



SPORTS IN FOCUS

Inaugurating the Servant
Mark 1:1-2:28 • Lesson One

READY

- FCA and youth groups often use flashy gimmicks to attract attention and entice visitors. When are these creative practices too worldly or inappropriate? Which are wise ways to get the message of the gospel to a broader audience?

SET

Context of Mark 1:1-2:28

Mark's gospel was intended for a Gentile audience, especially a Roman one. Mark is the gospel of action; the frequent use of "immediately" and "then" keeps his narrative moving rapidly along. Jesus appears in Mark as the Servant (Mark 10:45) who bursts on the scene to suffer for the sins of many. Mark's fast-paced approach would especially appeal to the practical, action-oriented Romans. Without commenting on Christ's birth or childhood, Mark begins his record of the life of Jesus with a description of John the Baptist—the one prophesied to be the forerunner of Messiah.

Keys to Text

baptism of repentance: (v. 4) a baptism resulting from true repentance (that is, a turning from sin to God, resulting in righteous living). *fishers of men* (v. 17) Evangelism was the primary purpose for which Jesus called the apostles.

GO

Read Mark 1:1-2:28

1. What was the role of John the Baptist and why was it significant in the inauguration of Jesus' ministry?
2. What events happened during the temptation of Christ in the wilderness, and what do they teach?
3. What miracles did Jesus do at the outset of his ministry, and what did they indicate or prove?
4. John Knox once pleaded with God, "Give me Scotland or I die." How does such a passion for lost souls compare with the goals and programs of many modern-day churches? How much a part of your life is this concern for reaching the lost?
5. Jesus came to bring salvation to a lost world. He gathered followers who would emulate Him in this task. How are you doing in your divine calling to be a "fisher of men"?
6. The power and authority of Jesus are made clear in the opening chapters of Mark. In what areas of your life do you need the powerful and compassionate touch of Christ today?

SPORTS IN FOCUS *EVANGELISM*

"Evangelism ... is ... the purest, truest, noblest, and most essential work the church will ever do. The work of fishing men and women out of the sea of sin, the work of rescuing people from the breakers of hell, is the greatest work the church is called by God to do. Rescuing men from sin is God's great concern. Evangelism has been called the job of God. ... God sent His Son to earth—to preach, die, and be raised—for the very purpose of saving men from sin." —John MacArthur

Was Colt McCoy's testimony strengthened or weakened following his injury that likely cost Texas the National Championship football game against Alabama? After the game, when asked how he felt, Colt said, "I always give God the glory. I never question why things happen the way they do. God is in control of my life. And I know that if nothing else, I'm standing on the Rock."