
SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1–13

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way” —

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ 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. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Take a moment and read the passage(s) of Scripture together as a group.

- Why was it so important that Jesus established His authority? Look for the various ways he does this.
- In verse 15 it says that Jesus’ kingdom came near. How does this show the kingdom of God entering in and seeking people out?
- How does this passage show the importance of preaching the Word of God?
- Which of these snapshots of Jesus’ ministry in Mark 1 speak the most to you? Why?
- Where do you think Jesus’ indignation came from in verse 41?
- Where can you speak authority over the spiritual realm in your life?
- Look at how the interaction with the man with leprosy shaped the course of his ministry. How does it show he leads with compassion, humility, and love?
- Spend time as a group praying against the sin natures and spiritual warfare in each other’s lives.