

The Gospel of Mark

Mark 1:1-11 DESERT ROADS – October 19, 2025

READ MARK 1:1-11

Road work through the desert... Admiration for people you have never met.

Preparation

Now, leading up to a divine moment upon the shoreline of the Jordan, where the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, will soon descend from heaven upon Christ, the voice of God the Father will confirm the person and mission of Jesus, there was a young man, born just months apart from Jesus, but set apart as the last Old Testament prophet.

Great Confirmation (Matthew, Mark, & Luke)

The Gospels start off by looking back
Isaiah 40:3

- Malachi 3:1

Foretold by Malachi and described by Isaiah

Prophecy should provide at least two very real dynamics to our faith.

1. Confirmation
2. Confidence

THE YEAR IS 29 AD. JESUS is 3 ½ YEARS AWAY FROM THE CRUCIFIXION, is amongst the crowd on the bank of the Jordan River. Day 1 of His public ministry is about to commence.

The Setting?

A crisis has been reached in the history of the Roman Empire. Rome held absolute sway over the known world and had reached her highest pinnacle of development under Augustus and was now on the downward road of decline.

Slavery abounded and cruelty was normalized, the sacredness of marriage had disappeared and a plethora of ungodly relationships replaced it. Emperor's were worshiped and might was substituted in the place of right, justice fled from the land. Charity and Goodwill disappeared as well as honest manual labor. The current philosophies offered no relief, but only led to deeper darkness and despair.

Rome was in trouble, the world was failing, and God had been silent for over 400 years.

Enter John the Baptist

John the Baptist – a Nazarite from the womb

Cousin of Jesus

Last OT Prophet

Luke 3:2 “The word of God came to John”

- Haggai’s prophecy
- Zachariah’s prophecy
- Malachi’s prophecy

A phrase that was tied to a prophetic message from God to be delivered by a messenger of God to the people of God.

Son to a priest - John’s father was a priest in the synagogue – qualifying him for a similar role, but he would take on something far outside of what would have been expected.

A young man, living in the wilderness, clothed in camel’s hair, a belt of leather, and eating locusts dipped in honey.

Wilderness:

Does not mean he was an outdoorsman or enjoyed camping.

Matthew – the desert of Judea

Luke – John went into “all the country around the Jordan”

Wastelands of the Dead Sea

Not your norm... Not in the palace of kings nor in the synagogues...

The kind of character and fortitude that is forged in solitude is unmatched by anything else we will ever experience. – If you are in a season of deep solitude, let God do a deep work on your soul.

Moses, Paul, Jesus’ soon 40 days,

Camel’s Hair:

- Similar to sackcloth, signifying mourning and judgment.
- Nothing like what the priests and Pharisees would have worn.

Belt of leather:

- Plain and meek... not stylish or making any kind of statement.
- Wilderness, wild food, wild guy.
- *Anyone who is going to call people out of the world and into a new life, had better be living a new life that is clearly removed from the world.*

Luke 7:24-25 & 28 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? “But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments?

“For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist;

Business or a duck blind, I don't care. BUT DRESS LIKE A MAN.

PARTICIPATION

Repentance and confessing their sins: turning to the Lord...

Pointing your face and feet towards the Lord and your back to the world. TURN!

Look what Jesus says as He kicks off His ministry – [vs. 14-15](#)

Preaching a baptism of repentance

The nation was exceedingly familiar with the ritualistic, ceremonial use of water baptism.

BUT THIS WAS REVOLUTIONARY – Brood of vipers (unclean and dangerous) We don't need to do this... we are children of Abraham.

The Greek word comes from the root, which literally means to dip or to die. It was a common word among those in the trades. Wool or fresh cloth was prepared first by dipping into bleach and then into dye. *The emphasis, however, is not in the procedure of dipping, but rather in the results of the procedure.*

The woven cloth or unprocessed wool was dull, and it needed to be cleansed. The appearance was changed by putting the cloth into bleach and then dyeing it. *When it emerged from the bleach, it was clean and white, and when it emerged from the dye, it's appearance was full and fully altered.*

Baptism: The word metaphorically means to change identity, to change appearance or even to change relationships

The confession and act of public and bold baptism is a confession that someone is terminating their relationship with their old society, including their allegiance to any old gods and ways of living, and he was joining themselves to something new.

1. *John's baptism is directly connected to the almost arrival of the Savior* - it was a confession that you believed the Messiah would soon appear, and you would live waiting for that moment. (Like a bride prepared for her groom)
2. True divine revelation will lead to true repentance
3. It was a confession that you were not cleansing yourself, but the Messiah, who would soon show up, would cleanse you of your sins.

When God moves, He moves people.

So many came from Judea and Jerusalem –

Confessing their sins – agreement and transparency

There was a realization of their sins and a turning towards righteousness.

Being baptized in the Jordan River

Don't tell me what you believe... SHOW ME!!!

The Preparation – Prophecy

The Participation – God moving upon a man that God would move amongst men.

THE PROMISE

What John knew

Something divine, powerful, transformational, and world-changing was going to take place.

One who comes after me (JOHN WAS NOT THE ANSWER but someone was mighty and holy)

One who is MIGHTIER than I:

One Who I am unworthy of

HOLY 3x not just pure and undefiled but altogether different

Not worthy to be the least worthy

Not flogging himself with pity or fake shame, just simply true. Unworthy.

Isaiah – I am an unclean man among unclean men

HOLY SPIRIT – Indwelt, transformed, etc.

John: Entire Outside

Jesus: Entire Inside – regeneration

You don't kind of need Jesus!!! Completely

WHEN GOD MOVES, HE MOVES PEOPLE

HAS GOD MOVED YOU?

THE REGENERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Titus 3:4-5 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

THE WAIT WAS OVER!

Jesus was in the crowd. – MARK 1:9-11

**It was not for forgiveness... it was confession that you believe the Savior was coming.
Do you think Jesus thought the Savior was coming? YOU BET!**

Was Jesus all in? To the point of death.