

Mark 1

Read Mark 1:1-8

1. Mark quotes Old Testament prophecy about a messenger who will come from God. Where will the messenger work?

What is his task?

What is his message?

2. In what ways does John the baptizer fulfill the Old Testament prophecy about the messenger?
3. In what ways would John's ministry prepare the people for the Messiah?

How does repentance prepare us to receive a Savior?

Read Mark 1:9-15

4. What are the unique events at Jesus' baptism?

How are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit represented here?

5. If you were asked to paint a mural of verses 12 and 13, what kingdoms or realms would you portray?
6. After his temptation, Jesus begins to preach the good news of God in Galilee. What does this suggest about the outcome of his temptation?
7. What similarities and what differences do you see between Jesus' preaching (verse 15) and John's (verses 4, 7, 8)?

Read Mark 1:16-20

8. From what class of society does Jesus call his first disciples?

Why, do you think, doesn't he call some of the scribes or priests instead?

9. How does Jesus change the focus of the work of Simon and Andrew?

What indications are there that James and John are perhaps younger and financially better off than Simon and Andrew?

10. What comments might the families or neighbors have made when these four followed Jesus?

What reactions would there be today?

Read Mark 1:21-28

11. In the synagogue at Capernaum, what impresses the people about Jesus' teaching (verses 22, 27)?

12. How does the unclean spirit address and identify Jesus?

What pronoun does the spirit use in referring to himself?

What does he fear?

13. How do Jesus' two commands make it clear that he regards the unclean spirit as a separate entity from the man it is possessing?

Read Mark 1:29-34

14. How do the four disciples react to the crisis they find in the home of Simon and Andrew?

15. What events of this Sabbath day stimulate the crowd's activity at sundown?

16. Why would Jesus silence the demons again as in verse 25?

Read Mark 1:35-39

17. On the Sabbath day Jesus taught in the synagogue, cast out the evil spirit, healed Simon's mother-in-law, and after sunset healed the sick and cast out many demons from the people the crowd brought. After such a day when, where and why does Jesus pray?
18. What are Simon and the disciples looking for Jesus?

How is this a temptation for Jesus?

19. Why does Jesus set the priorities on his ministry of preaching and healing as he does?

Read Mark 1:40-45

20. Lest the reader conclude from verse 38 that Jesus does not care about people's physical needs, Mark records Jesus' response to a leper. What question does the leper have?

What would it mean to the leper to have Jesus touch him rather than just speak to him?

21. How does the leper's disobedience of Jesus' strict order interfere with Jesus' plan?

Summary Questions

1. How does Mark begin to prove his thesis that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
2. What indications are there that Jesus is also truly human?
3. What impressions do you get of Jesus thus far?