



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Mark 1:1–11

Questions for the Week: If you imagined the Son of God to appear today, where do you think he would live? Why?

READ THE TEXT – Mark 1:1–11

The Structure

1. Title (Mark 1:1)

1.1. Gospel = “good news” about a King (Mark 1:1, 14, 15; 8:35; 10:29; 13:10; 14:9)

1.1.1. “Announcement of victory” (2 Sam 18:20, 25, 27; 2 Kgs 7:9)

1.1.2. “Reward for Announcing a victory” (2 Sam 4:10; 18:22)

1.2. Jesus Christ

1.2.1. The name “Jesus” means “God Saves” (Matt 1:21)

1.2.2. “Christ” is a title that means “anointed one” (Mark 1:1; 8:29; 9:41; 12:35; 13:21; 14:61; 15:32). In the Old Testament, “anointing” is for three groups:

1.2.2.1. Kings (Ps 2:2; 18:50; 20:6; 1 Sam 9:9, 16; 10:1; 15:1, 17; 16:1–3, 12–13; 2 Sam 12:7; 1 Kgs 1:39)

1.2.2.2. Priests (Exod 28:41; 30:30; 40:13–15; Lev 16:32; Num 3:3) especially the High Priest (Exod 40:13; Lev 7:35; Num 35:25)

1.2.2.3. Prophets (1 Kgs 19:15–16; see also 2 Kgs 9:1–3, 6, 12)

1.3. Son of God (1:1, 11; 3:11; 5:7; 9:7; 15:39)

2. Scriptural Citations (Mark 1:2–3)

2.1. Encouragement for Israel to enter the Promised Land with an Angel guide (Exodus 23:20)

2.2. Prophetic Rebuke for Israelites to hear a Messenger with a word of fire (Malachi 3:1)

2.3. Prophetic Hope of forgiveness for suffering people (Isaiah 40:3)

3. John the Dunker (Mark 1:4–8 // Matthew 3:1–12 // Luke 3:1–20)

3.1. Baptism and its Meaning (1:4; see Mark 10:38–39)

3.1.1. Baptizing in the wilderness

3.1.2. Preaching a baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins

3.2. Response (1:5 // Matthew 3:5–10 // Luke 3:7–17)

3.2.1. All Judea and Jerusalem

3.2.2. Being baptized by him [John] in the Jordan

3.2.3. While confessing their sins

3.3. John's Appearance and Diet (Mark 1:6)

3.4. John's Message (1:7–8)

3.4.1. One Stronger is coming after me, whom I am not worthy to untie the straps of his sandals (1:7)

3.4.2. I baptize you with water, he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (1:8)

4. Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9–11 // Matthew 3:13–17 // Luke 3:21–22)

4.1. Baptism: Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John (1:9)

4.2. Vision: While coming up from the water, he saw the heavens divided and the holy spirit descending on him (1:10)

4.3. Voice: A voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved son, in you I am pleased" (Mark 1:11; Ps 2:7; see also Mark 9:7)

Activities and Questions this Week:

- Compare the accounts of John's Preaching in Matthew 3:1–12 and Luke 3:1–20.
 - What does John preach about?
 - What was the response to John's preaching?
 - If John appeared preaching the same message today, what issues would he address in our culture?
- If you knew Jesus, the Son of God, was arriving to set everything right, establish God's reign in our daily lives, what would you want to change in preparation for his arrival? What would you expect him to do in your life?
- Read and discuss Paul's descriptions of the meaning of Baptism (Romans 6:1–11 and Colossians 2:11–15)

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?