

MARK – THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS

MARK 1:9-14

1. **OUTLINE** FOR **MARK 1:1-13**

A. **PROLOGUE** – MARK 1:1

B. **JESUS ANNOUNCED BY MAN** – MARK 1:2-8

1. **MARK QUOTES THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS MALACHI AND ISAIAH WHO PROPHESIED THE COMING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, WHO WILL INTRODUCE JESUS CHRIST.**

2. **JOHN THE BAPTIST:**

a. **PREACHES: SOCIAL JUSTICE AS THE BY-PRODUCT OF REPENTANCE.**

b. **TEACHES: US WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SECOND TO JESUS.**

c. **SHOWS: US THAT SOONER OR LATER, CHRISTIANS MUST LEARN THAT HAPPINESS IS NEITHER AN INALIENABLE RIGHT NOR AN END IN ITSELF.**

1) **REMEMBER: HAPPINESS DEPENDS ON OUR CIRCUMSTANCES... JOY DEPENDS ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH... AND OUR RELIANCE ON, JESUS.**

C. **JESUS AFFIRMED BY GOD** – MARK 1:9-11

1. **TODAY'S LESSON.**

D. **JESUS ACKNOWLEDGED BY SATAN** – MARK 1:12-13

1. **NEXT WEEK'S LESSON.**

E. **AFTER MARK PRESENTS JESUS AS ANNOUNCED BY MAN, AFFIRMED BY GOD, AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY SATAN, JESUS' CREDENTIALS ARE IN ORDER FOR THE OPENING OF HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY.**

1. **SO THAT JESUS' QUALIFICATIONS AND HIS REFERENCES AS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD CAN'T BE DISPUTED.**

2. **THE NEXT QUESTION FOR MARK IS WHETHER OR NOT JESUS' SERVICE WILL EQUAL HIS CREDENTIALS.**

2. **Mark 1:9-13 (NASB)** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening,

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and the **Spirit** like a **dove** descending upon Him; and a **voice** came out of the heavens: "**You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.**" Immediately the **Spirit** *impelled Him to go out into the **wilderness**. And He was in the wilderness **forty days** being **tempted by Satan**; and He was with the wild beasts, and the **angels** were ministering to Him.

3. **JESUS AFFIRMED BY GOD:**

A. **Mark 1:9-11 (NASB)** In those days Jesus came from **Nazareth in Galilee** and was **baptized by John in the Jordan**. Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: "**You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.**"

B. **BIBLICAL GEOGRAPHY: SEE MAP.**

1. **JESUS LIVED IN NAZARETH IN GALILEE, THE NORTHERNMOST OF THE THREE MAIN REGIONS OF ISRAEL DURING NEW TESTAMENT TIMES.**
2. **BIBLE SCHOLARS SAY THAT JOHN THE BAPTIST BAPTIZED JESUS IN THE JORDAN RIVER IN JUDEA, THE SOUTHERNMOST REGION, JUST NORTH AND EAST OF WHERE THE JORDAN RIVER FLOWED INTO THE DEAD SEA... NEAR AN AREA NAMED BETHANY BEYOND THE SEA.**
 - a. **NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH BETHANY WHERE JESUS RESURRECTED LAZARUS.**
3. **THE MIDDLE REGION OF ISRAEL WAS SAMARIA.**
4. **THE DISTANCE FROM NAZARETH TO THE SITE ON THE JORDAN RIVER WHERE JOHN THE BAPTIST BAPTIZED JESUS WAS 60 TO 75 MILES THROUGH MOUNTAINOUS AND RUGGED TERRAIN DEPENDING ON THE ROUTE TAKEN.**
 - a. **IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN JESUS 3 TO 4 DAYS TO WALK FROM NAZARETH TO THE TRADITIONAL BAPTISM SITE NEAR BETHANY BY THE SEA, ASSUMING A STEADY PACE OF 20 MILES PER DAY.**
5. **DISCUSS: ROMAN ROADS IN ISRAEL DURING THE FIRST CENTURY.**
 - a. **SEE: MAP HANDOUTS**

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C. MARK UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS CASE FOR JESUS AS A SERVANT LEADER BEGINS WITH THE EVIDENCE THAT HE IS ON OUR LEVEL, BESIDE US, AND SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE... THEREFORE:

1. MARK INTRODUCES A MAN WITH A COMMON NAME FROM A COMMON TOWN TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMON EXPERIENCE... BAPTISM.

a. “JESUS” IS THE COMMON NAME USED BY MARK UNTIL PETER CONFESSES HIM AS THE CHRIST AT CAESAREA PHILIPPI (8:29).

b. NAZARETH IS THE SMALL COMMON VILLAGE (200 TO 1,000 PEOPLE) WHERE JESUS LIVES IN OBSCURITY AND LABORS AS A CARPENTER.

c. JESUS DOES NOT NEED TO BE BAPTIZED FOR HIS SINS, HOWEVER MARK PUTS THAT EVENT IN A SEQUENCE WITH HIS COMMON NAME AND HIS COMMON TOWN SO THAT HIS BAPTISM BECOMES AN EXPERIENCE IN WHICH HE SHARES WITH COMMON HUMANITY.

