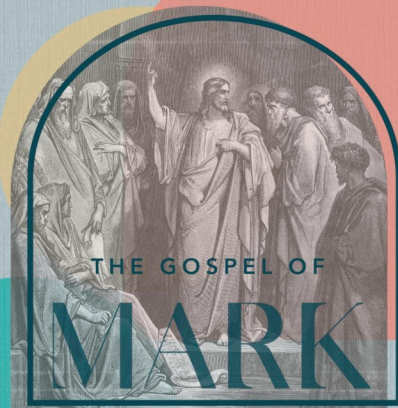


July 2, 2023

FINDING JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS

Pastor Jason Uptmore // Mark 1:1-13



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,
Who will prepare Your way;
3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
‘Make ready the way of the Lord,
Make His paths straight.’”

4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. 6 John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey. 7 And he was preaching, and saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. 8 I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; 11 and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

12 Immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness. 13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by our summer sermon series?

- What are your favorite summer activities?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

- 01.** Mark set the stage for his gospel with an introduction to John the Baptist, the prophesied messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah, the Son of God. John came forth from the wilderness and preached a message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Although he gained a great following, his message emphasized the coming arrival of one that was greater than himself (v. 1-8).

- What stands out most to you in these opening verses of Mark's gospel?

GROW IN THE WORD

- How would you describe what John the Baptist was meant to do for Jesus? See Exodus 23:30; Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3.
- How do repentance, forgiveness, and the Spirit all relate to each other? Compare v. 4 with v. 7-8 and see Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5-6.
- What does this passage reveal to you about your own need for repentance and forgiveness?

02. As Jesus emerged from the waters of John's baptism, the skies split apart, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, and God the Father declared Him to be His beloved son. Following this profound event, the Spirit drove Jesus to the wilderness, where he faced forty days of temptation by Satan himself. God sent angels to aid Jesus (v. 9-13).

- What role does the Spirit play in Jesus' baptism and subsequent time in the wilderness?



GROW IN THE WORD

- What's the relationship between sonship, the Spirit, and suffering?
See Romans 8:14-17; Hebrews 12:4-7.

- How can you seek guidance and empowerment from the Holy Spirit in the face of your own wilderness?

UPCOMING EVENTS

ON MISSION: JULY 8

Workplace Discipleship | 9 am

Come and learn from our friends at BLE (Biblical Leadership for Excellence) about how to engage people at your workplace in gospel conversations. Register online or in our app!



PRAYER GATHERING

Sunday, July 9 | 8:30 am | 111 Ivywood

We'd love to invite you to join us at our next Pray for Our World gathering where we'll spend time in guided prayer over the region of Europe, it's people, and the Wayside mission partners serving there!

