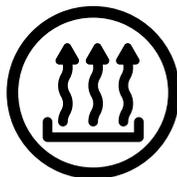




The Gospel of Mark



WARM-UP

What is something that you looked forward to for months or years before it arrived? How did you feel about it before it was here? How did you talk about it with others?

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

The Gospel of Mark is traditionally thought to be the first of all the gospels to be written down. It was written by John Mark, coworker of Paul and Barnabas, and most likely recorded from Peter's account. Throughout the book, Mark focuses on the actions and ministry of Jesus which is why instead of genealogy or theology, Mark begins his book with what prepared the way for the Good News of Jesus; John the Baptist.

MARK 1:1-11 (NIV)

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, a 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."



What stands out to you?



Vs 2-3 are quoting Isaiah 40:3. Mark is setting up Jesus' identity by bringing in the Old Testament and identifying that there indeed was a forerunner to Jesus. Why do you think it was so hard for the Jewish leaders to connect what they were seeing with what they knew in the OT?



Where else have you seen locusts and also honey in the bible? What might this tell us about John the Baptist and Jesus?

"The dove is above all a *bird for *sacrifice, as was true already in the time of Abraham (Gen15:9). According to Leviticus 1:14, if one's offering is a burnt offering of birds, then they will be turtledoves or young pigeons. The unpleasant ritual, which involves the priest wringing the neck, draining the blood and tearing off the wings, is recounted in Leviticus 1:15-17. Elsewhere we read that doves and pigeons are the offerings of the poor, those who cannot afford a sacrifice from a flock (Lev 5:7; 14:21-22)..."

- [Dictionary of Biblical Imagery](#), pg 216



In verses 10-11 we see all of the Trinity mentioned. Not only that, but this imagery of a dove reveals so much of who Jesus is. List out how this foreshadows and validates Jesus.

"Psalm 2. God made David and his descendants kings in order to fulfill the purpose for which Abraham was called: to bring blessing to all nations (Gen. 12:1-3). At a time when Gentile Kingdoms sought to throw off Israelite rule, this psalm recalls the promises made to the Davidic king at his coronation. Gentiles will find lasting joy only as subjects of this king. The Psalm also looks to the future, when the Davidic Messiah will rule all nations. "

- [Commentary from the ESV Global Study Bible](#)



As read above, Psalm 2 was read during coronations for Kings of Israel. What do you think the significance is of having this spoken over Jesus after He was baptized?



Can you think of any other times in the Bible where the number “40” has been used? Based on all the stories, what can we infer about the significance of 40?

MARK 1:12-20 (NIV)

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.

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.

19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.



How does that impact you to know that our God also went through waiting and testing?



Look at Jesus’ invitation to the first disciples. What do you notice?

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- How is God calling you to share His Good News to those around you this week?
- How can you be seeking Jesus and His truths about repentance and the coming of the Kingdom of God as we study Mark together?
- So many jews missed the OT signs of the Messiah. What is making it harder for you to see Jesus in your life right now?