

Wild Animals and Angels

Mark 1:9-15

Main Idea: Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the Servant-King who fights God's enemies on behalf of God's people.

- I. The Baptism of Jesus Was a Declaration of Sonship (1:9-11).
 - A. It inaugurated His public ministry (1:9).
 - B. It identified Him with sinful humanity (1:9).
 - C. It associated Him with John's ministry (1:9).
 - D. It demonstrated His approval by His Father (1:10).
 - E. It revealed the triune God (1:9-11).
 - F. It showed His total dependence on the Holy Spirit (1:10).
 - G. It declared the type of Messiah He would be (1:11).
- II. The Temptation of Jesus Was a Declaration of War (1:12-13).
 - A. Jesus was submissive to the Spirit (1:12).
 - B. Jesus was engaged by Satan (1:13).



:9 This is how it happened. Around that time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the river Jordan.



:10 That very moment, as he was getting out of the water, he saw the heavens open, and the Spirit coming down like a dove onto him. :11 Then there came a voice, out of the heavens: 'You are my wonderful son; you make me very glad.'



Mark for Everyone by N.T. Wright

"One of the things Mark is saying to us, in the way he's written his gospel, is that when we look at the whole life of Jesus that's how we are to understand it. Look at this story, he says, look at this life, and learn to see and hear in it the heavenly vision, the heavenly voice. Learn to hear these words addressed to yourself. Let them change you, mould you, make you somebody new, the person God wants you to be. Discover in this story the normally hidden heavenly dimension of God's world."

:12 All at once the Spirit pushed him out into the desert. :13 He was in the desert forty days, and the satan tested him there. He was with the wild beasts, and angels waited on him.



Jesus redeems the journey through the wilderness. Israel spent 40 years because of unbelief in who God was and what he was doing for them. Jesus spends 40 days knowing who he is and knowing God is for him. He rewrote the story of God's beloved.

Have you seen that in your own life? Jesus steps into your story—he doesn't destroy it and start over—he rewrites it.

One example close at hand is the apostle Paul. After receiving the best training in writing and speaking and arguing, Saul found himself suddenly meeting Jesus. God rewrote Saul's story. He then used all of Paul's gifts for writing and speaking and arguing, for his glory and for the gospel. He is rewriting your story because you are his beloved.



Mark 1:14-15

Main Idea: Jesus came to inaugurate His kingdom by proclaiming the message of the gospel to faithful followers who would carry this message to all people.

- I. We Must Proclaim the Right Message (1:14-15).
 - A. The time is fulfilled.
 - B. The kingdom of God has come near.
 - C. Repent!
 - D. Believe in the good news.



:14 After John's arrest, Jesus came into Galilee, announcing God's good news.

:15 'The time is fulfilled!' he said; 'God's kingdom is arriving! Turn back, and believe the good news!'



Time to get to work

Mark ends this bullet-point synopsis and gets to the point: Once John's ministry ended, Jesus' began. He started proclaiming the good news. He started sharing his love and life with others. He picked up the work of redemption, restoration, and reconciliation. The Spirit led him into the ministry to prepare for ministry. He went in with full confidence and assurance; he came out with mission and purpose. It was time to get to work. It still is.



- We talked about Jesus replaying the story of Israel's journey in the wilderness. How does this help you make more sense of the gospel and the Bible in general?
- The sermon claims the temptations of Satan wasn't really a battle. Why do we make this claim? What does identity have to do with dealing with temptation and testing?
- When have you struggled with trusting that God will take care of you?
- What do we mean by "it's time to get to work"?





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