

Discussion Questions:

1. What has been the most life-changing lesson you have learned so far in your study of the Gospel of Mark?
2. In 1:2, Mark says it is written in Isaiah the prophet but then he quotes from Malachi 3:1. In 1:3 he quotes from Isaiah 40:3. Did Mark make a mistake? If not, why did he say "Isaiah" and then quote from Malachi?
3. What was the context of Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3? How would those passages support John the Baptizer's message of repentance?
4. Gentiles were baptized when they converted to Judaism, but was it normal to baptize a Jew? What was the significance of John baptizing Jewish people?
5. In 1:6, Mark tell us what John was wearing. What Old Testament man dressed that way? What is the significance of comparing John to him?
6. Compare the baptisms of the people in 1:5 with the baptism of Jesus in 1:9-11. What are the similarities and what are the differences?
7. Why was Jesus baptized by John?
8. What is the significance of the proclamation by God the Father? Why is this critical in the Prologue to the Gospel of Mark? How important would this be to the Roman readers of Mark?
9. Why does the Spirit of God "impel" Jesus out into the wilderness? What is the significance of the "wilderness" in the Prologue? [Note "wilderness" in v. 3, 4, 12, 13]
10. Why doesn't Mark give more information about the temptation in the wilderness like in Mt. 4 & Lk. 4? What is Mark's point in pointing out that Jesus was tempted by Satan?
11. Why does Mark bring up wild beasts and angels in v. 13? How does Ps. 91 relate to this?
12. The Old Testament prophets, John the Baptizer, God the Father, and God the Spirit all unashamedly proclaimed to the world that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. How are you personally involved in getting the Gospel of Jesus Christ out to the world? To whom will you personally proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ this week?