



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, December 11, 2022

PROMISES, PROMISES

Finding Joy in the Promise

Read/Reflect

1. Read Mark 1:1-8.
2. What do you think of the way Mark begins his gospel (the good news of Jesus) as compared to the other gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John? Why did he begin the way he did, do you think? Take note of why he used Old Testament quotes in vss. 2 & 3, and the reference to wilderness and images of freedom from Egypt in Exodus.
3. What's your impression of John the Baptist? Does it fit with the response he received (see vs. 5)?

Explore

4. What does it mean to you to wait on God or to wait on his promises? Where or when in your life does it happen?
5. Does it make sense to you to find joy in the wilderness or desert times of your life? Why did God have Israel wander through a desert before entering the promised land?
6. Can you really find happiness through repentance? How does that work in your life?
7. Assess where you find joy in life. What gives you the most joy? How might God be leading you into joy right now?

Pray

- Begin your pray in silence, only to wait on God and listen for his voice or prompting in your heart. If too many thoughts rush into your mind, try saying the words, *"Lord Jesus, have mercy on me"* repeatedly.
- Pray a prayer of confession, especially for the ways in which you rush past God to get to where you think you need to be in life.
- Pray a prayer of expectation for Christ to return to bring renewal in various areas of life: your relationships, your attitudes, the creation, healing from sickness, healing from strife, healing from violence and hatred, etc.