
6. In verse 2:13-17 we see Jesus accepting tax collectors and sinners. The [self-]righteous Pharisees took issue with the dinner table of Jesus. The Bible says that God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble. Why does self-righteousness get in the way of our faith in Jesus? What kinds of things do we tend to be self-righteous about? How does someone come to possess humility? Why is it hard to be humble?
7. Pray.