

G R O W

Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

The Gospel Call – Mark 1:15

Have you ever been in a maze or house of mirrors? Was it difficult to find your way out? Imagine if there was someone who could see down on the whole maze and you could communicate with them; would that make navigating the maze easier? Now imagine that the maze was full of deadly snares and pitfalls; would you want help navigating around the danger? Would you trust the direction and commands of the other person? Why would you or wouldn't you trust?

In **Mark 1:15**, we will examine Jesus' call to repent and believe. Not everyone sees it, but we are in great danger because of sin. To escape this danger, we must change how we live our lives and we must trust Jesus completely.

GET FOCUSED

What helps you focus? There are distractions all around us and within us; what helps us avoid those distractions and focus on God and His Word?

READ

Ever catch yourself having to re-read something because your mind was elsewhere? Read the verse in way that you take in every word. This may be through reading it out loud, or maybe having it read out loud to you would help. There are many Bible apps that will read God's Word to you.

OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In addition to reading our main passage, read the verses around it to understand the **context**. We see from **verse 14** that Jesus said these words as He was proclaiming the Gospel of God. We read that John was preparing the way for Jesus and His Gospel by preaching repentance and baptizing people. So, these words of Jesus in **verse 15** are the call of the Gospel, what we must do to follow Jesus and find salvation.

Now, let's **observe** the key words and phrases, what stands out to you? I see time fulfilled, Kingdom of God at hand, repent and believe, and Gospel.

Next we want to study these words and phrase to understand their **meaning**. There are many tools that help us understand meaning: study Bibles, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and more. One free

online resource is net.bible.org; it's an online study Bible and more.

There are 2 words for time in their language. One has to do with measuring the passing of time: hours, days, years, etc. The other views time as moments of opportunity and purpose. This is the word use here. So, Jesus is saying that something is happening that is fulfilling a purpose. In Jesus, God's promises were being fulfilled. He is calling attention to that something important in happening. What important thing was happening, the Kingdom of God is at hand. To say that it is "at hand" means that it is present in a significant way. The Kingdom of God is not a physical place, but it is where God rules and reigns. Something was happening with Jesus' proclaiming the Gospel of God that brought the Kingdom of God to a decisive moment for people. Yes, God is the rightful ruler over everything, but we rebel and live outside His Kingdom. So, if we want to be a part of His Kingdom, we must repent and believe in the Gospel.

Repent means to rethink your life. It implies a change of life, a new way of living. We must recognize that we have sinned against God and we have not obeyed Him, and we must turn away from that way of living and realign ourselves with Him. **Acts 3:17-19** captures this, Peter tells the crowd that they acted in ignorance when they killed Jesus, but they must repent and turn back to God. So, we see clearly that repentance is acknowledging sin and turning away from it back to God and His ways. Believe means to trust, to give yourself completely to something. There's a scene in an Indiana Jones movie where he is told that there is an invisible walkway over a ravine. He really doesn't believe until he steps out, trusting that the walkway will be there. Believe is more than knowing something intellectually; it is actually giving your life to it (see **Proverbs 3:5-8**).

Gospel means good news. The Good News is that although we are sinners, estranged from God, He has made a way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to Him. He has done this through Jesus. This is what we must believe and give our lives to. Consider these verses in Luke to understand the Gospel that Jesus preached and calls us to share with others: **Luke 4:43, 19:10, 24:46-48**.

So, what's the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? To be in God's Kingdom we must repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP

Worship means to show how valuable and revered something or someone is. Worship is not just songs; it is the statement our lives make about what is truly important and valuable to us. So, take a few moments and think about what this verse means for your life. How will it impact your life and lead you to worship God?

If we have never repented of our sin and trusted in Jesus, we must start there so that we can be in His Kingdom, now and forever. But repentance and belief are not one-time events; they are a way of life (**Col. 2:6**). Are there areas of our lives that we are not trusting Jesus or letting Him rule and reign? If there are, we must continually repent and realign with Him. We don't just obey because it's the right thing to do or because we fear punishment. We obey because we want to honor God and show others that He's in charge and most important.