

## Mark 1:4-11

### St Luke's Cathedral, Orlando

#### A. Introduction

- "This microphone's not working... And also with you"
- "Can you hear me okay then back....quite happy to change places with someone who can't"

We preachers are used to mockery about our preaching....

- "6 days invisible, one day in-comprehensible..."

But there is a serious point here about attentiveness...

As a father and a husband I have often had to confess... "Sorry, I wasn't really listening"

But it's not even just at the interpersonal level .... It is a cultural challenge:

**Neil postman** - *Amusing ourselves to Death* (1984 v Brave New World)

- Summary of Postman book [here](#)

**Jacques Elul** - *The Humiliation of the Word*

Because we live in such a saturated and distracted age we note what the media does to get our attention

- news alerts on BBC and ipad – arresting our attention (waking me up one night!)
- Particularly with the events of this week... **THIS** deserves/demands our attention... We repeat, and emphasise.... take this in!

#### B. The big theme of the Voice of God or Word of the Lord

Our readings

- "And God said, and it was so" (Gen 1)
- "The Voice of the Lord" (Psalm 29)
- "The voice" (John the B, Mark 1:3); "Preaching", v4
- "A voice from heaven. This is my Son..." (Mark 1:11)

Honing in on Mark 1

### **C. Sequence in Mark 1**

- John appeared, baptising (v4f)... and he appeared a lot like Elijah (**v6**)!
- John preached, (**kerusso**..herald, announcement, town crier), explaining his role (**v7f**)
- Jesus appeared from Nazareth and was baptised (v9) – Jesus is passive in this process
- The Spirit descends after the heavens are opened (v10)
- A Voice (the Father) comes from heaven affirming the Son (v11) ...fathers spirit and the Baptist attest to the need to focus on the Son

(beyond this passage – Jesus is driven into the wilderness to be tempted for 40 days; then, finally, after John’s work is done, Jesus begins his public ministry, preaching repentance and faith in Galilee)

### ***In all 4 gospels***

The voice vv the word; The messenger vv the message

### **D. Things to consider for this New Year**

#### a) Are you tuned in?

Can you really hear?

Have you checked in or checked out?

I encourage you in the new to be attentive to God's voice....

... Reconnect with discipline of bible reading

.... But also, come to God wanting to hear "speak Lord for your servant is listening"

#### b) Are you making use of the revelatory means God has chosen to communicate with us?!

Notice that the visible spectacle is supported by the verbal act of speaking. .... John's dress...baptism...a visible spectacle... yet the emphasise is on this core message – “Repent and be Baptised....(v4) Repent and believe the Gospel....(v15)”

The words explain explains the visible; the visible supplements the word

Not visual without verbal... But the readings this Sunday emphasise paying attention to the voice...the word of God.

Sacraments as "visible words" ... Visual signs always to be accompanied with the preaching of the word.