

I) **V9-11 INTRO: It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee**

II) **Mark began his gospel by revealing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God  
This was a way of revealing that Jesus is royalty, the Son of the King of the Universe**

III) **As kings did during Mark's day, Jesus had someone who went before Him  
This messenger would prepare the way for the King and would herald his coming**

IV) **He would proclaim that the King was about to arrive, and make sure roads were ready**

**Lu 1:17 And he (John) will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to *make ready a people prepared for the Lord.***

V) **John was not simply overseeing the clearing of debris from a road  
He was calling people to personally clear out the debris of their lives**

VI) **He was preaching a message of repentance, and baptizing those who repented**

**All the while he was pointing people to the One who was about to come to them**

**At that point He had not yet arrived, but John was saying His arrival was very soon**

VII) **In this section Mark is going to present Jesus' baptism as a kind of Royal Coronation**

**John had said he was unworthy to stoop and unstrap His sandals  
The One who is about to come is that great a figure**

VIII) **Here, God Himself will testify that Jesus is the Coming One, His Son, the Messiah**

IX) **V9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee  
By this time John had been preaching and baptizing for several months  
As John was performing his ministry, at the right time, Jesus came to**

**John**

**X) Mark says that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee**

**He said this so his non-Jewish readers would understand that He came from the north**

**XI) Nazareth was and is located in northern Israel and was home to Mary and Joseph**

**It was a small, inconsequential town populated by a large Gentile population**

**XII) Gentiles were recognized as pagans and were outside of God's promises**

**Paul made this clear in his letter to the Ephesian church**

**Eph 2:12 remember that at that time you (Gentiles) were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.**

**I) Because Nazareth had a large Gentile population, it had a poor reputation**

**Jn 1:45-46 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote— Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" Philip said to him, "Come and see."**

**II) During this time to call someone a Nazarene was to say that they were despised**

**III) Nazareth was a small village with a population of around 150 residents**

**No one would think that such a city would produce anything or anyone noteworthy**

**IV) I remember what Pastor Chuck said about Ontario: Who would have thought? Ontario**

**V) It is significant that Jesus came from such a village**

**Even as Nazareth was disrespected, despised and rejected so was Jesus**

**Is 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.**

**VI) The fact that Jesus came from such a village would be a surprise to religious leaders**

**They would have expected Messiah to come from a prestigious city: Jerusalem**

VII) God has a way of taking what seems to be insignificant and using it for His glory

1 Co 1:28-29 God chose things *despised* by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

VIII) V9 Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was *baptized by John* in the Jordan

IX) The Jordan River is in eastern Israel and is fed by three tributaries in the north  
One source is known as Hasbani, on the western slope of Mt Hermon  
Another is called the Springs of Leddan  
The third is Banias, four miles east of the Springs of Leddan

X) John was busy ministering his baptism when Jesus came to him  
The fact that John was baptizing Jews was in itself unusual

XI) The Jews practiced various ritual washings including individual washings  
Baptism was not something that the Jews would have completely understood  
Only Gentile converts to Judaism would receive such a baptism

I) This would have been a confession that they were no better than Gentiles!  
To submit to John's baptism was to admit that you were a sinner

II) It was to confess that you were forsaking your wicked ways  
It was to admit you were a sinner in need of Messiah  
But here came Jesus: why would He need to be baptized?

III) John was accustomed to baptizing *sinners*  
They were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins (V5)  
Here comes Jesus, a man with no sins to confess!

