

MARK

- THE STORY OF JESUS -

PART 3 - THE IRREPRESSIBLE REALITY

Mark 1:9-13

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

This Passage Teaches Us ...

1. About the irrepressible reality
2. About how that reality was threatened
3. About how Jesus reclaimed reality for us

1. The Irrepressible Reality

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The Trinity in Creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1-3

C S Lewis

In Christianity God is not an impersonal thing nor a static thing – not even just one person - but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, a kind of drama, almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a kind of dance ... [The] pattern of this three-personal life is ... the great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very centre of reality. Mere Christianity

What is the Trinity?

1. God is three persons
2. Each person is fully God (John 6:27, John 1:1-4, Acts 5:3-4)
3. There is one God (Deuteronomy 4:35, John 5:44)

The Nature of the Trinity

Each of the divine persons centres upon the others. None demands that the others revolve around him. Each voluntarily circles the other two, pouring love, delight and adoration into them. Each person of the Trinity loves, adores, defers to and rejoices in the others. That creates a dynamic, pulsating dance of joy and love. The early leaders of the Greek church had a word for this — perichoresis. Notice the root of our word 'choreography' within it. It means literally to 'dance or flow around'.

Tim Keller

Plantinga

The Father ... Son ... and Holy Spirit glorify each other ...

At the centre of the universe, self-giving love is the dynamic currency of the Trinitarian life of God. The persons within God exalt, commune with, and defer to one another ... When early Greek Christians spoke of perichoresis in God they meant that each divine person harbours the others at the centre of His being. In constant movement of overture and acceptance each person envelops and encircles the others.

Amazing Truths

- ... to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13
- I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” John 17:26

2. Reality Threatened

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. Mark 1:12-13

Temptation 1

“If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,
“ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Matthew 4:3-4

Temptation 2

“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

Matthew 4:6

Temptation 3

... the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' "

Matthew 4:8-10

3. Reality Restored in Jesus

God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

... one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

C S Lewis

In self-giving, if anywhere, we touch a rhythm not only of all creation but of all being. For the Eternal Word also gives himself in sacrifice. When he was crucified he 'did that in the wild weather of his outlying provinces which he had done at home in glory and gladness' from before the foundation of the world ... From the highest to the lowest, self exists to be abdicated and, by that abdication, it becomes more truly self, to be thereupon yet the more abdicated, and so forever. This is not a ... law which we can escape ... What is outside the system of self-giving is ... simply and solely Hell ... that fierce imprisonment in the self ... self-giving is absolute reality.