

Mark 1 | The Difference Maker

Getting Going

1. Settling in & Opening Prayer
2. What are some things that have made a difference in your life?

Review:

- a. How have you taken time to celebrate what God has done in your life?
- b. In what ways have you been living the generosity of God out in your life?

Digging Deeper

1. After spending a longer season in the Old Testament our sermon series is now in the New Testament. Take some time to think through the OT story we have covered and think about how it has been preparing us for Jesus all along the way. Where are we pointed to Jesus in creation? The Fall? The Exodus? The wanderings? In the Land (Kings)? In exile and return? In the Prophets?
2. Read Haggai 2, Malachi 4:1-6 (the last chapter in the OT), and then read Mark 1 (the first chapter in the easiest gospel). Why do you think the last prophets and Mark 1 have such different tones? In what ways does Mark 1 reveal that something is different than in the OT?
3. The OT shows God repeatedly calling the Israelites to become his holy people, yet they never become what they are called to be. Why does Jesus coming and dwelling among change this? Read Hebrews 1:1-4. How different is Jesus coming to dwell amongst vs what has come before?

Practical Preparation:

1. Take time to think about the difference Jesus has made in your life. What has changed about you because of Jesus?
2. What have you been trying in your life that simply isn't working? How might Jesus Christ be the difference maker you need?
3. The disciples hear Jesus' call to follow and drop what they have to follow him (Mark 1:16-20). What needs to happen in your heart for you to respond to Jesus' call like this?

Parting Prayer

1. We need to understand our need for Jesus as THE difference maker in our lives. Pray that we would understand this, that we would believe this, and we would live this out.
2. Pray that Jesus softens our hearts and transforms us to be his holy people. Take some time to pray for our church to be a light and to be the holy people God is calling us to be.

Optional Extra Question - What is an iconic pop culture moment that is etched into your memory?