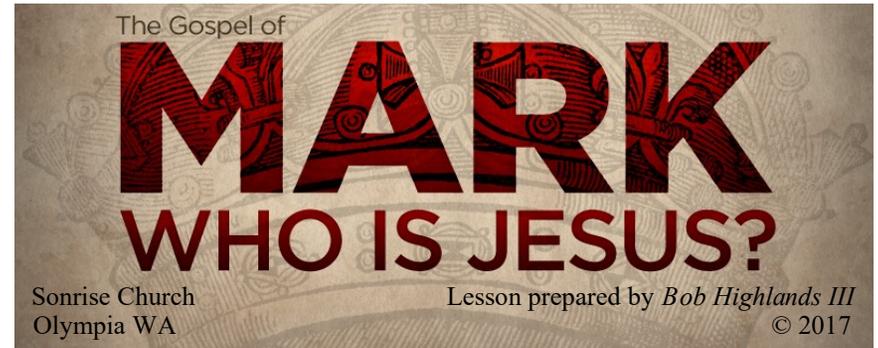


- ❑ Read Verses 12-13 Why is the directions from the Spirit of God important in our understanding the humanity of Jesus?
- ❑ Vs. 13 We have seen that scriptures tell us Jesus did not sin, but, could he have made the choice to sin? (Explain your answer)
- ❑ Why is Jesus being tempted by Satan (the adversary) important in His relating to us?
- ❑ Verse 12 begins with the words "at once..." Why is Jesus' baptism followed by 40 days of temptation significant?
- ❑ Vs. 13 What three types of peril did Jesus face in the wilderness. (two are listed and the third can be figured out if you remember Jesus has a human body.)
- ❑ Why are angels ministering to Jesus important? How do angels tie Jesus to the mission of God? (HINT: see Exodus 14.19 for one example.)

NOTE: Jesus battles with Satan and evil continues throughout the book of Mark and the victory is only won at the end by defeating sin, death and ultimately Satan on the cross and through the resurrection.



Chapter ONE—Part ONE the Prologue

Mark is written in a rapid fire style that almost leaves the reader breathless. Mark uses the word immediately 39 times in a variety of settings to show both the power and promise of Jesus in dealing with life. The book of Mark can be read in less than two hours, yet contains the depth of the life of Jesus who is "the Son of God." ^{Mk.1.1} The book can be traced back to the first century and is only one person (generation) removed from a first hand account of the life of Jesus. John Mark who knew Paul, Luke, the apostle Peter and others has heard first hand the life and ministry of Jesus. As you read and study Mark you need to look for the answer to the question, "*What was this author trying to say by telling us the tradition in this way?*"¹ Mark is the best place to start your study of the Life of Jesus. It is the facts and hardly anything else but Jesus the Son of God. ^{REHIII}

1. Dennis Bratcher 2006 <http://www.crivoice.org/synoptic.html>

Read the following sections and answer the questions. If you do not know the answer leave it blank. Someday you will. Unanswered questions mean you are still learning.

Vs. = verse VSS. = verses

Verses 1-13

The Prologue to the Gospel of Mark

Read verses 1-13

- ❑ A key to the prologue is the setting. According to verses 3, 4, 5, 12 & 13 what is the setting for the introduction of Jesus?

- ❑ Who are the three key characters in this prologue section? See verses 1, 4 & 12 to identify them. What key fact do we learn about each one in this section?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

- ❑ How is Jesus identified in this prologue section? See Mark 1.1; 1.10-11

- ❑ After this prologue section the Holy Spirit is only mentioned three more times in the book of Mark. (Mk.3.29; 12.36; 13.11) Why would the Spirit be important in introducing Jesus as the Son of God?

NOTE: Mark opens as the ministry of John the Baptist is winding down and the ministry of Jesus is about to begin.

- ❑ How is Jesus' baptism in verse 9 different from the masses who are mentioned in verse 5?

- ❑ How does the baptism of Jesus link him to the masses?

- ❑ Vs. 10-11 What two events accompany Jesus coming up out of the water?
 1. _____
 2. _____

- ❑ This is a Trinitarian moment or revelation of God. What are the three forms of God revealed here?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

- ❑ Vs. 11 What makes this statement here so valuable when compared to Mark 1.1?

- ❑ Compare Genesis 1.1-2 to Mark 1.10 How does this help us see the significance of the Spirit descending on Jesus?

(NOTE: God cannot sin but here Jesus has been baptized as an act as a human of submission and obedience. 2 Corinthians 5.21 says "*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*" (NIV emphasis added) Jesus had no sin of his own but would eventually take on the sins of humanity as He died on the cross.)

- ❑ Again Mark is laying a foundation for something that will be important later. How does this description of clothing help identify John the Baptist with the Old testament figure Elijah? (see 2 Kings 1.8)
- ❑ Vss. 7-8 Even though John was calling for the people to repent what was the real message he was preaching?
- ❑ How does John introduce Jesus to his audience?
- ❑ What ways is Jesus different from John?
- ❑ How does this contrast help in the way Mark is preparing the reader for the ministry of Jesus?

Read verses 9-11 — The contrast between the divinity (God part of Jesus) and his humanity (human part of Jesus) is vital to our understanding and serving Jesus.

- ❑ Where does Jesus come from to be baptized by John?
- ❑ How is this different from those who are mentioned in verse 5 who came to John to be baptized?

- ❑ Vs. 1 The word gospel means good news and is about witnessing or testifying to what happened. The word GOSPEL or glad tidings was used in many Roman declarations and would have been understood by the Roman audience the book of Mark was written to. What great truth do we learn about Jesus from this first verse?

(Note: The rest of the book of Mark is designed to show or prove that this is a true statement.)

- ❑ How does such a strong introduction help set the stage for the rest of the book?
- ❑ Vss. 2-3 is actually a combining of Ex 23.20; Malachi 3.1; and Isaiah 40.3. How does opening with a citation from historical documents help prepare the reader for what is to follow?

- ❑ Identify the following from verses 2-3.
 - ❑ Who is the "I" _____
 - ❑ Who is the "messenger" _____
 - ❑ Who is the "you" _____

- ❑ What is the messenger suppose to do and how would this have been accomplished by John the Baptist?

(NOTE: It had been over three hundred years since a messenger had spoke for God to the people. So here is John being used of God to break the silence.

- ❑ Vss. 4-5 What was John Preaching to the people?
- ❑ The word repent or repentance means to 'change your mind' and a 'change of direction.' How is this call to repent tied to changes in the life of the individual?
- ❑ Baptism had been a part of Jewish life before John used it here. It had been used when a person converted to Judaism and wanted to declare their commitment as dying to their old life and coming alive or being born into new life as a Jew. Forgiveness by confessing and changing was a new teaching to these people who thought their sins were covered each year with the sacrifice of animals by priest in the temple. How does John change the meaning of baptism?

- ❑ How does he tie it to the old meaning to show a person has repented or changed?
- ❑ What did they need to do before they were baptized? Why would this be necessary?
- ❑ Vs. 5 Where were the people coming from who were being baptized by John? What type of background would they have?
- ❑ (**DIGGING DEEPER**) How could this opening baptism in the river Jordan be related to those Hebrews who had to make choices in the past when it came to crossing over or passing through the water to get to the promises of God? (Numbers chapters 13-14 & Joshua 3.14-15)
- ❑ Vs. 6 Why would what John wore and ate be so important to his message? (HINT: Remember where John is at and that the people and Jesus had to go out to him.)