

Experiencing the Miracles of Jesus

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THE SON OF GOD



When John baptized Jesus, Jesus “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’” (Mark 1:10-11). The Father recognized Jesus and proclaimed Him to be His Son, but now the question is, who else will acknowledge Him? Will the Jews, or will anyone else? How about you—are you prepared to hear the truth, see with new eyes, and tell others what you learn?



DAYS ONE & TWO

As you read any book of the Bible, you’ll notice that the author emphasizes subjects by repeating key words and phrases. Marking these key words with distinctive colors or symbols (or both) is an important technique that helps you carefully observe the text. You’ll be marking many of these words and phrases throughout Mark, so to keep track of them, record them (and the way you plan to mark them) on a three-by-five card and use this as a bookmark throughout your study. Keeping up with key words this way as you go from chapter to chapter will help you be consistent and save time.

Read Mark 1, marking the following words and

including them on your bookmark: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Satan, unclean spirits, John the Baptist, gospel,¹ authority, forgive(ness), believe, and sins.*

Be sure to double underline in green all geographical references, and mark time references with a green clock or color them green. Note the repetition of *immediately*² as a time reference. This is a key term throughout Mark, so you'll want to add it to your bookmark and mark it uniquely so it jumps out at you.

Be sure to ask the 5 W's and an H as you mark. This will help you focus on what the author is saying.

DAYS THREE & FOUR

Don't forget to begin your study time with prayer. Remember, you have access to the Author, who truly wants you to know, understand, and live by every word that comes from His mouth.

Today make lists of what you learn from marking the key words and time references. Keep asking the 5 W's and an H and listing the answers. Time references answer the question, when did this happen?

DAY FIVE

Read through the chapter again, and in the margin of your Bible, use a pencil to divide the major events or subjects with a horizontal line. Label each section of the chapter with the name of the most significant event or subject.

Now, who are the main characters and what is the subject of verses 1 through 11? What do you learn about God in these verses?

Read Malachi 3:1, which is quoted in Mark 1:2. Also read Isaiah 40:3, which is quoted in Mark 1:3. What do you learn about the relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus?

What did John preach? Read the following verses to gain greater insight about this topic:

Deuteronomy 30:1-3

Isaiah 55:6-9

Isaiah 44:21-23

Jeremiah 3:11-15

What do you learn about relationships between the Holy Spirit and Jesus and between Jesus and Satan in verses 12-13? List what happened when Jesus came up out of the water. Do you see evidence of a triune God? If so, what is the evidence?

Compare verses 14-15 with verse 4. What do you learn about Jesus' message?

To grasp what the Jews understood about the coming kingdom of God, read the following passages:

1 Samuel 8:6-7

Psalm 47

Daniel 4:24-26

Daniel 7:13-14

Psalm 103:19



DAY SIX

What do you learn about Jesus' teaching in the rest of the chapter? Whom does He teach? What does He teach?

How do the people respond? How does His teaching compare to the scribes' teaching? What does this tell you about Jesus?

What do you learn about Jesus' acts? How do they relate to His teaching? What is Jesus' relationship with unclean spirits (demons)?

Who recognizes Jesus as the Son of God? What does He tell them?

Determine a theme for this chapter and record it on **MARK AT A GLANCE** in the appendix.

DAY SEVEN



Store in your heart: Mark 1:11

Read and discuss: Mark 1

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- ∞ Discuss the relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus. Consider the first group of Old Testament references included in day 5 and compare their messages.
- ∞ What did you learn about Jesus' teachings?
- ∞ What did you learn about the kingdom of God?
- ∞ Discuss what you learned about repentance and faith.
- ∞ Discuss Jesus' deeds and the way they relate to His teachings.
- ∞ Who were Jesus' first followers, and what were their relationships?
- ∞ What truths from Mark 1 can you apply to your life?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and many people from Judea came to him for baptism, confessing their sins. He also preached about One coming after him who was mightier, One who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and not just with water.

Then one day Jesus came from Nazareth, and John baptized Him. As he did, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.” Here we have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all playing a part in the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Just as all three Persons were present and active in the *creation* of the world, they are present and active in the *redemption* of the world.

The first man and woman God created sinned, bringing on all creation the penalty of sin and death, which continues to hold the world captive today. Paul tells us in Romans that we are groaning as we long for the redemption of our bodies. He also tells us that all creation groans as well, longing for the new heaven and earth.

God broke into human history in the person of Jesus Christ, God incarnate, the only Son of God, who for the joy set before Him voluntarily became man to identify with us and atone for our sins. Mark does not add details of Jesus’ birth, but Jesus was born of a virgin so that He did not inherit a sin nature from Adam. He was perfectly obedient; He committed no sin. Everyone else that John baptized confessed their sins. But Jesus, the sinless God incarnate, had no sins to confess. He didn’t need to be forgiven.

Yet Jesus subjected Himself to John’s baptism of repentance, and God was pleased with Him. This event shows Jesus’ identification with you and me, who *do* need to confess

sins, who *do* need to repent, who *do* need to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives (Hebrews 2:14-15).

The Father's testimony and the Spirit's descent (just as a dove would descend) at Jesus' baptism inaugurated Jesus' redeeming work, which culminated in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of God. Following Jesus' baptism, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness for 40 days, where He was tempted by Satan. The other Gospels give details about the temptations, but Mark cuts right to the sequence—Jesus is baptized, and God is pleased; He is tempted, and angels minister to Him. Then the scene shifts right into Jesus' public ministry.

John had preached that people should repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Now Jesus announces that the time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand, and the people should repent and believe the gospel. The forerunner has done his work, preparing the way for the One who followed—the One who was mightier than John and is mightier than you, me, and even Satan. Jesus, the Son of God, has begun to call men and women to Himself, inviting them to follow Him, to believe in Him. He is ready now to reveal His power over sickness, over the spirit realm, and over the whole creation.

The people who see and hear Jesus are amazed at His authority. But they haven't seen anything yet; He's just begun!