



Repent Ye, and Believe the Gospel! Resurrection Sunday, April 17, 2022

Holy Text: Mark 1:14-15

Mark 1:14-15 (KJV) Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, **15** And saying, *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Today, I'd to examine our LORD's statement and command for all who would hear Him to repent and believe the Gospel. It seems to be a simple statement, but it is absolutely packed with truth, life, and eternal ramifications.

On this Holy Day where the LORD's Church all over the world is celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, our hope today is threefold:

1. To lovingly declare what the risen LORD declared: **“Repent ye, and believe the gospel.”**
2. To make sure you, God's people, have “gospel clarity.” There are many so called “gospels” floating around: social, therapeutic, works-based, feelings-based, etc. But there is only one true Gospel of Jesus Christ!
3. To embolden Christ's flock to preach the same! Know it, believe it, proclaim it!

Let us turn to the Text...

Context:

The Gospel of Mark is thought to have been written by John Mark (Acts 12:12) between 50-70AD. Thematically, Mark's Gospel is a picture of the servanthood of Jesus.

William MacDonald says, *“In this Gospel we have the wonderful story of God's Perfect Servant, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the story of One who laid aside the outward display of His glory in heaven and assumed the form of a Servant on earth (Php 2:7). It is the matchless story of One who “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mar 10:45). If we remember that this Perfect Servant was none other than God the Son, and that He willingly girded Himself with the apron of a slave, becoming a Servant of men, the Gospel will glow with constant splendor. Here we see the incarnate Son of God living as a dependent Man on earth. Everything He did was in perfect obedience to His Father's will, and His mighty works were all performed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Mark's style is rapid, energetic, and concise. He emphasizes the deeds of the Lord more than His words, evidenced by the fact that he records nineteen miracles, but only four parables.”*

True to form, Mark opens succinctly and get's right to the point:

Mark 1:1 (KJV) *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;*

Mark 1:9-13 (KJV) *And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. **10** And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: **11** And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **12** And*

*immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. **13** And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.*

Mark 1:15 Breakdown

- Then we read in our Text that Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God! (Mark 1:14) This Kingdom is “at hand” (or accessible to any who would receive Him, Matt 4:17) because of the coming of Jesus, is one that will not pass away (Dan 7:14), is inhabited by the poor in spirit (Matt 5:3), those persecuted for righteousness sake (Matt 5:10), is characterized by holiness (Matt 5:19-20), must be sought first (Matt 6:33), and is preached to men and women throughout the world (Matt 24:14), although only the good ground hearer will understand (Matt 13:23). The Gospel of the Kingdom is so valuable (a pearl of great price!) that those who hear must be willing to give up everything for it! (Matt 13:46)
- Verse 15 is one of the most succinct statements of how to enter God’s Kingdom in Scripture. It constitutes the thrust of our LORD’s message on earth, which He would go on to preach in various ways, authenticate by miracles and wonders, provide for by His perfect life, substitutionary death and victorious Resurrection, and commission His disciples to preach unto all the world! And thank the LORD...the need is so great!

***Romans 3:23-25 (KJV)** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **24** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: **25** Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

***1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV)** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

***Mark 16:15 (KJV)** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

- Please know beloved that there is no more loving, no more needed, and no more mercy-filled message than the message of Jesus Christ.
- Let us take a closer look at verse 15:

1. “And saying”

- The King is speaking! Let us hear!
- Jesus is the living Word (John 1:1, 14) and speaks to us via the Bible through His servants. When our LORD speaks, He does so as one having authority. (Matt 7:29)
- Christ is above all things, the Creator of all things, and Him all things hold together. He is above all rule, principality, and power. (Col 1:16-17) His Word is like a fire, like a hammer that breaks the rock into pieces! (Jer 23:29)
- So often, we treat the Scripture like it is man-invented instead of Spirit-inspired. It is important to remember that the Bible is the Word of God: *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* (**2 Timothy 3:16-17, KJV**)
- This is no small matter. Our Resurrected LORD declares...

Matthew 7:24-27 (KJV) *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

- Let us listen carefully to Jesus! Let pray for eyes to see and ears to hear! His Word is for our good!

2. “The time is fulfilled.”

