



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

### Mark 1:12–15

Questions for the Week: Have you ever made a change in the direction of your life? Describe that change. How did it happen? Was it for the better?

READ THE TEXT – Mark 1:12–15

### The Structure

1. Temptation (Mark 1:12–13 // Matt 4:1–11 // Luke 4:1–12)
  - 1.1. Spirit drove him (Mark 1:12)
    - 1.1.1. Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism (Mark 1:10)
    - 1.1.2. Jesus's own spirit (Mark 2:8; 8:12)
    - 1.1.3. Jesus was accused of having an unclean spirit (Mark 3:30)
    - 1.1.4. The Holy Spirit speaks through humans
      - 1.1.4.1. David (Mark 12:36)
      - 1.1.4.2. Disciples (Mark 13:11)
    - 1.1.5. Unclean Spirits
      - 1.1.5.1. Exorcism in the Capernaum Synagogue (Mark 1:23–28)
      - 1.1.5.2. Jesus rebuked them (Mark 3:12)
      - 1.1.5.3. Exorcism of the Man among Tombs (Mark 5:1–20)
      - 1.1.5.4. Twelve given authority over unclean spirits (Mark 6:7)
      - 1.1.5.5. Exorcism of the Woman's Daughter (Mark 7:24–30)
      - 1.1.5.6. Exorcism of the Boy with "mute spirit" (Mark 9:14–29)
  - 1.2. Wilderness (Mark 1:12, 13)
    - 1.2.1. Revelation (Exod 16:35; 24:18; 1 Kings 19:8)
    - 1.2.2. Testing/Temptation (Mark 1:13; Num 14:33; see also Heb 2:18; 4:15; 1 Cor 10:13)
      - 1.2.2.1. Testing by the devil (Mark 1:13; see also 1 Cor 7:5; 1 Thess 3:5)
      - 1.2.2.2. Testing by the Pharisees, asking for a sign (Mark 8:11; 11:16)
      - 1.2.2.3. *Testing* Jesus with questions (Mark 10:2; 12:15)
    - 1.2.3. The title "Satan" occurs five times in Mark (Mark 1:13; 3:23[x2]; 4:15; 8:33)
    - 1.2.4. Wild Animals (Mark 1:13)
      - 1.2.4.1. A sign of the end of hostility between animals and humans in the arrival of the Christ (Isa 65:25)?
      - 1.2.4.2. Divine protection from wild animals (Psalm 91:9–13)
    - 1.2.5. Angels serving him (Mark 1:13)
      - 1.2.5.1. Angels fed Elijah in the Wilderness (1 Kings 19:4–7)
      - 1.2.5.2. Angels served Jesus (Mark 1:13)
      - 1.2.5.3. Women served Jesus (Mark 1:31; 15:41)

- 1.2.5.4. Jesus served by giving his life (Mark 10:45)
2. Beginning of Jesus's Ministry in Galilee (Mark 1:14–15)
  - 2.1. After John's Arrest around Jerusalem, Jesus went to Galilee (Mark 1:14)
  - 2.2. Jesus came to Galilee "preaching the gospel of God" and saying: (Mark 1:14)
    - 2.2.1. The Time has been fulfilled (Mark 1:15; see also Gal 4:4; Eph 1:10)
    - 2.2.2. The Kingdom of God has come near (Mark 1:15)
    - 2.2.3. Repent (Mark 1:15; 6:12)
      - 2.2.3.1. In his mercy God, "relents" from wrath of judgment (Amos 7:3, 6; Joel 2:13, 14; Jonah 3:9, 10; 4:2)
      - 2.2.3.2. Sometimes, God does not "relent" (Zech 8:14; Jer 4:28; 8:8, 10)
      - 2.2.3.3. People often do not "repent" of their evil, like horses rushing into battle without changing course (Jer 8:6)
  - 2.2.4. Trust in the Gospel

#### Activities and Questions this Week:

- Compare the accounts of the temptation in Mark with the longer stories in Matthew (Matt 4:1–11) and Luke (Luke 4:1–13)
  - What are the "temptations"?
  - What do you imagine it was like when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness? What did he see? What did he hear?
  - What is "tempting" or "testing" for you? Why?
- As you understand it, what is the "Kingdom of God"? What was Jesus talking about?
- The word for "Repentance" is a change in thinking and acting, not a command to feel bad. What kind of changes in our thoughts and actions is Jesus calling for in Mark 1:15?
  - Thoughts?
  - Actions?
- As you understand it, what is the "Gospel"? What does it mean to trust or "believe" the Gospel?

#### Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord's reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
  - Do?
  - Think?
  - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?