

LifeGroup Study Sheet

January 22nd, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 2)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing you for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

When you hear the word “religious” what comes to your mind? Is it looked at as a good thing, bad thing, or something else? How do you use that phrase?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 1:4., 1 Thess 1:9, Luke 3:3-8. Pastor Jeff highlighted the ministry of John the Baptist, specifically the “preaching of repentance.” Why does this ministry focus of repentance and what does repentance mean? How does **1 Thess 1:9** help you define what repentance looks like?

Question 2: Read Mark 1:4-5, 8. Through John the Baptist's ministry, people were coming from all over Judea and Jerusalem to be baptized by John. **Verse 5** highlights a key action before their baptism – what was it?

Read Matthew 3:7-8. What was the key characteristic of why John would not baptize the Pharisees and Sadducees? **Matthew 3:9** shows how some people can put their trust/faith in other things that God to save them. How have you possibly done something similar in your own life?

Question 3: Read Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:3-6. John emphasizes something that is important to remember – John was only the messenger to prepare the way for The True One to come. **In Luke 3** it is emphasized that John was only “a voice of one calling in the desert, prepare the way for the Lord.” Why do you think John says in his message in **Mark 1:7** the difference between him and Jesus? How do you think John wants to remind people that the focus should not be on him, the baptism he teaches, or any other “religious” thing?

How easy is it for the human heart to focus on “religious” activity, instead of the true meaning behind these things?

Taking it Home

Take a moment to reflect on these application statements:

1. It is impossible to be “religious” without repentance.
2. True repentance can be proven.
3. An unchanged life is evidence of **2 Timothy 3:5**

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?