

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Mark**

**LESSON 1**

**PROLOGUE 1:1 – 13**

**Identity of the Servant Son of God**

Praise God for your desire to study the Bible. We welcome you to join our Thursday Night Bible Study sessions at FAME, 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

*Directions: Please read and study the scripture lesson and any other scripture references, the Illumination section, and the Observation section, than answer the questions in the Exploration section. When you submit your answers on the answer sheet a Bible study teacher will review your answers and provide comments within 2 weeks of submission. These comments will enrich your Bible study experience and is not intended to grade or judge your knowledge or understanding.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mark 1:1 - 13 NIV</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Illumination</b></p>
<p><sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>It is written in Isaiah the prophet:                      "I will send my messenger ahead of you,                      who will prepare your way"—  <sup>3</sup>"a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" <sup>4</sup>And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."</p> <p><b><i>The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus</i></b></p> <p><sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, <sup>13</sup>and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Gospel</b> - the Greek word, “evangelion” means good news of any kind. This phrase came to refer to the good news of Jesus Christ’s life, death, resurrection. The good news that brings life and salvation.</li> <li>❖ <b>Jesus</b> – this was a common name in Israel. It has the same meaning as the Old Testament name Joshua, - Yahweh saves. After the growth of Christianity the Jews stopped using the name.</li> <li>❖ <b>Christ</b> – the Greek name “Christos” means the “Anointed One” In the Hebrew language the name is Messiah. Both names referred to the divinely appointed one who would provide salvation, fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament – Genesis 49:10; Psalm 2; 110; Isaiah 9:1 – 7; 11:1 – 9; Zechariah 9:9-10</li> <li>❖ <b>Wilderness/Desert</b> - the Greek word refers to a lonely, uninhabited place.</li> <li>❖ <b>Baptism</b> – the Greek word, “baptize” means to dip, immerse, submerge. In the Church it a sacrament that signifies to the world of an inward changed – salvation.</li> <li>❖ <b>Judean Countryside</b> – this area of Israel refers to the southern region around the Jordan River. In this region were the cities/towns of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho and Bethany</li> <li>❖ <b>Nazareth of Galilee</b> – Galilee was the northern region of Israel. Nazareth was one of its towns in which Jesus grew up.</li> </ul>

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- ❖ The Gospel According to Matthew begins by establishing the fact that Jesus is the Son of David and Abraham by presenting Jesus' genealogy. The Gospel According to Mark begins by presenting Jesus actions as Servant Son Of God. The Gospel According to Luke begins with an overview of Jesus as the Son of Man by presenting his birth and the birth of John the Baptist. While the Gospel According to John begins by establishing Jesus relationship with God.
- ❖ Verse 1 states the purpose for Mark writing the book and summaries it contents:
  - Mark recorded the starting point of the good news which is Jesus Christ.
  - The beginning needed to be record so that all would have an opportunity to hear the message of Jesus for themselves.
  - It is a message of one divinely appointed by God who was both human (Jesus) and divine (Christ).
  - As the Christ/Messiah He would bring salvation to Jews and to others.
- ❖ Mark does not deal with the genealogy of Jesus because he presents Jesus as a servant. A servant does not have a genealogy. His actions speak to whether or not He is a good servant.
- ❖ Mark introduces the readers to John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus. Mark used a quote from Isaiah 40:3 to introduce John the Baptist. Luke records the birth of John the Baptist – Luke 1:5-24, 39-45, 57-80
  - The Lord sent John the Baptist
  - John was a messenger/prophet to the people.
  - His message and purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. His ministry began a few years before Jesus and ended before Jesus.
    - In ancient times a messenger would go before the king announcing his coming so that all could go up to greet their king.
    - The term, “The Way” was used to identify Believers in Jesus Christ in the early church before the term Christians became popular. Acts 9:2
  - A messenger cries/calls out to the people will great feelings so that they can be prepared for the king.
  - John's ministry was in the Judean wilderness. The people came to him to hear the message.
  - The people needed to be prepared to meet Jesus when He came. They need a straight path prepared to Him.
- ❖ John the Baptist was the first prophet in Israel in more than four hundred years. John's message was the same as the prophets of old, but different. Verses 1:4 - 8
  - John came baptizing.
  - Different Types of Baptism in the Bible – Nelson Study Bible
    - Jewish Baptism – a ceremonial cleansing prescribed for both people and articles Mark 7:3; Exodus 19:10-14; Lev. 8:6; Heb. 9:10
    - John's Baptism – a preparatory act in which Jews expressed their belief in the imminent coming of the Messiah and their desire to turn away from sin and live righteous lives Mark 1:4 – 8
    - Jesus' Baptism – an act of ceremonial righteousness. By being baptized, Christ was not admitting His sinfulness, as those who submitted to John's baptism were. Instead through baptism, Christ was consecrating Himself to His ministry Mark 1:9 - 11
    - Spirit Baptism – the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which Believers are joined to the body of Christ Rom 6:3-4; I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:9-12
    - Christian Baptism – a ceremonial act instituted by Christ (Matt. 28:19) and practiced by the apostles (Acts 2:38) that depict Believers' union and identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

