

INTRO: Recap Mark 1:1-11. The Spirit of God came upon Jesus and He knew: 1)He was beloved of God; 2)He was empowered for God's work.

I. Driven to the Wilderness. (v. 12-13)

- A. *"And immediately the Spirit driveth Him into the wilderness."*
1. "drove" – Gr. "ejected"; forceful word.
 2. **NOTE:** Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness!
 - a. Moses – 80 years in the wilderness.
 - b. David – a time of wandering before taking the throne.
 - c. Disciples – 3 years following Jesus.
 - d. Paul – 3 years in the wilderness (Gal. 1:16-21)
 3. **KEY:** Sometimes the Holy Spirit will lead you to times of wilderness to test your character!
 - a. Being led by the Spirit does not mean you will avoid spiritual conflicts.
 - b. You declare that you love God, that love may be tested.
 - c. You say that you trust God, that trust may be tested.
 - 1) How much do you trust Him?
 - 2) Do you only trust when you can see and understand His purpose?
- B. *"And He was tempted in the wilderness forty days tempted of Satan."*
1. Adam was tempted in a beautiful Garden and failed, but the "last Adam" was tempted in a dangerous wilderness and won the victory.
 - a. Man sinned in the Garden and was cast out, but Jesus went into the wilderness to bring man back into the Garden.
 2. *"Forty days."*
 - a. Time of temptation, 40 days.
 - 1) Not 40 seconds; 40 minutes; or 40 hours.
 - b. Goliath tempted Israel for 40 days to fight them.
 - 1) David came and slew the giant in the name of the Lord. (1 Samuel 17:16)
 - 2) Here we see the "Seed" of David slaying the god of this world with the Word of God.

- c. Matthew says that Jesus *"fasted forty days, and got hungry."* (Matt. 4:2)
 - 1) When you fast...
 - a) The first 3 days are hard.
 - b) Then you lose your hunger..
 - c) Then, about 40 days later, when you start to get hungry again, you're about to die of starvation
 - 1. By this time, Jesus' stomach is starting to feed upon itself, and then He is tempted of Satan.

3. **KEY:** Heaven had opened at His baptism, but now Hell has opened in the wilderness.

- a. Jesus was tempted, but He never sinned.
 - 1) Paul said, *"He who knew no sin..."* (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - 2) *"For in that He himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to aid them that are tempted."* (Hebrews 2:18)
 - 3) *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."* (Hebrews 4:15)
 - 4) *"For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily as those high priest, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered Himself."* (Hebrews 7:26-27)

C. *"And was with the wild beasts."*

- 1. Could mean...
 - a. The area was dangerous.
 - b. The animals knew their Creator.
 - 1) Maybe a picture of Millennial Reign of Christ.
 - a) Isaiah 11:4-10.
 - b) Daniel in the lion's den. (Daniel 6:22)

II. The Word of God goes on without the prophet. (v. 14-15)

A. Mark ***skips*** Jesus' Judean ministry.

1. A period of about a year. (John 1:19 – 4:54).
- B. Mark **begins** with the great Galilean ministry.
1. A period of one year and nine months (1:14-9:50).
 2. "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came." (v. 14)
 - a. John is on the scene.
 - 1) The Spirit's moving.
 - 2) He's put in prison.
 - b. Jesus picks up where John left off.
 - 1) You can stop the mouth of the prophet, but You can't stop the Word of God.
 - a) Cf. **Philippians 1:12-14; 4:22.**
 - 2) God's work will continue with or without me.
- C. "Into Galilee."
1. Area around the Sea of Galilee, about 43.5 miles by 25 miles.
 2. Surrounded by many important countries.
 - a. Through Galilee were many highways.
 - b. It was the most populated area outside of Jerusalem.
 - c. Ten important cities were situated around the Sea of Galilee called the Decapolis
 3. By preaching here, Jesus fulfilled prophecy.
 - a. Isaiah 9:1-2 "Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations (*or "Gentiles"*). The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."
 4. Josephus, the Jewish historian, was governor for a time in the area of Galilee.
 - a. Josephus said "**there were 204 villages in the area of the Galilee and each with a population of at least 15,000 people.**"¹
 - 1) Thus Jesus was within reach of **3 ½ million people.**

III. Jesus calls some disciples. (v. 16-20)

¹ Barclay, William. Mark

A. Simon & Andrew. (v. 16-18)

1. "Sea of Galilee."

