

THE GOSPEL OF  
**MARK**®  
*servant* **KING**

**CHAPTER 1, PART 1**

*Verses 1-28*

**PREPARATION & BEGINNING**

The opening chapter of Mark moves very fast. It briefly covers the preparation of the people by John the Baptist as prophesied in the Old Testament, the baptism of Jesus and the visible/audible affirmation by the Father, the temptation of Jesus, the calling of disciples, and then the onset of His work—preaching, teaching, and healing. As you read through the text, make note of the many times the word “immediately” is used.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Then a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’* **Mark 1:11**

**Read Mark 1:1-28 thoughtfully in prayer.** As you concentrate on Jesus and who He is, what attributes of His character speak to you the most?

**THE OPENING**

1. What is the beginning that Mark refers to in verse 1?
2. At the very beginning of this book, Mark establishes the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. Why would this fact be so important to the reader? (See John 20:31; Romans 1:1-4.)

“In ancient times, before a king visited any part of his realm, a messenger was sent before him to prepare the way. This included both repairing the roads and preparing the people. By calling the nation to repentance, John The Baptist prepared the way for the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah and Malachi join voices declaring that Jesus Christ is the Lord, Jehovah God.” *Warren Wiersbe*

### **THE FORERUNNER**

3. The coming of John the Baptist was foretold in the Old Testament by two Prophets. What was John likened to (vv. 2-3)? (Cross reference: Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:30.)

4. According to Mark 1:4, what type of baptism was John’s baptism, and what was the people’s response to John’s message?

“The baptism of John’s was a baptism of preparation—not salvation. The people were being prepared for the coming of the Savior. It was limited; it was not yet complete—Jesus had not yet died for the sins of the world.” *Pastor John Randall*

5. Mark 1:6 shows us that John the Baptist was unusual. He was humble in dress, diet, and habitation but bold in his preaching and exhortations. Read Matthew 11:11(a). Note what Jesus says of John the Baptist.

6. In Mark 1:7, what did John say that emphasized his humility?

7. What was the difference between John’s baptism and the baptism Jesus would do (v.8)?

John's baptism with water prepared the believer to receive Christ's message of repentance, humility, and a willingness to turn from sin. When Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit, the entire person is transformed by the Spirit's power. Jesus offers both forgiveness of sin and power to live for Him.

**THE BAPTISM OF JESUS**

8. In Mark 1:9, Jesus comes from Nazareth of Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized, but John the Baptist hesitates. Read Matthew 3:13-15. Why did Jesus say He needed to be baptized? Why did Jesus come from Nazareth of Galilee to the Jordan?

9. After coming up from the water, what did Jesus immediately see? What did He hear (vv.10-11)?

**THE TEMPTATION**

10. Again in Mark 1:12 we see the word "immediately." Who was with Him in the wilderness and what else does verse 13 describe?

11. Read Matthew 4:1-11. What were the temptations offered to Jesus and what were His responses? Make note of the repeated phrase.

<b>MATTHEW 4</b>	<b>TEMPTATION</b>	<b>JESUS'S RESPONSE</b>
<i>Verse 3</i>		
<i>Verse 6</i>		
<i>Verse 9</i>		

12. What was the devil's main goal in the temptations of Jesus, and what is his goal in our lives? (Also see Matt. 4:9; Luke 4:7; James 1:13-15; John 10:10.)

### **DWELL ON THIS**

Temptation is common for us as believers. What we do when tempted is so important in our walk with Jesus. We have to be prepared to fight temptation when it comes into our lives. Jesus "...was in all points tempted as we are yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15b). The following verses are helpful when faced with temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

"Let no man think himself to be holy because he is not tempted, for the holiest and highest in life have most temptations. How much higher the hill is, so much is the wind greater; how much higher the life is, so much stronger is the temptation of the enemy." *John Wycliff*

### **JESUS'S MINISTRY IN GALILEE**

Mark is not recording here from the beginning of our Lord's ministry. Jesus had ministered in other places (see John 1:35-4:4). King Herod had put John the Baptist in prison, and wisdom would dictate that Jesus move on to Galilee.

13. Complete the first message of Jesus recorded in Mark 1:15:

"The time is \_\_\_\_\_, and the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ is at \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_."

14. How does a person enter the kingdom of God (v.15b)? (Cross reference: 2 Peter 1:11; Colossians 1:13.)

15. What does the phrase "at hand" signify? (See 2 Corinthians 6:2.)

“The Kingdom of God is both a present reality and a future revelation. The present reality is that the King, Jesus, is to be reigning in the heart of those who have repented and believed in Him. It’s also a future revelation wherein our King returns and establishes His kingdom upon the earth.”

*Pastor John Randall*

## **PERSONAL**

Have you truly repented or are you living in worldly sorrow? (Cross reference: 2 Corinthians 7:10; Psalm 51:3-4, 17.)

## **FOUR DISCIPLES CALLED**

16. Four disciples were called by Jesus (vv.16-20). What did they have in common?

17. In verses 17-20, what did Jesus ask them to do? What did He promise them, and how soon did they respond?

“They weren’t the best or the brightest. They weren’t the cream of the crop; the top of the class. They were average, ordinary. They were rugged, they were common fishermen. This gives me such great comfort. Because the Lord delights in using ordinary people like us to do extraordinary things for His kingdom.” *Pastor John Randall*

## **PERSONAL**

Jesus changes our professions and our walk in this life after we decide to follow Him. How has Jesus changed your goals and pursuits in life? Have you become a fisherman for souls? Can you recall a time God called you to leave something behind in order to follow Him? How did you respond? (Choose one or more to answer.)

“We make our decisions, and then our decisions turn around and make us.” *F.W. Boreham*

## JESUS CASTS OUT AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

18. Jesus moved on to Capernaum and taught on the Sabbath in the synagogue. What was so different about Jesus's teaching and what was the reaction of the people (vv.21-22)? (Also see Luke 4:32.)

19. In Mark 1:23, there was a man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit. What did he cry out and what were his questions (v.24)? (Also see Luke 4:33-35.)

20. Fill in the blanks below on how the unclean spirit addressed Jesus.

a. In His humanity \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.24b)

b. In His Deity \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.24c)

“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!”

James 2:19

21. How did Jesus rebuke the unclean spirit and what was the result (vv.25-26)?

22. In the people's excitement of Jesus, what were their comments and reactions (v.27)?

## PERSONAL

How are you spreading the fame of Jesus in your sphere of influence? When was the last time you spoke up for Jesus? What is stopping you?

## DWELL ON THIS

People today need to hear about Jesus. In Mark 1:15, Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.” Today is the Day of Salvation!



