

## **MARK 1:14, 15, THE DECREASE OF JOHN AND THE INCREASE OF JESUS.**

### **REVIEW:**

- The temptation and trial.
- John preached about a time to come, Jesus preached that the time had come.

### **INTRO: READ MK. 1: 14-15. Mt. 4:12-17**

- Between verses 13 and 14 is a break chronologically of about one year.
- John's voice has been silenced never to be publically heard again, the voice of one crying in the wilderness has passed.
- John spent many long lonely years in preparation for what would be a short ministry of a few months, then a lowly prison cell and a sudden execution.
- John, the greatest of the prophets, the greatest of all men born of a woman, had a very short ministry.
- The great personality of John is gone and we see Jesus only.
- One would feel that the greatest of men born would have more work and ministry allotted to him, but no... John the greatest prophet ever sent into the world did his grand work in the space of a few months.
- It is the quality of our work which is of great importance not the quantity.
- Long life is not essential for great achievements.
- Consider; Jim Elliot (29), William Borden, (25), Keith Green (28), Robert Murray M'Ceyne (29), Christopher Love (33), Henry Martyn (31), J. O. Fraser (52), Oswald Chambers, (43) David Brainerd, (29) James Durham (33), John and Betty Stam (27 & 28), Eric Liddle (43), Spurgeon (58), Jonathan Edwards (54), St. Stephen, Jesus.
- In Christ there are no untimely deaths as Jim Elliot said; I ask not for a long life but a full one, and he believed and said, "you are immortal until your work is done."
- How about us Brothers and Sisters, are we making the most of our lives for Christ and His church? What John Oxenham said years ago is true;
  - To every man there openeth A Way, and Ways, and a Way. And the High Soul climbs the High way, and the Low Soul gropes the Low, And in between, on the misty flats, the rest drift to and fro. But to every man there openeth A High Way, and a Low. And every man decideth The Way his soul shall go.
- Only one life.....
- John preached the law while Jesus brought grace and truth. Jn. 1:17.
  - Isa. 52:7; How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good *things*, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

- With these verses we see Jesus now moving into His public ministry.
- 30 years of obscurity, quietness and hidden preparation.
- Now He comes forth to finish the work the Father had given him.
- To fulfill all that the scriptures declared and prophesied about Him.
- Jesus departs from the region that Herod had jurisdiction to galilee.

#### **THE TIMING:**

- The time is fulfilled: "To make full or to fill up, to fill to the full."
- The time for the appearance of the Messiah.
- The world had waited 4000 years for this moment. From Gen. 3:15 to John the Baptist.
- Adam, Abraham, Moses Job, David Simeon and Anna all looked to this moment.
- This is what Jesus meant when a boy of just 12 He said, "I must be about My Fathers business."
- Jesus was not the Messiah the nation of Israel expected.
- He did not vanquish their enemies as they expected, but He did come to vanquish their spiritual enemies and free them from the bondage of sin and their fear of death.
- Heb. 2:14-16
- The Jews expected when the Messiah came He would come in pomp and with a great procession, not preaching.
- That He would come with a sword and an army, not with word and 12 ordinary men. (like David's mighty men. 2 Samuel 23:8-39)
- He did not come to make Israel the envy of all nations, to make them the greatest kingdom on earth, but to bring in His kingdom, the Kingdom of God. To this they were invited.

#### **THE SUBJECT OF HIS PREACHING:**

- Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. (kingdom 126X in the gospels)
- Mt. 4:23 says the gospel of the kingdom and in Mt. 4:17 it says He came preaching "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- Some of the newer translations say "He came preaching the gospel of God.
- The kingdom of God = the reign of God. Where God is reigning and His will is ruling and obeyed. "Already, not yet!"
- The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven have basically the same meaning though the kingdom of heaven expresses what the kingdom of God is like, its fulfillment and perfection. "As it is in heaven. "
- It is the gospel of God and His Kingdom because it comes from God and brings us to God.
- In Jesus the long sought for kingdom arrives.

- **MK. 1:1 says Marks gospel is the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” So the gospel of the kingdom of God , the gospel of God is the gospel Jesus preached.**
- **His message is God’s gospel.**

### **WHAT IS THIS GOSPEL:**

- **The perpetual message of heaven to earth is given here. Repent & Believe.**
- **Whether John, Jesus, the Apostles, or any modern evangelist, repentance and faith is the first requirement.**
- **Repentance and believing are the entrance into God’s kingdom and life in the kingdom.**
- **Repent: to think again, to perceive afterwards.**
- **The word “repent” is in the present tense, a past experience with continuation into the present. Having repented and still repenting.**
- **Believe: means to be persuaded, to place confidence in, to trust and place reliance upon. Not a mere credence or agreement with but action; believe in.....**
- **The word believe is in the present tense, a past experience with continuation into the present. Having believed, be believing...**
- **We are to call men to repent, to end evil and disobedience in their lives and to believe the gospel. To trust God and the truth.**
- **Jesus came preaching the “good news, the glad tidings, that is the gospel.**
- **This is the gospel of Jesus and it sums up what was the message of His gospel and it is “repent and believe.”**
- **Believe what He taught about His life, death and resurrection. This is the glad tidings.**
- **This is what Paul preached (1 Cor. 15: 1-4)**
- **Repentance by itself is not enough.**
- **Believing by itself is not enough.**
- **There must be both. Repentance must be joined to faith.**
- **Repentance alone does not bring us life (Judas) it must be added to faith.**
- **Believing alone will not lead to life without repentance. (James 2:19 the devil believes and trembles.) But he does not repent.**
- **We must have both to have repentance that leads to “life.” Acts. 11:18.**
  - **Acts 20:21; testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **That God had brought to man the message of reconciliation, that a way had been made for man to worship and live for God for God had made a way for man to repent and also believe.**

- **Repentance:** Acts 11:18; When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."
- **Believing:** for to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
- By repentance we sorrow over our sin, then forsake them, and by faith we receive the forgiveness of them and the life of God.
- By repentance we give glory to our Creator with Whom we have offended, by faith we give glory to Jesus our Redeemer who came to save us from our sins.
- With repentance and believing we trust in His work, His righteousness and what God has joined together let no man put asunder.
- We are not told to believe the gospel, but to believe **IN** the gospel.
- Mental agreement alone will not save us. Our repentance and believing must bear fruit.
- Believe in the gospel; be dwelling, abiding in the gospel, its message and its power. Be not faithless but believe. Jn. 20:27
- Unbelief is the great sin. Jesus taught that when the Spirit came He would convict the world of unbelief because they would not believe on Him. (JN. 16:9)
- Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom and the King, but men would not repent or believe, as Jesus said, And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Jn. 3:19.
- All faithful preachers from Noah to present day have preached this message.

### **CONCLUSION: SO WHAT?**

- Throughout our Christian life repentance and faith must be exercised and walk hand in hand.
- As Paul said in Acts 20:21; But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.