



Sermon Title: The One We Follow part 1

Sermon Title: The Forerunner

Date: 6/5/2022

Mark 1:1–13

Mark's gospel begins with John the Baptist. He was the first prophet to appear in Israel in 400 years. (Malachi 3:1) John's purpose was to point people to Jesus the Messiah. His purpose is identical to the one entrusted to us.

Big Idea: Make your highest calling to know Jesus and to make Him known. That statement consists of 2 imperatives: But we will them in reverse order.

2nd Imperative: To Make Him Known

John and Jesus both knew each other; they were cousins. John spent his young adult years immersed in the Scriptures in a monastic community called the Essenes. Religious leaders heard his preaching and questioned him (John 1:22–23). He knew his role as the forerunner of Messiah. Mark 1:4

The baptism John administered was in anticipation of salvation. It represented a holy “aha” moment in which a person recognized their desperate condition. Mark 1:5

John's message was, “The arrival of the One who BRINGS forgiveness and salvation is here.” Those who accepted his message submitted to John's baptism, the Jewish ritual of Mikvah. A ritual cleansing that demonstrated their acceptance of the need for salvation through what Messiah would do.

John was, to say the least, different. He didn't feel any pressure to fit in. Obviously. (Mark 1:6-8)

1st Imperative: To Know Jesus

Mark 1 indicates Jesus saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Himself in visible form, like a dove. He also heard the declaration of God the Father, “You are my beloved Son.” The Gospel of John indicates John the Baptist also saw and heard the same thing. Mark 1:9–11, John 1:32–34

John certainly knew Jesus as his cousin. But before the encounter at the River he didn't know Jesus was the Son of God.

The Baptism of Jesus was primarily for the benefit of. He had to know with confidence who Jesus is. God's Son and his own Savior.

This is of highest importance to each of us. How do we come to know Jesus? Think back to Mark 1:4, which referred to a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of direction. It is to change your mind about what you previously thought made you acceptable to God. On the basis of works, no one qualifies. **James 2:10**

The solution is to do what John the Baptist said to do. Put your trust, not in yourself, but the One whom he introduced: Jesus.

How to Know Him

- Admit you need a Savior / Forgiver
- Recognize that Jesus is the Savior who died to rescue you
- Place your trust in Jesus' payment and victory.

You will then be ready... To make him known.

- Identify with Christ in Believer's Baptism.
- Assemble with believers for Worship & Teaching.
- Seek opportunities to make Christ known . Look for opportunities to use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you to strengthen the Body of Christ and to make him known outside the church as well.

And be ready. **1 Peter 3:15**

A Thought Experiment. What would happen if two people within Grace Church got serious about making Christ known?

Each year Joe and Mary each lead one person to Christ. Each of them, in turn, gets serious about making Christ known. Over a 20-year period it looks like this.

It goes from 2 disciples, to 4... then, 8... then, 16... 32... 64... 128... 256... 512... 1024... 2048... 4096... 8192... 16,384... 32,768... 65,536... 131,072... 262,144... 524,288... Finally, after year #20... 1,048,576

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What are some hesitations that people have about sharing Jesus? How would you advise someone to overcome them?**
- **Briefly describe what it means to know Jesus**
- **What is the primary way you proclaim Jesus to other people? (actions, words, etc.)**
- **Who has God used to make Jesus known to you in your life?**