- a. The surface is 680 ft. below sea level.
- b. 130 ft. to 148 ft. deep
- c. North to south is about 13 miles.
- d. The greatest breadth is in the north is over 7 miles.
 - 1) It gradually narrows toward the south.
- e. The warm-water of the lake is clear and sweet.
- f. It's really a lake.²

2. The Fishing Industry.

- a. Josephus, a Jewish historian, tells us that in his days, there were 330 fishing boats that sailed on the Sea of Galilee! It was a fishing industry!
- b. We usually think of Simon and Andrew with their little boat, and they throw their line in and fish. But...
 - 1) They used big nets to scoop up a bunch of fish at one time.
 - 2) It seems that they were not very good fishermen because in the Bible, they only caught something when Jesus was around.
- c. Jesus shows up at their work.
 - 1) How would you feel if Jesus showed up at your work?

3. "Casting a net."

- a. Their jobs were Prophetic of their future ministries.
- b. "Casting a net" is what they will be doing as evangelists.

4. The Calling! (v. 17)

- a. "Come ye after Me..."
 - 1) Not an organization.
 - 2) Not a Church.
 - 3) Not a theological system.
 - 4) Not some prophet.

² International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Electronic Database Copyright (c)1996 by BibleSoft

- 5) Follow HIM!
- b. "...and **I will** make you to become fishers of men."
 - 1) **NOTE:** They were not called to become fishers of men! They were called to follow Jesus!!!
 - a) I am not called to be a pastor... As I've followed Jesus, He has made me a pastor!
 - 2) **KEY:** Intimacy always precedes ministry. Don't worry about what you're called to! Pursue Jesus Christ and let Him make you what HE wants!
 - a) Jesus did **not** die on the cross and shed His blood so that you could **have a calling; He died on the cross to redeem you for FELLOWSHIP with God!!!**
 - 3) **They were called to leave their *natural* profession and to follow Jesus – not knowing where it would lead!**
5. (v. 18) "*And immediately they forsook their nets and followed Him.*"
 - a. This isn't the first time He's called these guys.
 - 1) This is about a year later than when these guys met Jesus.
 - b. In John 1:35-42, Jesus meets Simon and says, "Simon, I'm going to call you Rock."
 - 1) Jesus changes his name to Peter, but the Holy Spirit sovereignly puts the name Simon here. His name was put back to the old one.
 - c. It seems as if Peter didn't follow the Lord at first.
 - 1) Here, he forsakes his nets and followed Jesus, but it would seem that he went back to fishing again until a little later.
 - 2) His name was changed, but he didn't abandon the old life until Mark 1:39 somewhere. (Cf. Luke 5:1-11)

B. James & John. (v. 19-20)

1. "*When He had gone a little further.*"
 - a. Simon and Andrew were just down the way a little bit because they were partners with James and John. (Luke 5:10)

2. *"James and John were in the ship mending their nets."*
 - a. *"Mending"* – Greek lit. *"to equip."*
 - 1) Their jobs were Prophetic of their future ministries.
 - 2) *"Mending their nets"* is a picture of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry as pastor-teachers (Eph 4:11-12).

3. Picture yourself being the father, Zebedee.
 - a. You're working and working with the nets, and you hear someone call with a loud voice in your direction. You turn around and glance over to where your two sons were working, and all that's left are these nets on the boat! "Where did they go?" Then you see their backs as they walk away.
 - b. "Hired servants."
 - 1) Their dad Zebedee could still go on with the business without them because he had the "hired servants."
 - 2) They didn't leave him out to dry.

IV. Jesus is Calling You to Follow Him!

- A. Luke 10:38-42.
- B. Hosea 6:6; Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 5:39-40.
- C. Acts 9:1-6; Philippians 3:10-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-7.