

Good morning beloved! How good and pleasant it is to be gathered this morning in unity under our Lord Jesus Christ.

“And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching.” Mark 1:21 (ESV)



Blessings
from the
WORD

Immediately. In Mark's gospel this word is repeated more frequently than the other three gospels combined. It gives the narrative a sense of urgency that we don't see in the other gospels. It's as if Jesus is rushing from place to place with no time to kill. He's got things to do, people to heal. God's Word to proclaim!

In what seems to be rapid succession, Jesus goes from His river baptism to being tempted by Satan in the desert, to calling His first disciples on the shores of the Galilee Sea. Shortly after, we find Him in the Synagogue, teaching with an authority never before witnessed and casting out evil spirits. He is on the move, all the while blowing minds and making quite a name for himself! So, why do we see this sense of urgency? Mark, our narrator, is making certain that the reader understands that the time is now! Reconciliation between God and man has begun. The long-awaited Messiah – the True Light of the World – has arrived at last!

I think it's important that we, as followers of Christ in our time and place in history, understand our responsibility to this urgent message. Not that we need to be running around, getting in people's faces telling them to repent or else. But, as the body of Christ, we are to be His light-bearers, His speakers-of-the-truth-in-love people. As the world around us spins evermore rapidly into chaos and confusion, we have the answer that it so desperately needs. Each one of us has a beautiful Jesus story to share that somebody, somewhere needs to hear! And as a collective, the name of our church says it all. Hope. This is the gift we have been blessed with to share with the world around us. Hope in Christ.

And let us also continue to take care of one another, for we are family, and we need each other. The days are moving along at a pretty rapid clip and with all the things going on here at church and in our individual lives, it is easy for us to get stressed out and burden weary. Here at home, we are responsible for one another, thus we bear each other's burdens as best we can.

May our Lord continue to fill our hearts with love to overflowing, as we continue to faithfully grow in His likeness. Amen.

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