



**Title: Gospel of Mark: Mark 1:1-11 Prepare the Way**

**Scripture: Mark 1:1-11**

**Date: 05072023**

**Bible Version: NKJK**

**BOTTOM LINE: Jesus came to serve us so that we could be rescued.**

**The Place and Ministry of John The Baptist. Vs. 1-5**

**Vs.1**

**The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ** - Every great story has a beginning. The word gospel means “good news”. This is the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. This news is not up for debate or discussion, it’s an announcement.

**Jesus** - Is a genuine, real person who physically walked this earth at one point in history.

**Christ** - The word means messiah. Jesus Christ is the savior of men.

**Son of God**- Jesus is the unique Son of God. Mark makes this bold statement to his audience and to us now.

**Vs. 2**

**As it is written in the Prophets**- This is the opening statement of the ministry of John the Baptist. Mark starts by reminding us that what he is going to speak about was prophesied in the Old Testament. The scriptures where we can find this are Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3.

**Behold, I send My messenger**- Many thought God was done sending prophets. We see here that he was not. He would now send John the Baptist. He would be the messenger that would be sent to prepare the way.

**Vs. 3**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight-** This is a quote from Isaiah 40:3. This is a word picture and has the idea of preparing a road or a path.

*We often fail to appreciate how important the preparation work of the Lord is. Any great work of God begins with great preparation. - David Guzik*

**Vs. 4**

**John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance-** John came to baptize and preach in the wilderness. This wilderness would include the area along the western shore of the Dead Sea. It could be described as a rugged wasteland. The word baptize means to immerse or overwhelm. This baptism was done so that those who participated could demonstrate their repentance.

*For a Jew in John's day to submit to baptism was essentially to say, "I confess that I am as far away from God as a Gentile and I need to get right with Him." - David Guzik*

**Vs. 5**

**All the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem went out to him and were all baptized by him-** This shows the breadth of John's ministry. As John delivered his message of repentance people were responding and getting baptized. They were preparing for Jesus.

*John's main message wasn't, "You're a sinner, you need to repent." John's main message was "The Messiah is coming." - David Guzik*

**The Man and Message of John The Baptist. Vs. 6-8.**

**Vs. 6**

**John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist-** John's appearance was rugged yet simple.

**Vs. 7**

**And he preached-** We should be clear that John came with a mission to preach and call people to repentance.

**There comes One after me who is mightier than I-** John's preaching focused on the one who would come after him. John consistently pointed to Jesus, not himself.

**Whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose-** From a cultural perspective, rabbis taught that students might have to do just about anything if a rabbi asked. This was limited to anything but excluded the removal of a shoe. This was considered too low, even for a student.

**Vs. 8**

**I indeed baptized you with water-** John baptized people in Jordan and with water. John's baptism could only demonstrate repentance, it could not spiritually cleanse anyone.

**But He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit-** Only the work of Jesus can cleanse us from a spiritual perspective.

**Jesus is baptized. Vs. 9-11**

**Vs. 9**

**It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth-** It has only taken 9 verses but we are now introduced to the person of Jesus.

**And was baptized by John in the Jordan-** Jesus was physically baptized in the Jordan. He did not need to be baptized nor did He need to repent; He was sinless. He was baptized in keeping with the will of the Father and to identify with sinful man.

*Jesus didn't have to be baptized. He also didn't have to die on the cross in our place. He did both things to express His solidarity with fallen man. - David Guzik*

**Vs. 10**

**Immediately,-** This word appears 41 times in the Gospel of Mark. Here we capture a divine moment.

**coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove-** As Jesus came up out of the water,

the heavens parted and the Spirit descended upon Him. This wasn't a cloud, or a mist, it had the appearance of a dove.

**Jesus was not just another man, He is the Son of Man.**

**Vs. 11**

**Then a voice came from heaven-** Jesus was not just another man being baptized by John, he was the Son of Man.

**You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased-** The words that were spoken by the voice of God were powerful. They proclaimed that Jesus was His son and that He was well pleased with Him.

*This is one of the familiar passages of the New Testament that shows us the entire Trinity in action. God the Son is baptized, God the Father speaks from heaven, and God the Holy Spirit descends like a dove. - David Guzik*

**This baptism scene demonstrated that Jesus had a humble beginning.**

1. Jesus was a common name.
2. Nazareth was a despised village.
3. Baptism associated Him with sinful man.

*I can go through the day praising the Lord, casting my burdens upon Him - not because of who I am, but because of where I am, not because of what I've done or haven't done - but because I'm in Christ. - Jon Courson*

**Death didn't interrupt the ministry of Christ. It fulfilled it.**

**Four characteristics of a servant that we can observe from the life of Jesus:**

1. A willingness to help other first.
2. A willingness to meet others' practical needs.
3. A willingness to give sacrificially to others.
4. A willingness to obey God the Father.



# 3D Guide

**DO.** **BOTTOM LINE:** Jesus came to serve us so that we could be rescued.



## DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



## DISCUSS.

1. In your own words, describe what John may have looked like and compare that to what he was called to do.
2. Why is it important that we recognize that Jesus was the greatest servant ever?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your daily life?

## DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com) or with their app.