

The Time has Come

Mark 1:14-15



Starting out Small

What are some 'big' things that start out 'small'?

A danger about these things:

We ignore them, or we don't even see them

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God...is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." *Mark 4:30-32*

The Ancient Promise of God

"You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" *Isaiah 40:9*

Mark 1:14-15

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

"The time has come," he said.

"The kingdom of God has come near.

Repent and believe the good news!"

What it looked like to join Jesus...

Lives changed

Jesus calls for 4 friends to follow Him

Evil spirit expelled

Bodies healed

Jesus rises early to pray

People are forgiven

Jesus feasts with 'sinners' at a new follower's home (a tax collector)

Jesus is criticized then attacked by people who began making plans to kill Him



The Big Idea

**Jesus is growing His (glorious and powerful) Kingdom
through His people
today
and everyone is invited to enter
and join the work until it fully comes**

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days....And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." *Joel 2:28-29, 32*

The prophets longed to see what we've seen. Even angels longed to see what we've seen and heard! *1 Peter 1:10-12*
And we are living in it every day!

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." *Isaiah 60:1*

"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." *Ephesians 5:14*

"It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." *John 11:10*

"But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" *Matthew 6:23*

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." *Ephesians 5:8*

Application

Repent

Run to the light and walk in the light

Stop...

walking in darkness

living as though the world and all it offers is the best that there is

living as though the world sets the agenda

Remaining neutral is to miss His Kingdom

Ask, Seek, Knock

Believe

With boldness and confidence

Seek what is in the light, doing the work of God

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." *Matthew 9:37*

"But seek first His Kingdom, and His righteousness..." *Matthew 6:33*

It is impossible to understand the present without focusing on the Kingdom of God

"Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."" *John 5:17*

God is working all around us!

Maybe like seeds or yeast

"God is always at work drawing people to Himself." (Sent)

He is using every circumstance to make us more like Jesus

"My Father is always working."

So I too want to join that work...

What it looks like

Telling & showing that the King has come:

Jesus is God's Son in human form

He has suffered so we can enter God's family

His Spirit is in us, empowering us to work in and for His Kingdom

"Repenting and believing" → turn and follow

People making decisions for or against

Being transformed for and by the King

Seeking His Kingdom

Growing in Christlikeness

It does **not** mean that...

everything else stops or is unimportant

only 'spiritual things' matter

It does mean that everything finds its place only in how it relates to the Kingdom of God

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

At once they left their nets and followed him. *Mark 1:17*

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. How would you describe "the Kingdom of God" to people? What excites you about it? What questions do you have about it?
2. How might we sometimes be trying to see with a dim flashlight rather than walking in the light of God?
3. What does it look like when God is working? One way to summarize the work of God is His work of **bringing people into** His Kingdom, and His work of **transforming His people to be like Jesus in His Kingdom**. What is that like on a day-to-day basis?
4. What does it look like for you to join the work of God? What is a step you might take to do that more or in new ways?
5. Living for the Kingdom of God means that everything finds its place only in how it relates to the Kingdom of God. What does that mean? How do you make sense of the big and little things in life and how they relate to the Kingdom of God?