

ON THE MOVE WITH JESUS

IN MARK

(DAY 3)

*A unique, verse-by-verse,
life-application commentary*

by Terran Williams

DAY 3 – GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW! (1:14-15)

COLOUR-CODE SUMMARY (THE FOUR MAIN WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE GOSPELS):

- **Blue** - something about Jesus' uniqueness and Lordship that shows he is worthy of our devotion, trust and surrender
- **Green** - something about Jesus' character or ministry that we can imitate
- **Red** - something Jesus taught that we can understand or apply to our lives
- **Orange** - insights we can apply based on the way various people responded to him

Jesus announces the good news

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Be open to God guiding you through both the Spirit *and* through circumstances.

- Jesus knew that when John's ministry of announcing the coming Messiah was over (and the moment he was put in prison it was over), it was time for him to go public, which he did (v14). It's interesting to see that Jesus made decisions based on the Spirit leading him (verse 12), but also he discerned the hand of God in circumstances, such as John's arrest. God still speaks to us, Jesus' followers, in the same way. We need to be open to God guiding us through both the still, small voice of the Spirit and through discerning his timing and his leading through changes in circumstances.

God is doing something new, and it's just so wonderful!

- Jesus came as a messenger of “good news” (mentioned twice – v14,15) of God. In other words, he was delivering a message from God. This was his message: “The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”
- What does it mean that “the time has come”? It means that there had been a long history of expectation in Israel that God will act in a new way for the good of Israel and for the good of the world. They had, through the prophecies of the Old Testament, an expectation that God would one day overthrow the kingdoms of this world that were doing great harm to the people and would himself begin to rule with justice, peace, mercy and power. Jesus was saying, “This is the moment of fulfillment. Finally, and how privileged you are to be alive in this day, God is bringing in a new day.”
- CS Lewis in *The Chronicles of Narnia* describes the effect on Narnia when Aslan (who represents Christ) comes. Before he comes, Narnia is frozen over with winter and ice and fear. But then, as Aslan comes, suddenly the sun comes up, the ice begins to thaw and flowers begin to blossom. CS Lewis writes this: *‘Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight. At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more. And when he bares his teeth, winter meets its death. And when he shakes his mane, we have spring again.’* CS Lewis catches the mood of Christ’s coming – it’s a spring-time.
- Fascinatingly, Jesus announces his kingdom in Galilee (v14). Is this significant? Absolutely. Isaiah, chapter 9, connects the reign of the coming king (see v7) with “Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea” (v1). It’s significant because these verses show Jesus fulfilling yet another prophesy.

God is doing something new, and he’s doing it through Jesus.

- What does he mean when he speaks about the arrival of the kingdom of God?
- God had always been king of the universe and the world. But he had promised through the prophets that there would come a day when he would send to this world his Messiah-king (see Psalm 2:6-12, and Isaiah 9:2-7 for example) who would usher in a new age of justice, righteousness, healing, peace, joy and more. In this sense, God would *intensify* his rule in the world. He would become a far more hands-on king who would not only carry the title of king, would actually start turning the world around. The coming of the Messiah would signify the coming of God himself to the planet. The Messiah-king on earth would both represent and partner closely with the God-king in heaven (for example, see Psalm 2:11 and 12 for an example of how people are called to both serve the LORD (that is God) and the Messiah-king at the same time).
- Jesus was *directly* saying, “God is doing something new. The new age has arrived. God is beginning to rule. The world will never be the same again.” But he was also *indirectly* saying something, and it would take time for people to figure out that this is what he meant: “The Messiah-king has arrived, *and I am he*. God is ushering in this new age *through me*. My kingdom is God’s kingdom, and God’s kingdom is my kingdom.”