D. AFTER JESUS IS BAPTIZED GOD’S SPIRIT TAKES THE FORM OF A DOVE AND SETTLES WITH A GENTLE FLUTTER ON JESUS.

1. SO... JESUS IS ANOINTED AS THE “ONE WHO COMES”, NOT BY MIGHT NOR POWER, BUT BY THE TENDER SPIRIT OF GOD.

2. JOHN THE BAPTIST APPEARS AS A “LARGER THAN LIFE” BIBICAL BIGFOOT AND PREACHES REPENTANCE “UNTO” THE REMISSION OF SINS.

a. HOWEVER, HE CAN ONLY PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS.

3. MARK PRESENTS JESUS AS A COMMON PERSON WHO IS GENTLE OF SPIRIT... HE IS ANOINTED BY GOD THE FATHER AS THE SERVANT WHO WILL BE MADE SIN FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS.

E. NOTE: GOD’S AFFIRMATION FOLLOWS THE ANNOINTING BY BAPTISM AND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. Mark 1:11 (NASB) ... and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

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2. GOD AFFIRMS HIS SON BY SAYING, “I CLAIM YOU, I LOVE YOU, I AM PROUD OF YOU.”
3. HOW SIMPLE! HOW BASIC!... TO BELONG, TO BE LOVED, TO BE PRAISED!
 - a. NOTHING MORE IS NEEDED IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WITH OUR FAMILIES, AND WITH EACH OTHER... THAN TO BELONG, TO BE LOVED, AND TO BE PRAISED!

F. OUR NEED TO BELONG:

1. GOD SAID TO JESUS, “YOU ARE... MY SON.”
2. EACH ONE OF US HAS A DEEP NEED TO BELONG TO SOMEONE.
3. IF THE NEED TO BELONG IS MET, WE HAVE THE STRENGTH OF SELF-IDENTITY... WE KNOW WHO WE ARE AND NO ONE CAN TAKE THAT IDENTITY FROM US.
 - a. BUT, IF OUR NEED TO BELONG IS NOT MET, WE TEND TO STRUGGLE AS LONELY PEOPLE.
 - b. PSYCHIATRISTS FIND THAT ONE OF THE ROOTS OF EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE IS ALIENATION, WHICH IS TO FEEL CUT OFF FROM FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND SOCIETY... AND BELONG TO NO ONE.
 - 1) “WHERE NO ONE STANDS ALONE”
4. EACH OF US NEEDS A SENSE OF FAMILY IN ORDER TO BELONG TO SOMEONE... WE KNOW WHO WE ARE (GET OUR IDENTITY) BY OUR FAMILY NAMES.
5. GOD SENDS A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO HIS SON AT THE TIME OF JESUS’ BAPTISM. HE GIVES THE ASSURANCE TO JESUS, “YOU ARE MY . . . SON. I CLAIM YOU. YOU BELONG TO ME.”
 - a. JESUS IS THE NATURAL SON OF GOD, BUT BEYOND THAT, HE IS ALSO THE CHOSEN SON OF GOD... THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.

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- b. WHEN GOD CLAIMS JESUS AS HIS SON BY CHOICE AS WELL AS BY NATURE, HE SETS THE STAGE FOR OUR ADOPTION AS HIS CHILDREN.

1) BY NATURE, WE ARE NOT THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD BECAUSE SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD SO THAT, BY LAW, WE ARE UNCLAIMED ORPHANS... BUT THAT IS WHAT REDEMPTION IS ALL ABOUT!

2) Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT) But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

6. NOTE: WE ARE TO WHOM WE BELONG... WHICH MEANS THAT OUR IDENTITY, OUR WORTH, AND OUR CHARACTER ARE OFTEN DEFINED BY OUR RELATIONSHIPS... ESPECIALLY BY OUR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS.

- a. "YOU ARE MY SON," ... "YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER," IS GOD'S AFFIRMATION TO US THAT WE BELONG TO HIM!

1) ALONG WITH JESUS, WE HAVE AN IDENTITY WHICH NO ONE CAN TAKE FROM US.

