

JESUS in the Judean Outback?

Mark 1:1-13

☞ **What would you like to praise God for today?**

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

¹ Here begins the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

² In the book of the prophet Isaiah, God said,

"Look, I am sending my messenger before you,
and he will prepare your way.

³ He is a voice shouting in the wilderness:

'Prepare a pathway for the Lord's coming!

Make a straight road for him!' "

⁴ This messenger was John the Baptist. He lived in the wilderness and was preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had turned from their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁵ People from Jerusalem and from all over Judea traveled out into the wilderness to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁶ His clothes were woven from camel hair, and he wore a leather belt; his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He announced: "Someone is coming soon who is far greater than I am--so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ And when Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with you."

The Temptation of Jesus

¹² Immediately the Holy Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness. ¹³ He was there for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.

Mark 1:1-13 (NLT)

☞ **Pray for God's guidance**

1. What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten?
2. What do the contexts of the quotes (Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1) teach about the "coming one"? (vv.2-3)
3. Why is John's ministry so popular? So important? (vv. 4-5)
4. Given John's message (vv. 7-8), what type of person is the crowd anticipating? (see Isaiah 32:15-20)

5. What from your life illustrates what it means to repent?

Why is that the starting point for coming to Jesus?

6. John the Baptist prepared "the way for the Lord." Who prepared the way for the Lord in your life?

7. As Jesus came out of the water as He was being baptized, what did the voice from heaven say?

8. What do you think the dove and voice (vv. 10-11) meant to Jesus as He came out of the water?

As He entered the desert?

During His temptation? (Matthew 4:1-11 contains an account of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness)

How would all this prepare Him for what lies ahead?

Wrap up: What would you like to hear God say to you?

Prayer: For one another

For our outreach efforts

LIFE GROUPS

A safe place to build friendships and grow spiritually.

- L ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
- I ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
- F ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
- E ♦ Evangelism..... reaching others with the hope of Christ