**The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ…**

**Sermon Based Discussion (January 22, 2017)**

**Race and Culture Emphasis 2017**

**WARM UP**

1. Think about one of the earliest times you learned about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Describe the experience—when was this? Where was this? Who was there? What happened?

*As we begin a journey through the Gospel of Mark, we begin where the biblical writer begins: preparing to encounter Jesus. In this session we consider how God wants people to be most prepared to interact with Jesus Christ.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Mark 1:1-8)**

1. What were some key features of John’s ministry that we learn from this passage?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. In what ways did John’s ministry *prepare* people for the ministry of Jesus?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. In the sermon, Pastor Enoch pointed out three aspects of preparation to encounter Jesus which we can see in this passage:
   * **Anticipation** of what God might do
   * Readiness to be **changed** by God (repentance)
   * Acknowledgement of a **Being more important** than ourselves

What did he mean by these principles? Is there any points we are not less clear about that we can discuss further?

1. What are some practical ways we can apply the principles of this passage in each of these situations?
   * Preparing to come to worship service on Sundays?
   * Preparing to come to a small group Bible discussion?
   * Preparing to read the Bible and pray in one’s daily life?
   * Other situations we encounter Jesus and/or His Word?

**APPLICATION**

1. What is one practical step that you will commit to trying this week? Can we commit to discussing this next week to share our progress?