

PART ONE: You are My Beloved Son

Mark 1:1-34

Mark's purpose in writing his Gospel was to record the ministry of Jesus for Gentile believers. Mark takes an expedited journey through Jesus' three-year ministry and His role as a servant. This Gospel is meant to serve as an example, strengthening our faith and sustaining us while we wait for Christ's return.

Read Mark 1:1-34.

1. List the five distinct descriptions of Jesus given in this passage.

v. 1a _____
v. 1b _____
v. 7a _____
v. 7b _____
v. 24 _____

Christ - (v. 1) Anointed, Christ was [and is] the Messiah, the Son of God
One mightier than - (v. 7) Strong, mighty either in body or in mind, of one who has strength of soul to sustain the attacks of Satan, strong and therefore exhibiting many excellences
Holy One - (v. 24) Set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively His; of Christ

All services which a slave does for his master, a pupil should do for his teacher, with the exception of undoing his shoes.

- Babylonian Talmud, Keuboth 96a

2. Based on the quote above, what do you think John the Baptist was trying to say when he described Jesus as, "One... whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose"? (v. 7)

3. What action did Jesus take before beginning His ministry? (v. 9)

When John baptized, it was to demonstrate repentance and the acknowledgment of a person's need for a Savior. After Jesus' death and resurrection, baptism was meant to be an outward expression of the inward change that comes from accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

4. Based on the above information, why do you think Jesus chose to be baptized? (Refer to Matthew 3:15 when answering.)

5. How did the other persons of the Godhead (The Father and the Holy Spirit) respond to Jesus' obedience in baptism? (v. 10-11)

In verses 12-13, Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. We will take an up-close look at this a little later.

6. After being tempted in the wilderness, Jesus made His way to Galilee to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the Kingdom of God.

John 18:36

John 3:5-7

7. Back in Mark 1, Jesus talked with four men by the Sea of Galilee. What did Jesus want them to do and for what purpose? (v. 17)

8. On the Sabbath, Jesus and his new disciples headed to Capernaum where Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. How did Jesus teach, and why do you think this was surprising to those who listened? (v. 22)

9. What caused Jesus' fame to spread throughout the region around Galilee? (v. 21-28)

10. After leaving the synagogue, Jesus and his disciples went to the home of Simon (Peter) and Andrew. Compare and contrast how Jesus helped the man with the unclean spirit and how he healed Peter's mother-in-law. Note how Jesus used different ways to heal different people. (v. 25 and 31)

11. What other miracles did Jesus perform that evening at Peter's house? (v. 34)

12. Using all you have studied so far, what can you learn from the examples Jesus demonstrated in this passage?

A Closer Look at the People and their Responses to Jesus

John the Baptist

13. What was the call on John the Baptist's life before he was even born? (v. 2-3)

Prepare - To make ready, prepare: absolutely, to make the necessary preparations, get everything ready, (by a figurative expression drawn from the oriental custom of sending on before kings on their journeys persons to level the roads and make them passable), to prepare the minds of men to give the Messiah a fit reception and secure his blessings.

14. How did John respond to God's call on his life? (v. 4, 7 and John 1:19-34)

15. What can you learn and apply in your own life from John the Baptist?

The Four Fishermen

16. How did Simon (Peter) and Andrew respond to Jesus' call? (v. 18)

Follow - (v. 17) Come after me, be my disciples

17. Consider the phrase, "they immediately left their nets" and what that meant for them. What would this kind of sacrifice look like in your own life?

18. James and John left their father in the boat with their hired servants. How do you think the decision to follow Jesus impacted their lives? (v. 19-20)

19. Simon (Peter) and Andrew were concerned about the health of Simon's mother-in-law. What did they do with their concern? (v. 30)

20. Think about what you have learned from the examples of the four fishermen. How can you apply what you have learned in your own life?

The Unclean Spirit

Unclean spirit - (v. 23) demon, bad angel causing infirmity

21. Where was the man who had the unclean spirit? (v. 23)

22. What did the unclean spirit want Jesus to do? What did he know about Jesus? (v. 24)

23. How did the unclean spirit respond to the command of Jesus to, "Be quiet, and come out of Him!"? Why do you think he responded this way? (v. 26)

Peter's Mother-in-Law

24. What did Peter's mother-in-law do after her encounter with Jesus? (v. 31)

25. Notice that after being healed, Peter's mother-in-law got up and served Jesus. Having been healed from your sin, how are you serving Jesus?

The People at the Synagogue and Later at Peter's House

26. How did the people in the synagogue respond to Jesus' teaching and His ability to command unclean spirits? (v. 22, 27-28, 32-33)

Fame - (v. 28) thing heard, hearsay, report, rumor concerning anyone

27. **THINK:** What do you think the difference is between being a fan of someone and being a disciple of someone?

28. Are you a fan or disciple of Jesus? If you are a fan, what steps can you take to become a disciple? If you are a disciple, how can you strengthen your current discipleship?

29. When Jesus comes into your life, He brings purpose to it. The book of Ecclesiastes details King Solomon's quest to find the meaning of life. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and summarize what Solomon concluded.

Jesus was the son of a carpenter, who came from the unremarkable place of Nazareth, but His effect on people was nothing short of remarkable. He brought with Him the hope of salvation, purpose, and the meaning of life.

PART TWO: A Focused Look at the Temptation of Jesus

Mark 1:12-13

In this portion of our study, we will take a focused look at the temptation of Jesus and temptation as it applies to us. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He combated each temptation with Scripture. He is the perfect example for us when we are faced with temptation.

Reread Mark 1:12-13.

The Mark passage does not go into detail about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, however, Matthew and Luke both give details of this account. We will use the Matthew account for our study.

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

Jesus had fasted 40 days and nights. But, a close look at Matthew 4:1 reveals that Satan did not just happen to get word that Jesus was vulnerable and head Jesus' way.

30. Did Jesus wander into the wilderness on a whim? Who led Him there?

31. What does Matthew 4:1 teach us about the reason Jesus was led to the wilderness?

32. List each of the temptations followed by the Scripture Jesus used to combat it.

Temptation (v. 3)

Scripture (v. 4) (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Temptation (v. 6)

Scripture (v. 7) (Deuteronomy 6:16)

Temptation (v. 9)

Scripture (v. 10) (Deuteronomy 6:13)

33. Jesus resisted each one of Satan's temptations with the Word of God. What does this mean for you?

34. Look up Philippians 2:5-8 and describe the humanity of Jesus.

35. Look up Hebrews 2:16-18. According to these verses, what was one of the reasons why Jesus was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil?

Jesus was tempted so that every creature in Heaven, or Earth, or under the Earth might know that Jesus Christ is the Conqueror. He exposed Satan and his tactics, and He defeated Satan. Because of His victory, we can have victory over the tempter.

- Warren W. Wiersbe

36. Look up James 4:7. What are we to do? _____

37. Considering Jesus' example, what is the best way to resist the devil?

38. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Again, considering Jesus' example, what will be that "means of escape?"

39. Look up Galatians 5:16. What else can we do to assure we know God's Word and can resist the devil?

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Hebrews 4:15-16

40. This verse should give us incredible hope in our areas of weakness. Write out what this verse means for you.

41. Read Mark 1:14. After being tempted, Jesus began His ministry. Consider your own life, how does being tested benefit us?

42. What are some areas you are easily tempted in? Write them down (these will not be discussed in your group).

Use what time you have left this week to find Scripture to combat those temptations. Write them down in a notebook and continue to add to them as you find more and more verses to aid you in resisting the devil, and therefore, being more effective for ministry.
