

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WORKSHOP

Practical Wisdom for your Life

September 12th, 2021, 11:30 AM via Zoom

Living in the Way of Jesus

A Journey Through Mark

Where Jesus Finds Us

People are not resistant to change. They make changes all the time.
They are resistant to being changed.

Bill Owens

The ultimate posture that prepares us for freedom is *humility*, quite simply coming to the end of ourselves.

Danielle Strickland, *The Ultimate Exodus*

I have been driven to my knees many times by the overwhelming conviction that I had no place else to go.

Abraham Lincoln

The two longings deepest in your heart – the longing to love and to be loved – are not merely psychological needs; at a more profound level, they are the stirring of God within you.

John O'Donohue

O Lord, never suffer us to think that we can stand by ourselves, and not need thee.

John Donne

It is often said that the Church is a crutch. Of course, it's a crutch.
What make you think you don't limp?

William Sloan Coffin

Centering questions

*Where were you on 9-11? What do you remember about that day?
How did it affect you?*

Mark 1:1-9

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”
4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan

Discussion questions and background

1. Why do you think folks went out to John from Jerusalem? What were they looking for?
2. The word repentance here is the word, metanoia, which means a change of heart or mind. What sort of change do you think they were looking for?
3. Metanoia is often connected to regret, how might regret lead you to change?
4. What John was doing was a common ritual, but one you did on your own. What do you think it means that with John, you had to let someone else do it for you?
5. How does that relate to the quote from Bill Owens on the first page? The quotes below?
6. What does it mean that Jesus submitted to this same ritual? What does that say to you about letting go and letting God in your own life?

Closing thoughts

We don’t get grace because we change our lives –
but our lives are indelibly changed because we get grace.

Jen Pollock Michel, Surprised by Paradox

We’re not changed by the promises we make to God;
we’re changed by believing the promises God makes to us.

Craig Groeschel, Pastor, Life Church

Prayer is not asking for what you think you want
but asking to be changed in ways you can’t imagine.

Kathleen Norris