

*Spoiler alert:* Some of what you read here can be heard in the sermon tomorrow morning, but I will give you a couple morsels here. If you want to hear the rest, come to worship at Living Word Lutheran Church ☺ Commercial ended and now to the main attraction.

***"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*** (Mark 1:15) Jesus began his ministry with those words; Good News for a world desperate for it, but what is Jesus really saying in those words. There are four things for us to ponder here as we consider this proclamation from Jesus. I am only going to give you two morsels here. The rest will come Sunday Morning and in my next article. The first morsel is the word "time". This word means, according to R.C. Sproul, "a particular moment in time that is so significant, it defines everything that comes after it." It is like saying a particular event is "historic". For example, the events of September 11, 2001 were "historic"; for our world has never, nor will it ever, be the same again. In a lot of ways, it defines us and directs us in what we do, and always will. Some events or people are just "historical"; not so significant to define the future. We may remember them, but they don't change us.

Jesus says in this verse that something is going to happen that is going to change everything. How much? Well, Jesus says, and here is the second morsel, "The time is fulfilled". The word "fulfilled" here means super fullness. For example, when I fill my coffee cup I fill it full, but not "super full". "Fulfilled" here means I would fill my cup until it over-flowed the rim (something I would never actually do because it would waste coffee). The point is, this event is filling everything to overflowing; permeating all of creation.

Basically, what Jesus is saying is that an event is about to happen that is going to change everything forever. It is going to be the biggest event in the history of creation; filling creation and then some. Of course, Jesus is pointing to himself and what God is going to do through the cross. This is huge. This is life changing. The time is fulfilled.

Yes, Jesus has come. Yes, Jesus has died and risen for you. The real question is, does what Jesus did define you now? Think about it. One cannot receive the Gospel of Jesus and not be changed. If you believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave that you may be forgiven and thus given eternal life; if you really, truly believe that, how can you not be changed? How can you not live differently? How can you not be excited?

The cross of Jesus was not only a historical event but rather something more historic than anything else ever. This is life changing and defining, that is if you have received this Good News. There is more but you will have to wait until tomorrow or my next article. God bless.