

## Home Community Study & Discussion

### October 6, 2013



grace changes everything.

#### Questions About the Text Following Up on the Sermon

- Read verse 1 word-for-word and discuss the significance of each word in Mark's introduction.
- Verse 1 says this is the “beginning of the Gospel...” How would you explain “the Gospel”? Share your answer with a partner and give each other helpful suggestions. Discuss as a group what you learn from this exercise.

#### Questions From the Text Not Addressed by the Sermon

- **KIDS' QUESTION:** Looking at verse 7, why do you think John said he wasn't worthy to untie Jesus' sandals? Is this how you feel about Jesus? Why or why not?
- Read verse 8. Why do you think John said Jesus, “will baptize you with the Holy Spirit?” Why didn't John say the Holy Spirit will baptize us?

#### In What Ways Does God Reveal Himself in this Passage? What Do We Learn About God Here?

- Read verses 2-3. It was customary at that time, when citing multiple sources to name only the more prominent source. So Isaiah is named but not Malachi.
  - For verse 2, read Malachi 3:1-4. In what ways do you think John the Baptist prepared people for Jesus' coming? In what ways can you see that Jesus fulfilled Malachi's prophecy?
  - For verse 3, read Isaiah 40:1-11. In what ways do you think John fulfilled the prediction in Isa 40:3? In what ways can you see that Jesus fulfilled verses 1-11?

#### What Ethical Questions Does this Passage Raise? Right vs. Wrong? Moral vs. Immoral?

#### In What Ways Do You See the Gospel Foreshadowed in this Text? Does it teach us about God's Holiness? Does it teach us about sin? Does it teach us about repentance? Does it teach us about God's grace?

- What do you think about the description of John in verse 6? In what ways does his example challenge you?

#### Living as Christians now 20 centuries after Christ, how does the Gospel change how we might look at this passage?

- Do you think we Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century have grown too casual about how we treat Jesus? What should we do differently?

*How does this passage help us grow in our love for and trust in Jesus?*