

Parish of Ferndown

Study sheet for week commencing 14th December 2009

“Living repentance” Mark 1:1-8

Ice Breaker

- At what points in life do we mark “new beginnings?” See if everyone can think of one! Share why these moments/occasions are so special? The Gospel of Mark focuses on Jesus being a new beginning!

Bible Study *Read Mark 1:1-8*

- In Greek the word order of verse 1 reads like this: “Beginning the gospel Jesus Christ.” The word “gospel” (good news) the word “Jesus” are next to one another. This shows that Jesus **is** the Good News, and that he also **has** Good News. Both statements are true. Reflect on this for a moment or two. Tell each other in what ways you think Jesus is Good News for You personally.
- Read Isaiah 40:3-5. In what ways does this remind us of Christ coming into the world?
- V4 – the first half of John’s message was what exactly? (by the way, “repentance” comes from a Greek word “metanoya” meaning change of mind/change of direction)
- Why is baptism such a powerful outward sign of what is going on when someone repents and is baptised?
- Why might the religious leaders have thought John a bit strange? Why might we find John or other prophets difficult to live with?!
- V7 – the second part of John’s message was what exactly?
- V8 – Teaching - We baptise people in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit? People get hung up on theologies surrounding water baptism. Actually John says that we mostly need Jesus to baptise us in his Spirit!! (notice the Holy Spirit is not the baptiser – Jesus is – and we must not think the phrase “baptism of the Spirit” means the Holy Spirit baptises us. Just as we would not say that the water baptised us! Nevertheless, John makes an important point – we need Jesus to baptise us in his Spirit! This begins at baptism and we need to ask God to keep filling us afresh.

Application

- Earlier we looked at issues like “Why is Jesus Good News to you?” “What has he done for you?” “What does he mean to you?” Are you ready to know what to say to someone who wants to know what this Good News is all about? Now or at home could you write down answers to these questions, and try to articulate what God means to you? It will really help in sharing your faith.
- Where do we need to repent? What about our nation? And the world? Think of one example in each category and.....

Pray!

- Pray about repentance and how it affects you and the issues above.

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