- After several thousand years, God’s Redeemer has finally come: Jesus our LORD!
- His coming was prophesied in the Garden of Eden after the fall of man (Gen 3:15) and by the prophets throughout the ages. (Isa 9:6-7; Micah 5:2)
- In that same garden, man’s chief problem began: sin. Sin entered the human race through Adam and Eve and as a result, death spread to all men. (Rom 5:12)
- Since God is both infinitely loving AND infinitely holy and just, sin must be punished because God requires justice. (Acts 17:31)
- God allowed mankind to live on after the Fall, even after seeing that “the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually” and destroying everything on land except for Noah and His family with a global flood. (Genesis 6-7)
- Through Noah would eventually come a man named Abraham. God would make Abraham a promise: that through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed. This blessing would be fully fulfilled in Jesus Christ!
- Therefore through Abraham, God would call a holy people for Himself. This people would be named after Abraham’s grandson Jacob; a people known as Israel. We, the Church, are all spiritual heirs of Abraham (Gal 3:7) and are one body with believers everywhere. (Eph 2:11-22)
- God would go on to give Israel (and the world) His Holy and Moral Law...
 - I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
 - II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
 - III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
 - IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 - V. Honor thy father and thy mother.
 - VI. Thou shalt not kill.
 - VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 - VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
 - IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
 - X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour’s.
- The Law was given several reasons: 1) That we might worship Him acceptably (Exodus 20), that we might know what sin is (Rom 7:7; 1 John 3:4) and see it as exceeding sinful (Rom 7:13), that our mouths might stop (or humble ourselves) and we might be held to holy account (Rom 3:19), and that we might see our desperate need for a Savior!

Galatians 3:24 (KJV) *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

Romans 10:4 (KJV) *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

- Christ came to deliver man from His sin bondage and pay our sin debt.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (KJV) *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. **21** For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Hebrews 9:27-28 (KJV) *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: **28** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

3. “The Kingdom of God is at hand.”

- The Kingdom of God is not so much a reference to a place, but to a Divine Person and His mighty power. (Lk 11:20) Christ is at hand! God’s Messiah has come! Eternal Life is here! The ultimate deliverer has come! God plan of redemption is being fulfilled by His Redeemer, and they way of Salvation is manifest through his Gospel!
- Please know that there is no one else for whom we must wait. Jesus Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Him! (John 14:6) “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

4. “Repent”

- To enter the Kingdom of God, one must repent. The word repent in Greek is *metanoēō*. It means “to change one’s mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins.” (Thayer’s Dictionary)
- This too, is no small matter. To truly know one’s sin requires an act of God. Scripture says it is “the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.” (Rom 2:5)
- This kind of “change of mind” is actually Holy Spirit conviction (John 16:8), which is why one “abhors” one’s sin as a result. Only God can change the heart this way!

5. “Ye”

- To all who will hear Him, Jesus speaks this Word! It is personal; He is talking not just to Galilee, but also to you!
- He says to YOU, “repent of YOUR sins.” (NLT)
- The world, our flesh, and the devil hate the personal nature of Jesus’ message. Because we would have to take responsibility for our rebellion and lawlessness, we tend to shift this message to others, ignore it, or attempt to refute it outright!
- Beloved, Jesus Christ speaks GOOD NEWS to YOU! YOU are made in God’s image. YOUR life is not a mistake!
- Friend, “Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.” (Heb 3:15) “For unto you (was) born (that) day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord! (Luke 2:11)

6. “And believe”

- Believe is *pisteuō*. It simply means “to have faith in” and is also a work of God...

Ephesians 2:8 (KJV) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...

John 3:36 (KJV) He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:16 (KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 (KJV) He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:24 (KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 6:40 (KJV) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

- Jesus exhorts and commands those who hear Him to believe (or trust/have faith) in the Gospel. God requires faith because “without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Heb 11:6)
- The sort of belief Jesus refers to creates true transformation. Faith, without works, is dead. (Jam 2:14-26)

7. “The Gospel”

- One who would be born again must repent and believe in The Gospel. *Gospel* is *euaggelizō* in Greek which means “good or glad tidings; good news!” It is translated, “Gospel” 77 times in the KJV.
- The Good News that Christ brings is Himself! His perfect life, painful death, burial, and Resurrection has payed our sin-debt in full to the Father! As the prophet Isaiah wrote so poignantly:

Isaiah 53:3-5 (KJV) He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our faces from him*; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **4** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **5** But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

- This miraculous work was triumphantly punctuated by the miracle we celebrate today. Jesus didn’t stay in the grave; He is Risen!

- As the angel said to those by Christ's sepulcher on a Sunday morning, "He is not here: for he is risen!" (Matt 28:6)
- "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very capstone in the arch of Christianity. When it is removed all else crumbles. It is, in fact, the singular doctrine that elevated Christianity above all the pagan religions of the Mediterranean world." (Hank Hanegraaff)
- Paul wrote,

1 Corinthians 15:17-20 (KJV) *And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

- In other words, if He is dead then we will all die! But since He is risen, we too shall rise!"

Romans 6:4-5 (KJV) *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

Therefore, this is the Gospel:

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God. He rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called, who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation.

So now what?

1. If you have not already, we implore you: **Repent ye, and Believe the Gospel!** Consider your sin the light of our Holy God and flee to Him! Then...
2. Become a fervent student of Scripture. Read the Word of God every day!
3. Pray! Develop the habit of passionate prayer!
4. Proclaim the Good News! Tell everyone about the God who still saves!
5. Join a local church! There are so many biblical reasons to do so! [10 Reasons](#).

He is Risen!
Amen!