

Mark moves **SO FAST** in his **Gospel**

that, the way **the NLT** divides our **Section** of **scripture** today
there are **THREE MAJOR** Events – in just **SEVEN Vs's**

& we could **easily devote** an **entire message**
to **EACH ONE** of these **Three Major Events**

But then – we **wouldn't be moving** at the '**Speed of Mark**'

Last week – we Met **JESUS**
the **Savior** - & the **Son of God**

& we **Met John The Baptist** – the Messenger
Who **prepared the way** for the **people** to **RECEIVE the Lord**

Today we see Jesus **BEGIN His Ministry**

By being **IDENTIFIED With the SINNERS**
that He **came to save** - (*that's US*)

Let's Pray

Today – in Just 7 Vs's – we see Jesus
Being IDENTIFIED With SINNERS

In His BAPTISM

In His TEMPTATION - &

In His PROCLAMATION of THE GOOD NEWS

We start today

with the VERY FIRST ACT - of the Ministry of Jesus

As Jesus is IDENTIFIED With SINNERS – in his Baptism

Mark 1:9 (NLT)

9 One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River.

(we are confident (btw) that where we get Baptized in the Jordan is the SAME place where John was Baptizing)

& so - Jesus came FROM Nazareth (in the North) - to where John was Baptizing (in the South) – across from Jericho

But – WHY did Jesus come to John to be baptized?

→ → →

Remember last week

John was Baptizing the people - For REPENTANCE
to prepare them to MEET the Lord

But now – THE LORD Himself came to John to be Baptized

Have you ever wondered why?

It's a good question, & Matthew says
John the Baptist asked the SAME Question

Matthew 3:13–15 (NLT)

13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John.

14 But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

most of the translations say here in v.15
"let it be done, for us to fulfill all righteousness"

BUT – Jesus was Perfectly Righteous
He had No SIN – He had No Need to REPENT

So – the NLT writes this in a way that causes us to ask

*What is it - that God Requires
that Baptism is part of Fulfilling?*

Follow me here – because this is **really important**

Baptism is a **SIGN of IDENTIFICATION**

When we are **Baptized** - it is a **SIGN**
of our **Permanent IDENTIFICATION** with Jesus Christ

SO – **WHO** is Jesus
being **“Identified with”** in **HIS Baptism?**

Here’s the Bombshell

Jesus – **in His Baptism** – is being **IDENTIFIED – WITH US!**

Jesus needed **NO** - **“Baptism of Repentance”**
& he was **Perfectly Righteous**

& so – **in the NLT** – **When** Jesus **says**
for we must carry out all that God requires (Mat 3:15).

Maybe they **chose** those **words** to **help us see**
that God **WAS** Requiring **SOMETHING** here

& it was something very, very significant

It **was Jesus** – **being Identified** - with **the SINNERS**
who were **coming** to be **Baptized for Repentance**

→ → →

NOT because **HE needed repentance**

BUT because – **Thru His Identification** with Us

Jesus was **going** to **pay**

the full penalty **For OUR sins** – **IN Our Place**

He was **Baptized** - to **be Identified with US** (*guilty sinners*)

SO THAT – He could **PAY for our sins**

IN Our PLACE - **ON the CROSS**

That is Very, Very HEAVY

& if **we** will **accept** – **how HEAVY** it is

that the **sinless Son of God** – was **willing** to be **IDENTIFIED**

with **Guilty Sinners** like us

Then **maybe** it will **give** a **deeper meaning**

to **HOW Heaven Responded** to the **Baptism** of Jesus

Mark 1:10-11 (NLT)

10 As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove.

11 And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

v.10 says ***JESUS SAW – the Heavens Splitting Apart***

The **ESV** says ***“being torn open”***

These are **Dramatic** – **Heaven Shaking Words**

The Father - & **The Holy Spirit** – **KNOW** – From an
Eternal Perspective – Just how **incredibly HEAVY** this moment is

The **Sinless, Eternal Son of God** – **IS being IDENTIFIED**
with the **GUILTY Sinners** on earth

