

Studies in Mark

Topic: The Beginning of Christ's Public Ministry

Scripture: Mark 1:1-20

Memory Verse: Mark 1:17

Lesson 1

Mark 1:1-20

INTRODUCTION: The Gospel of Mark skips over the story of Christ's birth and childhood, and begins with His public ministry. Since Mark presents Christ as a Servant, he is mainly concerned with the deeds that Christ did which prove He is the Son of God. This chapter records for us **The Beginning of Christ's Public Ministry.**

I THE BAPTISM OF JESUS v 1-11

- A. John the Baptist came out of the wilderness to prepare the way for Christ
v 1-8
Isaiah the prophet prophesied about the coming of John the Baptist over 700 years earlier. (Isaiah 40:3-4) John was a fearless and forceful preacher who grew up in the hill country of Hebron. (Luke 1:80) He wore the clothes of a common laborer, and ate the food that God provided for him. John came preaching the **Baptism of Repentance.** (v 4) This baptism showed the attitude of the heart of those who were baptized. However, repentance by itself cannot save. Salvation requires repentance AND faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 19:1-5)
- B. Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized in the Jordan River v 9
Jesus was about thirty years old when He was baptized. (Luke 3:23) He did not go to just anyone to be baptized, but instead went to the only one in the world who had authority from God to baptize. (John 1:6) There are several reasons that Jesus came to John to be baptized:
- To fulfill all righteousness and set an example for His followers (Matthew 3:15)
 - In order to be publicly announced as the Messiah (John 1:29)
 - To give testimony to John's baptism that it was from Heaven (Matthew 21:25-27)
 - To set forth in type and symbol His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:4-5)

- C. The heavens were opened after Jesus was baptized v 10-11
The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus acknowledging His anointing as the Messiah. (Luke 4:18) God the Father spoke from Heaven acknowledging His Sonship. Jesus' baptism signified the beginning of His public ministry. (Matthew 3:13-17)

II THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS v 12-13

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan v 12-13

Mark writes that this temptation occurred "*immediately*" (v 12) after His baptism, but the time he was referring to occurred three days after His baptism. (John 1:35, 43; 2:1) The Lord Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights and then was tempted by the devil. Notice the three phases of Christ's temptation.

- **Physical temptation** (Matthew 4:2-4) – The devil tempted Jesus concerning "*self-preservation*." Jesus resisted this temptation by quoting scripture. (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- **Intellectual temptation** (Matthew 4:5-7) – The devil tempted Jesus concerning "*public acclamation*". Jesus resisted this temptation by again quoting scripture. (Deuteronomy 6:16)
- **Spiritual temptation** (Matthew 4:8-11) – The devil tempted Jesus concerning "*world domination*". Jesus resisted this temptation by again quoting scripture. (Deuteronomy 6:13)

After resisting the devil's temptations three times, the devil left off from tempting Jesus. (Matthew 4:11; James 4:7)

III THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS v 14-20

- A. Jesus began to go forth publicly preaching in Galilee v 14-15
It was sometime during the first year of Jesus' public ministry that John the Baptist was put into jail. John had fulfilled his special office as the "*herald*" or "*forerunner*" for Christ, and knew that his ministry would begin to decrease, and Christ's would begin to increase. (John 3:30; Luke 3:19-20; Matthew 14:3-12)
- B. Jesus began to call out His disciples to follow Him v 16-20
Jesus called Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, and James and his brother John to follow Him as fishers of men.
SIMON (v 16) – "*hearing*" (also called Peter – "*a rock or stone*")
ANDREW (v 16) – "*manly*" the younger brother of Simon Peter
JAMES (v 19) – "*trickster; supplanter*" – the son of Zebedee ("*Jehovah is the giver*")
JOHN (v 19) – "*Jehovah is gracious*" – the younger brother of James

TEACHER TIP: Faith may not know where it is being led, but it loves the One Who is leading.

Next Memory Verse: Mark 1:22