



The Promise of Christmas

Mark 1:1-11 // December 10th, 2017 // Chris Jessee

**The Promise of Christmas calls us to Repentance
so that we can know true Peace**

1. The Promise (covenant) of Christmas (Mark 1:2-3)

2. Calls Us To Repentance (Mark 1:4-8)

John represents a physical witness to Jesus' mission

The reason John was such an effective witness is that he embodied his message! - Hughes, R. Kent.

The summons to be baptized in the Jordan meant that Israel must come once more to the wilderness. As Israel long ago had been separated from Egypt by a pilgrimage through the waters of the Red Sea, the nation is exhorted again to experience separation; the people are called to a second exodus in preparation for a new covenant with God. Both John's call to repentance and his baptism are intelligible as aspects of the prophetic tradition which expected the final salvation of God to be unveiled in the wilderness. - Hughes, R. Kent.

If Jesus Christ is really Mighty God and Everlasting Father, you can't just like him. In the Bible the people who actually saw and heard Jesus never reacted indifferently or even mildly. Once they realized what he was claiming about himself, either they were scared of him or furious with him or they knelt down before him and worshipped him. But nobody simply liked him. Nobody said, "He is so inspiring. He makes me want to live a better life." If the baby born at Christmas is the Mighty God, then you must serve him completely. - Keller, Timothy.

3. So that we can know true Peace

God the Father and the Holy Spirit represent heavenly witnesses to Jesus' mission

Because Jesus was sinless, he needed no baptism of repentance. But in his baptism he associated himself with us sinners and placed himself among the guilty— not for his own salvation but for ours— not for his guilt but for ours— not because he feared the wrath to come but to save us from it. His baptism meant the cross! - Hughes, R. Kent.

No compromise with the main purpose, no peace till victory, no pact with unrepentant wrong. - Winston Churchill

Application for us today

Where have I chosen compromise with the World rather than What Jesus calls me to?

Where am I trying to find "peace" through the things of the world rather than in Jesus Christ?

Where do I need to radically protest the world in my heart or mind?

Does my life reflect the good news of the gospel and this merciful infant's mission?

Where do I need to respond to the call to repent and turn away from things that dishonor God?