IV) We need to remember that John was born to godly parents, Elizabeth and Zacharias  
Both were of priestly lineage, being descendants of Aaron and of the tribe of Levi

- V) John would have been aware of who Jesus was because he was His cousin  
His parents undoubtedly had told him of Jesus' miraculous conception
- VI) He would have known some things about Jesus, but had not actually met Him
- VII) Lu 1:80 tells us that John grew up in the wilderness from early childhood  
This would have been the Judean wilderness, which was 100 miles S of Nazareth  
This means that he most likely would not have *physically* seen Jesus
- VIII) In Jn 1:31, John said *I myself did not know (recognize) Him:*  
**EITHER: I haven't personally met Him, or it's been so long I didn't recognize Him**
- IX) I was sent to preach, preparing people to meet Him but I myself never *met* Him  
I am preparing you to meet your Messiah, a man I have not yet met myself!  
I am simply being obedient to the commission and waiting for the results!
- X) This reminds me of something that Job said when God spoke to him  
Job 42:5 I have *heard of You* by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye *sees You*.
- XI) John was a preacher of righteousness and was sent to prepare people to meet Messiah  
He told the multitudes that judgment was coming, and they needed to repent  
Mt 3:8a John said Bear fruits worthy of repentance
- XII) Their lives were to demonstrate that they truly had turned from their sin to God
- XIII) John had yet to personally meet Jesus, but was obedient to the commission he received  
In this he walked by faith, and not by sight (2 Co 5:7)
- I) V9 How did John react to Jesus coming to him to be baptized
- II) He tried to deter Jesus from being baptized by him

**Mt 3:13-14** Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John *tried (insistently; kept trying) to prevent Him*, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

III) It seemed wrong for Jesus to receive a baptism that was intended for sinners  
Instead of him baptizing Jesus, John knew that in fact he should be baptized by Jesus

IV) As incredible as he was, John knew that he was a sinner, and Jesus wasn't  
**Heb 7:26** For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, *holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.*

V) John didn't want to baptize Jesus, and kept insisting that Jesus should baptize him

VI) Jesus made it clear that His being baptized was necessary  
This is because it would *fulfill all righteousness*  
**Mt 3:15** Jesus replied, Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to *fulfill all righteousness*. Then John consented.

VII) How would *all righteousness* be fulfilled by His being baptized by John

VIII) **FIRST:** In the OT the priests eligible to offer sacrifices were to be 30 years of age

**Nu 4:3** Take a head count of the Kohathites, who are part of the Levites, by their clans and patriarchal houses, of those 30 years of age until 50 years of age, all who are eligible for performing assigned tasks in the work force pertaining to the Tent of Meeting

IX) **Lu 3:23** Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age...  
Jesus waited until He was 30 to be baptized into the sacrificial priesthood

X) This demonstrated that He was submitted to the requirements of Moses' Law  
**Mt 5:17** Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

XI) **SECOND:** His being baptized by John identified Him as Messiah to John, and others

Because of this, God had made a way for John to know who Jesus was  
**Jn 1:31** I myself *did not know him*, but the reason I came baptizing

with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.

XII) Mk 1:7 John had said there comes One after me who is *mightier* than I

I) He did not identify *the One* by name: He did not say Jesus is coming and He is Messiah

This would be because John did not yet know that Jesus was Messiah

II) **SECOND:** It fulfilled all righteousness by Jesus placing His seal of approval on John

III) John's mother and father were old, and Elizabeth was unable to have children  
Zacharias prayed fervently, even in his old age, for a child to be given to them

When an angel told Zacharias that his wife would become pregnant, he doubted

IV) Gabriel told Zacharias Elizabeth would bear a son, and he would be called John

The name translates to *God is gracious*

V) John was the last of the OT prophets

It is significant that grace preceded Messiah

Jn 1:16 Of His fullness we have all received, and *grace for grace*

VI) When John was eight days old, in accordance with Jewish law, John was circumcised

At that time his father Zacharias was filled with the Spirit and prophesied over him

Lu 1:76-77 You my child will be called a prophet of the most high for you will go on before *the lord* to prepare the way for Him to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sin

VII) Would to God more fathers followed this example

When Jesus was baptized, He validated Zacharias' prophecy over his son, John

VIII) **THIRD:** In receiving water baptism, Jesus *identified Himself* with sinful man  
His baptism was a demonstration of man's sinfulness and need for a mediator

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are --yet was without sin.

