



Pastor Derrick Shields “Mark: The Way To Wholeness: An Introduction Like No Other” 6/5/2022

Key Verses:

- Mark 1:1-15

Key Thoughts:

- Matthew 28:18-20 is the mission of ALL churches and Christian. We share the same mission. We also believe God gives a unique mission to each individual church.
- *Christ Community Church exists to awaken the broken to a life of wholeness found in Jesus.* It's essential that we shift our focus to Jesus to equip us to embody wholeness.
- Mark is full of stories and accounts of Jesus in action. In Chapter 1, Mark makes an introduction of Jesus that's unlike anything we could imagine.
- Mark begins his gospel not talking about Jesus' birth, he references the “beginning of the good news. In verse 15, Mark says “the time has come”. Mark quotes Malachi 3:1 from a time when Israel was in trouble. He also quotes Isaiah 40:3. He's going back in order to look forward and to make sense of the Messiah.

Three Key Words in Mark 1:

1. *Wilderness (Mark 1: 4-6)*
 - We're told that John the Baptist appears in the wilderness. The people who were reading this would have thought back to the Exodus when they were in the wilderness.
 - **A wilderness is where formation takes place, where people are made new.** A wilderness season is when we move out of what's held us in bondage into preparation for what God has ahead of us.
2. *Jordan (Mark 1: 7-9)*
 - Jesus comes and is baptized in the Jordan. The Jordan represents a boundary marker. It's where we physically move from one place to another. It represents a new creation. The Jordan is where you move from the wilderness to the promised land. **The Jordan is not necessarily what we get into, but what gets into us.**
3. *Son (Mark 1:10-13)*
 - God says, “you are my son, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased”. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, God made sure Jesus knew that God loved him as his son.
 - It says that heaven was “torn” open. The word torn is “schizó” in Greek. The word also appears in Mark 15:37-38. When Jesus is on the cross, the veil was “torn”. The second tearing happens so that we can have access to God ourselves. God disrupted reality to reveal his personal loving nature to his child.

Discussion Questions:

- When have you experienced a wilderness in your life? How were you made new in it?
- What is Jesus trying to “get into you” through the Jordan?



- Why is it important that God loves you as his own son or daughter? How might your perception of a father dictate how this reality impacts you?