G. OUR NEED TO BE LOVED:

1. CLOSELY LINKED WITH OUR NEED TO BELONG IS OUR NEED TO BE LOVED.

2. GOD SAYS TO JESUS AND TO THE WORLD, "You are my beloved Son".

3. NOTE: TRAGEDY STALKS EVERY RELATIONSHIP WHERE BELONGING IS WITHOUT LOVE.

- a. MARRIAGES THAT REMAIN TOGETHER ON LEGAL GROUNDS WITHOUT LOVE ARE HELL ON EARTH FOR THE PARTNERS AND FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

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4. **BELONGING** GIVES US OUR **SENSE OF IDENTITY**... BUT WE **NEED TO BE LOVED** FOR OUR **SECURITY**.
5. **GOD'S LOVE** FOR HIS **CHILDREN** IS **SELF-SACRIFICING, UNCHANGEABLE, AND CONTROLLING**:
 - a. **SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE**:
 - 1) IN **JOHN 15:13** AFTER **JESUS** SAYS THAT HE **ABIDES** IN HIS **FATHER'S LOVE**, HE TELLS US THAT HIS **LOVE** IS A **SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE**:
"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
 - 2) **ALL TRUE LOVE IS SELF-SACRIFICING!**
 - b. **UNCHANGEABLE LOVE**:
 - 1) **NOTE: LOVE CAN GET SEVERELY TESTED IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.**
 - i. **THE RISK IS OBVIOUS... A SON MAY CHOOSE TO BE A PRODIGAL, A DAUGHTER MAY MAKE CHOICES THAT LEAD TO DISASTER... A SPOUSE CAN CHOOSE TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT DAMAGE THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP.**
 - 2) **HOWEVER... UNCHANGING LOVE WILL HOLD WHEN ALL OTHER RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BROKEN DOWN.**
 - 3) **WHEN GOD AFFIRMS JESUS WITH THE WORDS "I LOVE YOU," HE SETS HIM FREE TO BE HIMSELF.**
 - c. **CONTROLLING LOVE**:
 - 1) **2 Corinthians 5:14 (NASB)** For the **love of Christ controls** us,
 - 2) **NOTE: CONTROLLING LOVE IS A GUIDANCE SYSTEM FOR OUR BEHAVIOR... BECAUSE OF LOVE, THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT WE WILL DO AND CERTAIN THINGS THAT WE WILL NOT DO.**
 - 3) **THERE IS NO GREATER CONTROL OVER OUR LIVES THAN THE CONTROL OF TRUE LOVE.**

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H. OUR NEED TO BE PRAISED:

1. "in You I am well-pleased."... WHEN GOD SPOKE THOSE WORDS HE COMPLETED THE TRIAD OF BELONGING, LOVE, AND PRAISE.
2. Romans 12:15 (NASB) Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
 - a. TRUTH: SOMETIMES IT IS EASIER FOR US TO WEEP TOGETHER THAN TO REJOICE TOGETHER... WE CAN BE QUICK TO CRY, BUT SLOW TO PRAISE.
3. BECAUSE OF SOME PARENTS FRUSTRATIONS WITH THEIR FAILURES TO ACHIEVE THEIR ASPIRATIONS, SOMETIMES THEY TRANSFER THEIR DREAMS TO THEIR CHILDREN AS UNREALISTIC GOALS.
 - a. TO COMPOUND THEIR ERROR, SOMETIMES THEY EITHER FAIL TO PRAISE THEIR CHILDREN FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS OR CRITICIZE THEM FOR NOT MEASURING UP TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS.
 - 1) FATHERS ARE IN DANGER OF BELITTling THEIR SONS, AND MOTHERS ARE SUBJECT TO THE SAME TEMPTATION WITH THEIR DAUGHTERS.
 - b. WHEN GOD SAYS TO HIS SON, "in You I am well-pleased," HE COMMENDS HIS CHARACTER, HONORS HIS ACHIEVEMENTS, AND ENCOURAGES HIM FOR THE FUTURE.
 - 1) TRUTH: OUR FAMILY, OUR FRIENDS AND OUR COLLEAGUES GROW FASTER IN THE DIRECTION OF OUR PRAISE THAN IN THE PATH OF OUR CRITICISM.

I. NEVER FORGET: THAT NOTHING MORE IS NEEDED IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SPOUSES ... THAN TO BELONG, TO BE LOVED, AND TO BE PRAISED!

1. DISCUSS:

J. IF WE CAN LEARN TO GIVE A SENSE OF BELONGING, TO EXPRESS OUR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, AND FIND REASONS TO PRAISE... THEN WE WILL

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RELEASE IN OTHERS THE CONFIDENCE THAT GOD RELEASED IN HIS OWN SON.

K. DISCUS: SPECIFIC WAYS OF HOW WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB OF AFFIRMING OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS BY PRAISING THEM, LOVING THEM, AND GIVING THEM A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING.

4. NEXT WEEK: JESUS ACKNOWLEDGED BY SATAN