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- Baptism by Fire – a possible reference either to the judgment at the Second Coming or to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. Matt. 3:9-12; Luke 3:16-17
  - John's baptism was a radical depart from the Jewish ceremonial cleansing and the custom of requiring Gentiles to be baptized in order to become a Jew.
  - John's message was the same as the old prophets but different.
    - He preached repentance of sin
    - He preached the immediate coming of the Messiah in which the people had to be prepared.
    - He preached baptism of repentance – an outward dedication to live holy because of repentance
    - He preached the coming and baptism of the Holy Spirit. Isa.44:3, Jer. 31:31-34; Eze. 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29
  - John was a messenger for Jesus Christ. He could not forgive sin. John baptized as a commitment and an outward action that the person confessing their sins was going to try and live holy. The Jews still had to follow the law.
  - John knew his ministry and functioned within it. He did not try and become the Messiah. Verse 7
- ❖ Jesus traveled the long distance from Nazareth, Galilee to the Jordan River in Judea to be baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus was not a sinner (John 8:46; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; I John 3:5) and therefore did not need to be baptized. Many reasons have been cited as to why Jesus was baptized. I will give the reasons from the Life Application Commentary and The Message of Mark Commentary by John Stott which I think summaries the major reasons:
    - To confess sin on behalf of the nation as done by Isaiah, Ezra and Nehemiah Isa. 6:5; Nehemiah 1:6; Ezra 9:2
    - Jesus provided a reason which was recorded in Mat. 9:15, "Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented." Jesus said that He has to be baptized in order to fulfill the ministry that He was sent to do.
    - To inaugurate His public ministry to bring the message of salvation to all people
    - To show support for John's ministry.
    - To identify with the people who were repenting
    - To give us today an example to follow.
  - ❖ After John baptized Jesus the Christ he knew that Jesus the Christ was the Messiah. He saw and everyone present saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on Jesus the Christ. The Lord's anointing is on Jesus the Christ and thus began His ministry on earth. Today the dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit in the Church. It does not appear that anyone saw the heavens parting to send the Spirit, only Jesus the Christ.
  - ❖ Not only did the Spirit descend upon Jesus the Christ to announce Him, but God the Father spoke from heaven to make it plain to everyone listening. God the Father, acknowledged that Jesus the Christ was His beloved Son. Jesus the Christ was both human and divine. God the Father also acknowledged for all to hear that He has always been pleased with His Son.
  - ❖ The baptism of Jesus the Christ involved the Trinity. All three, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are present and active for the beginning of Jesus the Christ ministry on earth.
  - ❖ Mark has the shortest account of the temptation of Jesus the Christ – Mark 1:12-13; Mat. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13
  - ❖ There are 5 characters involved in the temptation of Jesus the Christ.
    - Spirit – immediately after the baptism Jesus was led/drove by the Spirit into the wilderness/desert to be tempted by Satan
    - Wilderness/Desert – a desolate, lonely place. It is also dangerous because of the wild animals that live and roam seeking to attack.
    - Satan - for forty days Jesus was constantly put to test the test to deny God and follow Satan.
    - Wild Animals – not only did Satan seek to destroy Jesus but the hostile nature of the wilderness/desert sought to destroy Him.
    - Angels – even though the angels ministered to Jesus, He was still tempted by Satan and still had to deal with the hostile nature of the wilderness/desert.
  - ❖ As both human and divine Jesus had to be tempted by Satan. He did not yield to it. As always God and Satan have different purposes for temptation. God to grow and mature the Believer. Satan – to destroy the testimony, ministry of the Believer.

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Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exploration**

Consider the Introduction to the Gospel According to Mark and the Illumination section and Observation section for your answers.

1. John the Baptist was the messenger, the forerunner of Christ. Why was he so effective in his ministry?
2. Why did John cry from the wilderness? What was so important to the Jews concerning the wilderness? What is so important to us today?
3. Who are the messengers today crying out in the wilderness? Why? How?
4. What is your understanding of baptism today?
5. Why do you think the trinity was involved in the baptism of Jesus the Christ?
6. What do you think was John the Baptist's response after learning who Jesus was?
7. Why did the Spirit drive Jesus into the wilderness?
8. Have there been any wilderness experiences in your life? How did you deal with?
9. How do you deal with temptation?

**Thought For The Week:** Jesus is the servant Son of God



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