

## RTS Women's Study: The Gospel of Mark

### #2: Mark 1:1-20: A New Exodus

Intro: The Prince of Egypt

#### I. God Promises a New Exodus (1:1-8)

##### A. Mark cites Malachi 3:1 (v.2)

- Malachi promised *God* would come to visit his people and cleanse their sins
- And God would send a “messenger” like Elijah to prepare his way

##### B. Mark cites Isaiah 40:3 (v.3)

- Isaiah promised that *God* would lead a new Exodus which involves the “iniquity” of Israel being pardoned (Is 40:2)
- Is 40:3 says God would send a messenger in the wilderness to prepare his way

##### C. John the Baptist is the “messenger” who prepares God’s way (v.4-8)

- The wilderness is the fitting place for a new Exodus; Jordan river is where Israelites entered the promised land in the first Exodus
- John’s clothing matches that of the OT prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8)

Key Point: You can’t understand Jesus’ story without understanding the OT story

#### II. Jesus Begins a New Exodus (1:9-13)

##### A. Baptism: Jesus Will Endure Judgment on Our Behalf (v.9-11)

- If Jesus is sinless then why did he undergo a “baptism of repentance”?
  - Need to remember that baptism is a sign of judgment: Baptism symbolizes death, followed by new life (Rom 6:3); In the first Exodus, passing through the waters of the Red Sea was viewed as a “baptism” (1 Cor 10:1-2)
  - Thus, Jesus’ baptism is his acting as a representative of his people, taking on the judgment of death on our behalf
- The descent of the Spirit “anoints” Jesus for his new mission (v.10)
- The voice from heaven confirms Jesus’ divine status as unique Son of God (cf. Mark 9:7)

##### B. Temptation: Jesus Will Obey on Our Behalf (v.12-13)

- Israel disobeyed when they were in the wilderness during the first Exodus for 40 years; they were the disobedient “son”
- In contrast, Jesus is the obedient son, who obeys perfectly in the wilderness for 40 days
- Jesus is the first human being—and he was a real human being—who ever defeated Satan. Ever.
- This righteous obedience is done for us—we receive this righteous status by faith

- C. Big Point: A New Exodus—which involves the forgiveness of sins—is accomplished by *both* Jesus’ substitutionary death, and also his perfect righteousness.

### III. Jesus Announces the New Exodus (1:14-20)

#### A. A New Exodus Involves a New Israel

- This New Israel is marked by repentance/faith (v.15)
  - Israelites were prone to trust their physical lineage and religious privilege
  - But this new Kingdom is composed of those who *believe*
- This new Israel is composed of the unexpected
  - Jesus recruits from Galilee (v.14)—a backwater, rural, unimpressive area
  - Jesus recruits fishermen (v.16)—the blue collar workers of the day
  - **\*\*God’s Kingdom is not of this world! He doesn’t call the elites, but the outcasts and outsiders**
- Notice Jesus eventually picks 12 disciples, just like there were 12 tribes in Israel

#### B. This New Israel Has a New Mission

- Follow Jesus (v.17-18)
  - They followed immediately
  - They followed sacrificially
- Fish for men (v.17)
  - This is more than a play on words; in the OT, God announces that he will send out fishers to gather Israel for a second Exodus
  - Jeremiah 16:14-16: “As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt . . . I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their forefathers. Behold I am sending for many fishermen, declares the Lord, and they shall catch them.”
  - Key point: Fishing for men is a sign of the new Exodus!

### Discussion Groups

1. How do you feel about your current knowledge of the Old Testament? What can you do to improve it?
2. Do you ever find yourself doubting whether you are useful for the kingdom? How does Jesus’ recruitment of people to his new Israel encourage you today?
3. How are you doing in the area of “fishing for men”? What are some practical steps you can take to introduce more people to the person of Jesus?