



January 7, 2018

Sermon: It's Time

Bottom line: It's time to follow Jesus.

For the good news of Jesus to change you, you must make it personal. Making something personal leads you to act now. It means you've put your heart and soul into it. In the gospel according to Mark, John Mark is eager to introduce us to the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. He starts his gospel suddenly. He wants us to believe in Jesus now. So, get ready. Even if you have yet to start following Jesus, you can start suddenly. On Your Mark!

Discussion: Read Mark 1:1-15

1. What's your favorite thing about starting a new year? Did you make resolutions or goals to start 2018? Share them with the group. Or did the new year sneak up on you? Why do you think that happened?
2. Describe how the gospel according to Mark starts. What can we learn from what John Mark wants to immediately communicate to us? What can we learn from what John Mark chooses to leave out?
3. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus (verses 2 & 3). There has been a lot of preparations made for you to follow Jesus. Who has God sent to prepare your way? If you missed a great start to 2018 or if you feel you've already slipped up on your resolutions, how can the "great cloud of witnesses" described in Hebrews 12:1-2 free us to "run with perseverance"?
4. We can make a lot of excuses that keep us from following Jesus like, "I'm not qualified." Share some common excuses you have made or others have made. How does God answer each excuse in Christ?
5. From Mark 1:10-11, how does Mark portray the baptism of Jesus as a Father/son moment? Why was this special for Jesus? How is someone's baptism today like Jesus'?
6. Jesus says, "the time has come" to "repent and believe the good news." In what context does John Mark place this declaration? What can we learn about starting a greater commitment to following Christ from this?

Application:

7. You can have a new life now. What are you entangled in that does not allow you to run the race of faith with perseverance? How can you choose to make the gospel personal, including your heart and soul and launching into a faithful commitment to Christ?

End in Prayer. Sermon Notes: