

Jesus, the Evangelist

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus was known by many titles and known for many things, but how often do we remember Jesus as a preacher of truth?

The King's Message (vv. 14-15)

The preaching of the Gospel and the proclaiming of the truth will always cause earthly trouble and toil. When John the Baptist preached the truth to Herod about his sin, Herod threw him in prison. When Jesus was baptized, He was immediately tempted by Satan so that Satan could attempt to destroy His ministry.

Jesus did come to die for our sins, but He spent the three years of His ministry preaching the Gospel of God. The miracles that He performed were not done to just help people, they were signs that proved that He was the Messiah and that He was the redeemer of Israel.

Jesus told us to repent and believe in the Gospel, but repentance is something that we do always and every day. Repentance is not a one-time act; it is a constant pattern of living for God and shaping our lives in every way to conform to His Word.

Because repentance is a constant thing that we practice, that means that we will always have a reason to repent because we will continue to fight against sin. Jesus has forgiven us, and we do not live in sin anymore, but we have the flesh, as Paul put it, that wages war against our soul. Therefore, repentance is a constant condition, not a one-time act.

The King's Men (vv. 16-20)

The rabbis of the time of Jesus had disciples come to them. People would learn of the reputation of these teachers, and they would go to be taught by them. Jesus went out and called on people to be His disciples. He found people who weren't looking for Him and those who were still in their sins, and He said, "follow me." We don't naturally look for God and for Jesus, but Jesus looks for us and He saves us.

Christianity means to follow Jesus, not to follow the Bible. Yes, the Bible is the authoritative word of God and tells us how to live. However, the Bible didn't preach itself and

the Bible didn't die for our sins. We follow Jesus, who preached that Gospel and died for our sins and is the Lord God in the flesh.