

MIRACLE

MANNA

Miracle Man - Week 5

The Main Concept - Mark 1:1-11; 15:33-39 - Grime Buster

Prayerfully read the passages in Mark cited above.

In the story of Jesus' baptism we are reminded that people for generations have washed themselves with water trying to make themselves clean before God, but to no avail. But John's baptism was different in that it was a baptism of confession and repentance, and was a precursor to the day when Jesus would "baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (vs. 8) This passage, along with Mark 15:33-39 form a bracket around Jesus' ministry and both are accompanied by cataclysmic events: the tearing of the heavens in 1:10 and the tearing of the veil that separates us from God in 15:38. They dramatically emphasize the point of Jesus' ministry, which was to restore right relationship between God and mankind. Because of Jesus' ministry and his baptism with the Holy Spirit we can be seen, acknowledged, known, and understood. And we can be satisfied by the loving communion with God and others that we were designed to crave and experience. Sin can no longer form a veil between us and God!

Discussion Questions

What was your response to this week's sermon? What hit closest to home?

The background for baptism is somewhat unclear, but we know that it was customary among Jews to wash themselves before entering the presence of God so that they would be "clean".

Do you ever try to "make yourself clean" before approaching God? How is that working for you?

Do you ever try to "make yourself clean" or "presentable" to others? How is that working? How does it affect your relationship with them?

Mark continues by saying, "And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'" (vs 11).

On a typical day, do you feel like his beloved son/daughter? Explain.

Whether you "feel" like His beloved or not, how would it look to live as if you were?

When you watch other Christians, do you tend to see their cleanness before God or their faults? Why?

In practical terms, what would it take to see what God sees, both in ourselves and in others?

In these passages from Mark we see that Jesus opened the gateway to a closer relationship with God.

Talk about the things you want most from a relationship with God.