

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for May 15, 2016

Mark 1:9-13
Final Preparations

I. The baptism of Jesus (1:9-11)

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

A. Jesus approaches (1:9)

9 "In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan."

- Verse 9 is a summary statement of 1:9-11
- "In those days" connected to Mark 1:4-8, the height of John the Baptist's ministry
- Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
 - Contrast to "all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem" (1:5)
 - Also, signifying Jesus' stepping out of private into public to begin His public ministry
- Question: Why was Jesus baptized by John?
 - Clearly He was not confessing sin (John 8:45-46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5)
 - John 1:31 "I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."
 - Act of obedience submitting to and agreeing with God's plan
 - "To fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15)
 - Self-identification with nation of Israel and thus numbered among the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12)
 - Self-dedication to His Messianic mission signifying His official acceptance and entrance into it

Example: Baptism was the first domino to fall and set in motion Jesus' public ministry culminating in His death and resurrection

- Philippians 2:5-8 "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

B. Jesus anointed (1: 10)

10 "And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove."

1) Heaven is torn open

- Isaiah 64:1 "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence--"
- Same word for tearing of the curtain in the temple (Mark 15:38)

2) Holy Spirit descends like a dove

- Spirit hovering at creation (Genesis 1:2)
 - Jesus is the new Noah (Genesis 8:6-12)
 - Probably to show Jesus empowered by Spirit of humble self-sacrifice
 - Dove=Bird of sacrifice for the Jews
 - Jesus' mission was a mission of sacrifice as the Suffering Servant
- Important to note Spirit is upon Him
 - Isaiah 11 and 61 Spirit is upon the Messiah
 - Jesus will baptize with Spirit (1:8) yet He is baptized and receives the Spirit (1:9-11)

C. Jesus acknowledged (1:11)

11 "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'"

- Voice from heaven only happens two other times in Jesus' ministry
 - Transfiguration (9:7) and Passion Week (John 12:28)
- Not certain that everyone heard the voice, maybe (John 1:31-34)
- Father declares Jesus to be Beloved Son in whom He delights
- Combined two Old Testament texts:
 - Psalm 2:7 "I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you.'"
 - Isaiah 42:1 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."
- Jesus is both royal Son of David and Suffering Servant of the Lord
 - Notice: No election, No Sanhedrin discussion, Not announced in the temple, Jesus elected into office by God out in the wilderness
 - Notice: Trinity present like Matthew 28:18-20 (Great Commission)

II. The temptation of Jesus (1:12-13)

12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

A. Led by the Spirit (1:12)

12 "The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness."

- Immediately shows us Mark's writing style
- Immediately also connects baptism to temptation
 - Temptation was Messiah/Servant's first order of business
- "drove him out" same verb for when demons are driven out of people
- Jesus was compelled by the Spirit to enter into the wilderness

B. Tempted by Satan (1:13a)

13a "And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals..."

- Tempted by Satan in the wilderness fits with demonic description of wilderness
 - Matthew 12:43 "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none."
 - Luke 8:29 "For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)"
- 40 days reference to God testing Israel in wilderness for 40 years
 - Deuteronomy 8:2 "And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not."
- Synoptics add that Jesus was fasting
- Synoptics tell us content of temptation from Satan
- "Being tempted" means that this was repeatedly
- Emphasis: Wild animals unique to Mark's description
 - Boars, jackals, wolves, leopards and hyenas
 - Probably not pretty paradise picture but terrifying element
 - Adam failed in Eden, but Jesus succeeds in the wilderness

C. Served by angels (1:13b)

13b "... and the angels were ministering to him."

- Angels give sense of human and divine nature of Jesus
 - Human in that He was experiencing weakness
 - Divine in their treatment of Him as the Messiah