- IX) This reminds us that, as our Messiah, Jesus was approachable  
Mt 11:28 Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest
- X) We need to remember that Jesus came to save sinners  
Lu 19:10 The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost
- XI) Matthew records the story of how Jesus had been invited to his house for a dinner  
As He sat at the table, many sinners sat down with Him *and His disciples*
- XII) The Pharisees saw it, and were outraged! Jesus was eating with these people  
I) They came and questioned His disciples: Why is Jesus doing such a thing  
II) Mt 9:12-13 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance  
Is 53:12 He was numbered with the transgressors (placed between two sinners)
- III) In these ways, He fulfilled all righteousness  
Mt 3:15 says that after Jesus said this to John, Then he allowed Him  
In doing this, John reveals that he too is submitted to the word of God
- IV) V10 And *immediately* coming up from the water He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit  
Interestingly, Mark uses the word immediately eleven times in Ch 1, alone  
This reveals Jesus fast pace as well as obedience to His Father
- V) The Spirit descended upon Jesus, like a dove  
This has been called a divine coronation of the Messianic King
- VI) This event gives us the picture of the Trinity  
The Father speaks, the Son is baptized, and the Spirit descends upon Him
- VII) It reminds us of Christian baptism  
Mt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in *the name* of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

VIII) In the OT, prophets, priests, kings were anointed to consecrate them to serve God

This was symbolic of Jesus' anointing for His ministry

Is 61:1 The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because *the LORD has anointed me* to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners

Ac 10:37-38 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth* with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.

IX) V11 Then a voice came from heaven You are My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased

At His baptism the Father made it clear that Jesus is His Royal Son and Messiah

X) He is the one in whom the Father delights

Is 42:1 Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

I) It has been pointed out that at every major point in His ministry, the Spirit was at work

In His baptism, His temptation (V12), His miracles-Ac 10:38), His resurrection (Ro 1:4)

II) His Father said You are My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased

This was never said of any prophet: they were servants, even friends  
Jesus is the only One ever referred to by His Father, in this way

III) In every thing He did, Jesus was well pleasing to His Father

This included His death on the cross

Is 53:10 *Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.*

IV) Ultimately, Jesus' sacrifice is the only one that ever fully pleased the Father

V) Jesus' baptism looked forward to the cross while the believer looks back to the cross

*He was immersed in the river of death that we might be partakers of the*

*river of life*

- VI) Jesus' obedience to the Father in receiving baptism is our example  
His outward demonstration is an example to us of our own outward demonstration
- VII) Christian baptism looks back at the finished work of Christ  
According to Ro 6:3, when we are water baptized we are baptized into His death
- VIII) Water baptism represents Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection  
When we were baptized, we are totally identified with these events  
Baptizo represents our immersion in Him and our taking on the newness of life
- IX) It does not save you, and is not absolutely necessary for salvation  
This is because you are saved by faith, and not by a symbol of faith  
1 Pe 3:21 (Writing of baptism) This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also: not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- X) WATER BAPTISM: Is an open symbol of a person's faith in Jesus Christ  
It shows that the old nature was crucified with Jesus and now, we are alive in Him
- XI) Baptism is a picture of death, *burial*, and resurrection  
Burial is the extreme external evidence that death has taken place  
When you are water baptized, you are portraying your own burial  
It is the outward evidence that the old man has been put to death
- I) Ro 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life
- II) Because this is true, then it simply is not part of a believer's life to *continue in sin*  
Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?  
Gal 5:24-25 And those *who are Christ's* have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- III) Our baptism demonstrates that we are buried with Jesus  
When we enter the water and are immersed, it symbolizes death and burial

**When we exit the water, it represents our resurrection to newness of life**

**IV) This newness of life is the sign that we have truly been born again**

**We have a completely new heart**

**Ezek 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh**

**V) We also have a completely new way of living**

**Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.**

**Walk as children of light**

**VI) Who should be baptized? Those who have been born again**

**Those who know what salvation is, and have partaken of it**