



Mark 1
1-8
New International Version

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,^[a] the Son of God,^[b] ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”^[c]—

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”^[d]

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with^[e] water, but he will baptize you with^[f] the Holy Spirit.”

Appointments to be kept. Tight schedules to maintain. Routines established.

That’s how most of us try to live our lives. But what happens when life is interrupted with something totally unexpected?

What happens when God steps in to redirect our priorities and focus?

In October we will look at a couple examples of scripture to see what God does when life is interrupted. We invite you to take in each of these timely messages.

- Crazy, lunny, Radical, extreme, unusual,
- Mainstream, the middle ground (high ground)



Sermon Notes

Inter-rupted

To break the continuity or the uniformity of life

What happens when God steps in to redirect our priorities and focus?

Main Point: There’s Something WRONG

Interruptions are often CONFRONTATIONAL

“[John] said to them: “*You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?*” Matt. 3:7

Interruptions shatter our ILLUSIONS (Shock and Awe)

“Before the truth sets you free, it tends to make you miserable.”

Richar Rohr

Interruptions open us to new POSSIBILITIES

There is an ILLNESS in the Land

Take Your SINNING Seriously

REPENT and Believe



MARKS OF GRACE

GOSPEL OF MARK

New Testament scholars, with few

exceptions, agree that Mark's Gospel is the earliest written account of Jesus' life and ministry. Composed between A.D. 60 and 70, it likely served as the basis for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Mark himself, though not one of the Twelve, was probably an early convert (Acts 12:12) and a companion to both Peter (1 Pet 5:13) and Paul. Though Mark had an early falling out with Paul (Acts 15:36-41), the two were clearly reconciled later on (Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:11; Philem 24). Thus Mark is linked to two of the most prominent apostles.

More and more, scholars are coming to believe that Mark was not just a collector of stories about Jesus but that he gave form and shape to these stories to counteract some dangerous distortions of the gospel message. Apparently some Christians so focused on Jesus' deity and glorious resurrection that they began to ignore his humanity and suffering. As a result they expected to be spared suffering in this life and to quickly join Jesus in the glories of heaven. You can well imagine how their faith may have been shaken when Nero took to using some of them as torches!

Mark theologically and pastorally sets out to retell the story of Jesus, showing that the kingdom in its glory comes at the end of the path of suffering and service. While Matthew focuses on Jesus as the teacher from whom we should learn (Mt 11:29; 28:20) and John focuses on him as the Son of God in whom we should believe (Jn 20:31), Mark portrays Jesus principally as the servant-king whom we should follow (Mk 1:17). Thus, if we are to enjoy the glories of the kingdom, we too must follow the road of suffering and service.