

Day 1 Reading

The Ministry of John the Baptist

1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 1:2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
1:3 the voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

1:4 In the wilderness John the baptizer began preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 1:5 People from the whole Judean countryside and all of Jerusalem were going out to him, and he was baptizing them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. 1:6 John wore a garment made of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 1:7 He proclaimed, “One more powerful than I am is coming after me; I am not worthy to bend down and untie the strap of his sandals. 1:8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

1:9 Now in those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. 1:10 And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 1:11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my one dear Son; in you I take great delight.” 1:12 The Spirit immediately drove him into the wilderness. 1:13 He was in the wilderness forty days, enduring temptations from Satan. He was with wild animals, and angels were ministering to his needs.

Preaching in Galilee and the Call of the Disciples

1:14 Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel of God. 1:15 He said, “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel!” 1:16 As he went along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon’s brother, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). 1:17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will turn you into fishers of people.” 1:18 They left their nets immediately and followed him. 1:19 Going on a little farther, he saw James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother in their boat mending nets. 1:20 Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

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Isaiah (1:1) A prophet from the Old Testament around 700 B.C.

Repentance (1:4) A change of mind that will be acted on in the future

Spirit (1:10) The Holy Spirit, God, a member of the Trinity

Gospel (1:15) The good news about God and His relation to people

Day 1 Questions

We all could use a new beginning. Maybe today is a good starting place for your life.

1. What does the first sentence in the book of Mark tell us about its purpose? (1:1-8)
2. Jesus endured temptations from Satan. How do you think He had the strength to do this? (1:9-1:13)
3. What do you think it means to “repent and believe in the gospel”? (1:14-1:20)

Take a moment to reread this section.

1. What is one question you have from Day 1?
2. What is one phrase or idea that catches your attention or speaks to you from Day 1?
3. In a word or a short phrase, what is one thing you learned about Jesus from Day 1?
4. Based on what has happened in your life in the last 24 hours, why do you think God had you read this today?