

COLLIDE: When Heaven Meets Earth

Kingdom News! Heaven and Earth Collide!

Matt Vorhees

January 12, 2014

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INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-20

Bottom Line:

1. _____ News (Mark 1:1-8)

2. _____ News (Mark 1:9-15)

3. _____ News (Mark 1:16-20)

Application:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

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Community Group Curriculum
For the week of January 12, 2014
"Foundations of the Kingdom"
Mark 1:1-20

BIG PICTURE

This opening passage of Mark sets the stage for the rest of the Gospel. Mark starts with the words, "*the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ*" (1:1). Mark is writing about the gospel. The first words out of Jesus' mouth confirm: "*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel*" (1:15). What is the gospel? Mark explains that it is the good news of the fulfillment of God's promises. The rest of Mark will show how Jesus not only fulfills but transforms Old Testament hopes, especially for a coming king. Bring it on!

LET'S DIG IN!

1. Read Mark 1:1-8.

John's clothing was similar to that of the Old Testament prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8, Mark 1:6). What is the significance of this (Malachi 4:5-6)?

John says that the one coming after him "*will baptize you with the Holy Spirit*" (1:8). We know from Mark 1:2-3 that Mark sees his Gospel account as building on the Old Testament, so what might Mark have in mind in verse 8? To help your understanding, check out Isaiah 32:14-17 and Ezekiel 11:18-21. Note also what happens with the Spirit in Mark 1:10.

Why would thousands of Jews go into the desert to hear John the Baptizer? How does John's ministry prepare the way for Jesus?

In what ways can you prepare others for Christ? Be specific.

2. Read Mark 1:9-11

Despite Jesus' greatness, he came to John for baptism. What does this tell us about Jesus' relationship to us (Mark 10:45)? How can we imitate Jesus' attitude of humility and submission?

3. Read Mark 1:12-13, Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was "led" into the desert by the Spirit specifically to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1). Why do you think the Spirit would lead Jesus into such a difficult situation?

What can we learn from Jesus about how we should respond to temptation?

4. Read Mark 1:14-15

These verses summarize Jesus' preaching ministry. Let's dissect this and define the key parts of the passage:

"Gospel of God" –

"Kingdom of God" –

"Repent" –

5. Read Mark 1:16-20

How does Jesus' command "follow me" summarize the essence of discipleship?

How does 1 Corinthians 1:27 relate to Jesus' choosing of the blue-collar, untrained fishermen? Share in your community group how God used you even though you felt inadequate.

What does it mean for a person to sacrifice personal achievements, friends or even family for the sake of Christ?

PRAYER PLEASE!

- For God's words in the book of Mark to penetrate our hearts and cause us to grow more in love with our Savior.
- For a personal desire to grow closer to Christ through more time alone in God's Word and meditating on Scripture.
- For each one of us to put our complete trust in God in all (not most) matters of our life.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Messiah – From the Hebrew word meaning "anointed one," the equivalent of the Greek word *Christ*. "Anointed one" signified kingship. The Messiah therefore came to mean the anticipated coming king who would liberate Israel once and for all and bring in the Kingdom of God. Jesus affirmed that he was the Messiah sent from God (Matthew 16:16-17).

Synagogue – In Jerusalem, worship took place at the temple. In cities others than Jerusalem, which had no temple, the synagogue (meaning "assembly") was the center of Jewish worship. Synagogues were located in most of the leading towns of Israel.

Kingdom of God – The rule of God manifested in the long-awaited restoration of his people and the whole world, in which God would reign under the glad submission of all people. When Jesus came, he announced that the Kingdom of God had arrived (Mark 1:15). Because of ongoing rebellion and rejection of Jesus and his rule, the Kingdom still awaits its final consummation and fulfillment in Jesus' second coming (Mark 14:25). It is for this reason we pray for the Kingdom to come (Matthew 6:10).