

The Beginning of the King's Ministry

Mark 1:9-13

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Mark 1:9-13 *It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹²Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. ¹³And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.*

Introduction

Last week we looked at Mark introducing us to John the Baptizer as the herald for Jesus the promised King. He quoted Scripture to let his audience know that this coming King was planned beforehand for the world. This is the gospel—the King comes to save people from sin and this King was God Himself—the Son of God. Mark starts off at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and focuses on the herald of John the Baptist. He cries out that the One who is greater than him, of whom John is not worthy to stoop and tie His sandals, is coming. He is coming and the people need to be ready to meet Him.

After a brief look at the herald, John the Baptizer, Mark now focuses on the King—the beginning of His ministry.

I. Coronation of the King (9-11)

Mark 1:9-11 *It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Mark 1:4-5 *And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The 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.*

Note: John's baptism was to show the fruit of their repentance. It accompanied with the confession of sin.

- It came to pass in those days
 - Fullness of time
 - Jesus leaves Nazareth to be baptized in the Jordan
 - 30 years of waiting...now is the time
- Was baptized by John in the Jordan
 - Why was Jesus baptized?
 - Jesus did not need to be baptized because He was sinless
 - John tried to stop Him from being baptized

Matthew 3:14 *And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"*

Note: John tried to stop Jesus from being baptized because his baptism was a baptism of repentance of sin and confession of sin. Interestingly, the Greek phrase indicates that When John recognized Jesus, he knew that Jesus had no sin and had no need of being baptized. John even went as far as to say that he needed to be baptized by Him. How did John know this?

Mark 1:8 *I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

- God commanded John to baptize people

John 1:33 *I would not have known Him, except that the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, "The Man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit."*

- Fulfillment of righteousness

Matthew 3:15 *Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.*

Note: Since God has commanded John to baptize people, then let us fulfill what God has commanded. Jesus was obedient to everything that His Father has commanded.

Application: This is His active righteousness, and that is imputed to us. What does this mean? It means that when we are in Christ, God sees us as if we have lived Christ's life, and He was perfectly obedient.

- Coronation by God

- Heavens opened up
 - Greek term means to split open

Note: For the first time in 400 years, God speaks to the children of Israel. He has spoken to individuals, but not to the whole nation. Here He reveals Himself to all people.

- The visible coronation

and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

- Bodily form (visible)

Luke 3:22 *and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove.*

John 1:32 *Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him."*

Note: This is not a vision. Everyone who was there saw this about Jesus.

- Dove
 - The Holy Spirit did not come down as a bird
 - His descent was like a dove's flying down and landing—gentle and soft

- The audible coronation

Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- Father speaks
 - This is the Authority that crowns Jesus as King

Isaiah 42:1 *Here is My Servant, whom I uphold, My Chosen One in whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on Him and He will bring justice to the nations.*

Mark 11:27-33 They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to Him. ²⁸"By what authority are You doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave You authority to do this?" ²⁹Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ³⁰John's baptism-was it from heaven, or from men? Tell Me!" ³¹They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe Him?'" ³²But if we say, 'From men'...." (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) ³³So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Note: They asked Jesus for authority...there was one. The voice from heaven was proof that Jesus is acting on His Father's authority. His challenge to the Pharisees exposed their own blinded hearts. He refused to provide any answers to the priests because they would not believe Him anyway.

II. Victory of the King (12-13)

¹²Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. ¹³And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

- Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness
 - Immediately
 - There is no break between His baptism and His journey to the wilderness
 - Spirit drove Him
 - Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit

Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert.

- Drove Him
 - Throw out, strong push
 - God's will for Jesus to be out in the wilderness (desert)
 - His purpose is that Jesus be tempted by the devil

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

- Into the wilderness
 - Why the desert?
 - Lonely place, isolated
 - Filled with wild beasts

Note: Mark highlights the loneliness of the place. He is utter alone. He is where the wild beasts are. If there are wild beasts, then there are no people around. So when He is tempted, He has no help. He must face Satan alone. This highlights the difference between Adam and Jesus. Adam was tempted in a lush garden. He was tempted in companionship with Eve. Adam fell. Here Jesus is totally alone.

- He was in the wilderness 40 days, tempted by Satan
 - 40 days
 - Mark doesn't say that Jesus was without food for 40 days

Matthew 4:2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.

Luke 4:2b *He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them He was hungry.*

Note: Jesus is physically weakened. This is a long time to be without food. If Jesus is to be King, then He must be able at His weakest and at His loneliness to conquer the enemy.

- Tempted by Satan
 - Jesus was continually tempted by Satan during the 40 days
 - Matthew and Luke record 3 at the end of the 40 days
 - How was Jesus effective?
 - He quoted Scripture and resisted the devil
 - It was not the last time that Jesus faced temptation

Luke 4:13 *When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until an opportune time.*

Note: The Holy Spirit drove Jesus so that He would be tempted by Satan. The Holy Spirit did this so we can know that our King has victory over His adversary.

- Angels ministered to Him
 - Fed Jesus
 - Confirmation that the Father is still well pleased with His Son

Conclusion

Hebrews 4:14-15 *Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

Think about what our King went through! He was thrown by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil for 40 days. Our King overcame His weakness and triumphed over the devil. He gives us the same victory over sin and temptation.