



## Jesus Begins His Ministry (Mk 1:12–20)

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*January 13*

**OVERVIEW:** [Mark](#) (watch the intro)

**CONTEXT:** Mark is the shortest of all of the Gospels. It is fast, punchy and crisp. Mark, a travelling companion of Paul and Barnabas, conveys (v.1), *the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God*, to us, to that we might believe. Mark wastes little before He gets right into all of the action with a focus here on the purpose of His ministry and the calling of His first disciples.

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Lk 3:8)**

- How do we live in an age of entitlement?
- How can people have a religious entitlement?
- What sense of entitlement did the Jews have in Jesus' day? How did John challenge this?
- Discuss: "bear fruit in keeping with repentance."
- How can we avoid religious entitlement today?

**READ:** Mk 1:14–20

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Why is it significant that Jesus' ministry began after John was arrested?
2. *Galilee was a backwoods region of Palestine, highly influenced by Greek culture, yet with a sizeable Jewish population. It was far from the religious centre of Jerusalem.* **Why do you think Jesus chose to base His ministry there?**
3. **If Jesus came proclaiming, what was His ministry not about and what was at its heart? What should this teach us about our ministry today?**
4. What is meant by "the kingdom of God is at hand" (but not here quite yet)?
5. **In what different senses can "gospel" be used?** What does it mean here noting it is looking to the future? (*Note: the gospel, or "euangelion," was a term used to express the good news*

*of a King's victory as He returned from battle*). How had the OT longed for the ushering in of God's kingdom?

- Given the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come," how is this an 'already but not yet reality'?
6. *Jesus' ministry revolved around a key message, "repent and believe the Gospel."* (see also Mt 4:17). **How, seeing it as future, understand the message? How do we understand it now?**

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7. Anyone remember of know the "Fishers' of Men" song?
8. How does this passage link to the Great Commission? **What are we, as followers of Jesus, to be all about?**
9. V. 17- How is discipleship the greatest calling of a believer?
10. **What does it mean to leave all to follow Jesus?**
11. **What does it speak that many of the disciples were simple fishermen? (see Acts 4:13).**
12. How does it strike you that they unhesitatingly positively answered Jesus call to follow?
13. **Summarize key findings.**

**NEXT TIME:** January 20, John 5