

## “The Presence” Mark 1:14-15

**Context:** John Mark recorded the teaching from Peter that describes the transition from John the Baptist’s ministry of repentance and preparation to Jesus’ ministry of the Gospel. John’s ministry of water baptism diminished as Christ’s ministry that brought the baptism of the Spirit increased. John the Baptist’s imprisonment and murder by Herod marked a major transition point from repentance to God’s offer of radical spiritual transformation. An explanation of this radical change is found in the Gospel that follows. It involves the pivotal idea of the book, *God’s Kingdom breaking into the world* through the power and leading of the Spirit (cf. Mark 1:15).

**Life Principle:** Belief in the Gospel changes one’s destiny for life (cf. Mark 1:15).

### 1. The Gospel season – Mark 1:14-15a

The season of preparation for acceptance of God’s forgiveness ended with John’s arrest and the new season of the presencing of Messiah was fulfilled. Jesus Christ chose to temporarily avoid similar persecution by Herod and the Pharisees through expressing His saving presence in Galilee rather than in Judea. With authority and solemnity, Jesus heralded God’s message of humanity’s spiritual liberation.

### 2. The Gospel presence – Mark 1:15b

God’s will to redeem fallen creation was expressed through the presence of Jesus Christ, as described in the relationships and miracles that follow this verse.

### 3. The Gospel response – Mark 1:15c

Jesus as the Gospel presence brings God’s rule to “the front door” of every heart. He calls to the heart inside to change the way it thinks and feels about God’s rule in its life as well as to act upon God’s rule in obedience.

## For Further Study:

- Mark 1:14 describes Jesus’ proclamation as a message from God. As a **Bible study method**, look up the six places where the term “[Gospel](#)” is used in Mark. In Who or what is the Gospel sourced? Now look through the references of the New Testament to find the ‘kernel’ of the Gospel, the Gospel in a nutshell (i.e. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:40). How would you use this “kernel” to explain the Gospel as presented in Mark? How do you personally find the Gospel to be good news for you?
- Mark’s first use of the phrase “kingdom of God” is found in Mark 1:15. Look up Willard’s short description of “kingdom” on our [Bible Study Resource](#) page. What is Willard’s short definition of “kingdom?” Now look up this phrase using a concordance or an [online concordance](#). Apply the short definition to each of the fourteen uses in Mark. Name five characteristics of God’s Kingdom found by applying Willard’s definition to these verses.
- The Kingdom of God encroaches upon the Kingdom of the knowledge of good and evil. There are two responses demanded of each one’s will because of this encroachment. Our [full doctrinal](#) statement describes these responses as a “call out of our fallen state” (see also footnotes 3-11, especially 11 ‘**On Salvation** in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at [www.gracepointfellowship.org](http://www.gracepointfellowship.org)). What is meant by “[our fallen state](#)” (cf. Genesis 2:17; 3:10, 17-19)? What does repentance in response to the Gospel look like (cf. Luke 23:41-42)? What does [faith](#) in response to the Gospel look like (cf. Mark 1:17-18; 9:17-24)?

## Transformation exercise:

Memorize on Mark 1:15. Give a 3-minute explanation of the Gospel to someone in your household. Ask the Lord to bring someone across your path this week to whom you can bring the Gospel.