

Mark 1:1-13 | *Introducing: Jesus*

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¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”–

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

QUESTIONS

1. **Opening Sharing Qn.** Read v.1. What do you feel is the biggest change in your life since you came to believe this good news about Jesus (i.e., since you became a Christian)?
2. Read vv.4-8. John the Baptist knew and lived his role. His own ministry was drawing crowds, but he was not seduced by fame. Instead he faithfully pointed people to Jesus. Sadly, in what ways can we Christians sometimes hinder others from coming to Jesus?

3. Read vv.9-11. Since Jesus had no sin to confess or repent of, why do you think He chose to go through water baptism?
4. Read vv.12-13. Jesus was tempted when he was most physically vulnerable - exhausted, hungry, and alone. When are you most vulnerable to spiritual attack? How can you be on your guard?
5. **Key Application Qn.** Our church theme for 2021 is "Following Christ in Every Season". Today's sermon highlighted five "Ps" to focus on.



Share with your CG: which one or two of the 5 "Ps" do you need to grow in the most? What are some steps that you can take? Pray for one another.