& **Heaven RESPONDS** – **Like THIS**

FIRST – the **Holy Spirit Descends** on Jesus
to be **WITH Him** - & **IN Him** - & **UPON Him**

in a **Unique** & most **Powerful way**
for his **3 ½ years** of earthly **ministry**

& **THEN** - the **Father SPEAKS** from **Heaven**

& he **AUDIBLY** communicates
His LOVE - & **His JOY**

for what the **Son** has **willingly done**
in **order** to **SAVE** – **ALL who will come to him**

There is **MUCH MORE** we **could say**
about the **Baptism** of Jesus

But – we **HAVE** to **stay focused** on Jesus being
IDENTIFIED with SINNERS – as he **BEGINS** his ministry

& so – **We'll MOVE ON** - to **The Temptation**

Notice - **AS** Mark **jumps in** - **to** the **Temptation** of Jesus

He **FIRST Addresses**
the **EMPOWERING** of the **Holy Spirit**

that **had just occurred** at the **Baptism**

Mark 1:12-13 (NLT)

12 (Then, after the baptism) ***The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness,***

13 ***where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.***

Wow – ***Seriously Mark***

That's ALL you're going to GIVE US ??

Like **I've said** – Mark **Strings Together**

Short, Powerful Snap-Shots –to get his **point across**

& the **Point I SEE** in **these vs's** today **is**

that AS Jesus began his ministry
the FIRST THREE Things he did – Were ALL

For Him To BE IDENTIFIED with SINNERS – Like US

We've already seen – in the BAPTISM - Jesus being willing
to BE IDENTIFIED with SINNERS – even tho he had NO SIN

& now, in the Temptation – we see Jesus Being IDENTIFIED with
Sinners – By Experiencing the SAME Temptations - we do

To understand SOME of what Jesus is
Accomplishing in the Temptation

Listen to - Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

15 (speaking of Jesus) This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

In the Bible – a Priest is a MEDIATOR between Man & God

He Understands the STRUGGLES of Man
And he Understands the HOLINESS of God

& Our Great High Priest (Jesus)
UNDERSTANDS the temptations WE FACE

Because he Faced all the same testings we do
YET WITHOUT SIN

HOW can the **Bible say**

Jesus ***faced all of the same testings we face ?***

Because Temptation Comes

in only **THREE Broad Categories**

There are **THREE places** in the Bible

where the **THREE Broad Categories of Temptation** are LISTED

(write these down) - **THE FIRST ONE** is in **GENESIS 3:6**

Where **Satan** uses these **SAME Three Categories** of **Temptation** to **Trigger** the **Fall of Man** into sin

THE SECOND ONE is Here – In the **Temptation of Jesus** **which** we **see** clearly in **LUKE 4:1-13**

& **THE THIRD ONE** is in **1 JOHN 2:16**

Where the **Bible lists** these **THREE Broad Categories** of Sin - **most clearly**

1 John 2:16 (ESV)

16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh (1) and the desires of the eyes (2) and pride of life (3) - is not from the Father but is from the world.

Those are the THREE, All-Encompassing
Broad Categories of Temptation – that we ALL Face

- (1) the Desires of the flesh – our PHYSICAL desires & cravings
- (2) the Desires of the eyes – what we SEE that draws us to sin
- (3) Pride of life – “self-absorbed CONCEIT of our own superiority”

& - Every ONE of the Temptations that Jesus FACED
Fit Squarely in one of these Categories

So FIRST - Heaven had opened up on Jesus
in the BAPTISM

As Jesus was Identified with Sinners – in his Baptism

NOW – HELL IS about to open up on Jesus
in the TEMPTATION

As Jesus Experiences ALL the testing we will EVER Experience
to the 10th Degree

FIRST – Jesus fasted 40 days

40 days of fasting puts you in an almost
immoveable WEAKENED State

Jesus was AS WEAK – Physically & Mentally
As a person can be without DYING

He was Alone – Desolate – & at his Weakest
& Then . . . Satan Came - to do his worst

