



Jesus In the Heart of the City

Gospel of Mark
Message Series

The Son of God leads us into discipleship

Chinese Community Church - Washington DC October 12, 2014 Message Notes Pastor Richard Ross
Part 1 in the sermon series through the Gospel of Mark, *Jesus in the Heart of the City*

"Hospitality for the King"

Our Scripture Passage for Today

Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)

- 1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- 2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"--
- 3 "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"
- 4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and 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 will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.
- 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Message Notes

A. Introduction

- *How do you extend hospitality to someone special?*

B. Insights from Mark 5:1-8

1. Main Idea:

Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah and we need to prepare the way for Him ... in our hearts, our church, our community.

2. Jesus' authenticity affirmed (vv. 1-3)
3. Hospitality for the King means repentance. (vv. 4-5)
4. Humility is the mark of Christ's servant. (vv. 6-8)

C. Prayer Response

Repentance means to "change one's mind" about Jesus, acknowledging Him as our Savior and Lord. Repentance is also deciding to turn away from whatever keeps us from responding in trust to Him. What are some choices, beliefs, or attitudes that I need to repent of? What about among my family, friends, neighbors, and this community surrounding CCC?

Reminder: Pray every time you see a red brick surface this week!

Take-Home Individual or Small Group Study Questions

1. What stories, pictures or objects in your family link you to past generations? What importance does this sense of history have for you?
2. Read Mark 1:1-8. What does verse 1 reveal about Mark's own view of the events he is about to describe?
3. Verses 2 and 3 combine quotations from Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3. What do these two quotations have in common? In what context do they put the events Mark is about to describe?
4. How does John's ministry prepare the way for Jesus?
5. Malachi 4:5 describes this messenger as one having a ministry like that of the prophet Elijah. (For the account of Elijah's ministry see 1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2.) In what ways does Mark emphasize the similarities between John and Elijah?
6. Malachi wrote more than 400 years before the coming of Jesus, and Isaiah wrote almost 400 years before Malachi. What difference does it make to you that the good news is so deeply rooted in history?
7. How did the crowd respond to John? What does the crowd's response suggest about their sense of need?
8. How does John emphasize the greatness of the one who will come after him (vv. 7-8)?
9. Ask God to prepare you more fully for the coming of the king through the study of Mark's Gospel.