Jesus had become a Man

So Satan would try to take him down
with the SAME categories of Temptation

that he took the FIRST man down with

What the FLESH CRAVES

What the EYES SEE

What the PRIDE THINKS

in Luke 4:3 (ESV)

*3 The devil said to him, “if (if indeed) *you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.*”*

This is – The Desire of the FLESH

For Jesus – this isn't “Flesh” as in a SIN NATURE

He didn't have a SIN NATURE

But he DID have a very real Physical Body

& was “Near the point of Death” - STARVING

Then Luke 4:5 says Satan showed Jesus

ALL the Kingdoms of the World – in a moment of time

& Then we read in - Luke 4:6–7 (NLT)

6 “I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them,” the devil said, “because they are mine to give to anyone I please.

7 I will give it all to you if you will worship me.”

This is – The Desire of the EYES

**This was a chance for Jesus
to get the CROWN without the CROSS**

**Jesus would have the GLORY - & the AUTHORITY
of ALL the Kingdoms on Earth**

WITHOUT having to GO to the CROSS

& then – in Luke 4:9–11 (NLT)

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off!

10 For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect and guard you.

11 And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’ ”

First of all – Notice the DEVIL is quoting scripture

So remember

NOT everyone who quotes scripture is from God

This is – The PRIDE of Life

Pride of Life meaning: “***Being certain of your own superiority***”

Which is really the root of all Sin

BUT - thru **EVERY Temptation** -
(even tho he was **Near Death** from Fasting)

Jesus responded to the **devil** – **ON OUR BEHALF**
in the SAME WAY we **should respond**

Jesus responded with the **WORD of GOD**
& **HELD FAST** to his **FAITH in GOD**

& he **HAD to do it** - Partially
for Jesus - **TO BE FULLY IDENTIFIED – WITH US!**

Listen carefully to Hebrews 5:8–9 (NLT) (*write in margin*)
8 Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.
9 In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.

Thru his Suffering – That **began** with **the Temptation**
Jesus was **QUALIFIED** to be our **Perfect High Priest**

BY IDENTIFYING with **Our Weaknesses** & **Our Temptations**

SO THAT – **HE** could **BE our POWER**
To **OVERCOME Temptation**

& SO THAT he could **be the SOURCE** of our **Eternal Salvation!**

What an Incredible Sacrifice – on his part

Finally . . .

After **Being IDENTIFIED with us** - in the **BAPTISM** - &
After **Being IDENTIFIED with us** - in the **TEMPTATION**

Finally - Jesus is **IDENTIFIED with us** in **His MESSAGE**

& **THIS** – is the **REAL GOOD NEWS**

Mark 1:14-15 (NLT) → → →

Mark 1:14-15 (NLT)

14 Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News.

15 "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

Listen to me very closely, please

After Jesus **BECAME IDENTIFIED WITH US**
In OUR World

Jesus **Now Proclaims** the **Good News**

That **WE** can **BE IDENTIFIED WITH HIM**
In HIS World

The time promised by God has come at last!
[Jesus] announced.

The Kingdom of God is near! - Meaning it is NEAR YOU
- In the Person of Jesus Christ !

& then – Jesus PROCLAIMS - The ONLY WAY to ENTER

Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

SO THAT you can be IDENTIFIED with HIM
In HIS Kingdom!

Jesus came to this Earth

To **BE IDENTIFIED with YOU** – a Sinner

Because **THAT** is the **ONLY way**

that **Jesus could be** – the **Perfect High Priest**
& the **Source** of our **Eternal Salvation**

& **Now** that **Jesus** has **DONE THAT**

YOU have the **Opportunity** to **BE IDENTIFIED with HIM**
In HIS KINGDOM – Meaning the Kingdom of God

The time promised by God has come at last!
The Kingdom of God is near YOU!
Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!

So that **YOU** Could **BE IDENTIFIED** with **Jesus** Christ

For ***Abundant Life*** **NOW**
& ***Eternal Life in*** **HEAVEN**

Let's Pray