A Study of Mark 1

I. Outline. From Headings in NIV
5. The First Disciples are Called (16-20; Matthew 4.18-22).

II. Summary.
Contents: Ministry of John the Baptist. Baptism and temptation of Jesus and His first Galilean ministry. Demons cast out, sickness healed, leprosy cured.
Characters: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, John the Baptist, Satan, Simon, James, man with demons, Simon’s mother-in-law, leper.
Conclusion: The deity of Jesus Christ is fully attested by the seal of the Father from heaven, His victory over Satan, His authority to call men, and His power over evil spirits and all manner of diseases.
Key Word: First ministry, vv. 1, 14, 21, 32.
Strong Verses: 11, 17.

Striking Facts: v. 35. There is no conflict between the fact of the deity of Christ and His dependence upon the Father in prayer. His prayer life on earth was the manifestation of His perfect communion with the Father before He came into the world. The fact that Jesus never asked anyone to pray FOR Him, is a further proof of His deity. He was superior to all human intercession.


Things Emphasized in Mark [NIV First Century Study Bible, with notes by Kent Dobson, 2014, Zondervan, an Olive Tree Bible Study App Module].

1) The Cross. Both the human cause (12.12; 14.1-21; 5.10) and the divine necessity (8.31; 9.31; 10.33-34) of the cross are emphasized by Mark.

2) Discipleship. Special attention should be paid to the passages on discipleship that arise from Jesus’ predictions of his passion (8.34—9.10; 9.35—10.31; 10.42-45).

3) The Teachings of Jesus. Although Mark records far fewer actual teachings of Jesus than the other Gospel writers, there is a remarkable emphasis on Jesus as teacher. The words ‘teacher,’ ‘teach’ or ‘teaching’ and ‘Rabbi’ are applied to Jesus in Mark 39 times.

4) The Messianic Secret. On several occasions Jesus warns his disciples or others to keep silent about who he is or what he has done (1.34, 44; 3.12; 5.43; 7.36; 8.30; 9.9).

5) Son of God. Although Mark emphasizes the humanity of Jesus (see 3.5; 6.6, 31, 34; 7.34; 8.12; 10.14; 11.12), he does not neglect his deity (see 1.1, 11; 3.11; 5.7; 9.7; 12.1-11; 13.32; 15.39).

III. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Christ.

If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here: http://bit.ly/Rvd8gW
IV. Words/Phrases to Study

- 1.1… THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST—“The object is to emphasize the gospel itself, not so much the many events leading up to it. He does not mention the birth or genealogy of Christ and many other events about John and Jesus, as in Matthew 1-3 or Luke 1-3. Such events would be out of harmony with the purpose of his gospel, which is to present Jesus as a servant of God. Genealogies of servants are never given” [Finis Jennings Dake, Dake’s Study Notes, An Olive Tree Bible Study App Module].

- 1.2… BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE THY FACE —“The first Old Testament prophecy fulfilled in Mark” (Mark 1.2 + Malachi 3.1) [Finis Dake]. “Messenger and make his paths straight (v. 3), call forth the image of a king visiting his realm. In ancient times a messenger was sent ahead to announce the coming of the king. Local communities would often repair rough roads to ensure the comfort of the king as he traveled. The quartet of Isaiah, Malachi, John the Baptist, and the writer Mark proclaims the coming of the King of all kings, Jesus Christ” [Earl D. Radmacher, General Editor, New King James Study Bible, an Olive Tree Bible Study App Module].

- 1.3… THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS—“The second Old Testament prophecy fulfilled in Mark” (Mark 1.3 + Isaiah 40.3) [Finis Dake]. “The Dead Sea Scrolls community was inspired by this verse, a quotation of Isaiah 40.3, and believed it to be a literal call to move to the wilderness (Qumran). … The traditional site of John’s baptism was only a couple hours’ walk from Qumran. It is unlikely that John was a member of the sect, but he was probably aware of their message” [Kent Dobson, NIV-FCSB].

- 1.5… AND THERE WENT OUT UNTO HIM ALL THE LAND OF JUDAEA—“It is not to be taken literally, that every person in all the land of Judea and they of Jerusalem were baptized every one. This is a figure of speech to emphasize the great number of people who were obedient unto John’s baptism. It must be remembered that the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being NOT baptized of John (Luke 7.29-30)” [B.C. Carr, in The Book of Mark, Edited by Jim Laws, 14th Spiritual Sword Lectureship, p. 75 ].

- 1.6… CLOTHED WITH CAMEL’S HAIR, AND WITH A GIRLDE OF A SKIN ABOUT HIS LOINS; AND HE DID EAT LOCUSTS AND WILD HONEY—“John’s name in Hebrew means ‘the grace or mercy of Jehovah,’ a most appropriate name for the forerunner of Jesus who brought the fullness of grace and truth (John 1.16-17)” [Finis Dake]. “The innumerable fissures and clefts of the limestone rocks, which everywhere flank the valleys, afford in their recesses secure shelter for any number of swarms of wild bees; and many of the Bedouin, particularly about the wilderness of Judaea, obtain their subsistence by bee-hunting, bringing into Jerusalem jars of that wild honey on which John the Baptist fed in the wilderness (Tristram, Land of Israel)” [Vincent’s Word Studies].

- 1.7… THE LATCHET OF WHOSE SHOES I AM NOT WORTHY TO STOOP DOWN AND UNLEOSE—“Many of the ancient shoes were only soles with strings or thongs to tie around the foot. Unlatching shoes was considered a mark of respect on the part of a disciple to a master” [Finis Dake].

- 1.8... HE SHALL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY GHOST—“John, himself baptized with water. It would take one who was mightier than John to baptize with the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3.11). Jesus cites these words in Acts 1.5. He makes application to the apostles as the recipients. The Father was the one who had promised such and was the only one who could administer Holy Ghost baptism (Luke 24.49). This was fulfilled beginning on Pentecost A.D. 33, as recorded in Acts 2. It enabled the apostles to be witnesses of our Lord in preaching the gospel (Acts 1.8). The baptism of the Holy Ghost was not given to any for the purpose of removing their sins in order for salvation” [B.C Carr, p. 76].

- 1.11… THOU ART MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED—“…Jesus’ baptism affords an opportunity to know something of the Godhead. On this occasion the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were each in a different place, and each is depicted in a different role. The Father acknowledged
the Son from Heaven, the Spirit descended, and Jesus was at the Jordan (Matthew 3.13-17)” [J.K. Gossett, in Studies in Mark, edited by Dub McClish, 2002 ADL, p. 54].

1.13… **AND HE WAS THERE IN THE WILDERNESS FORTY DAYS, TEMPTED OF SATAN**—“The forty days have symbolic significance and recall the experiences of Moses (Ex 24.18) and Elijah (1 Kings 19.8, 15) in the desert. Only Mark mentions the wild beasts—a touch that heightens the fierceness of Jesus entire temptation experience” [Walter W. Wessel, in The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 8, p. 623].

1.14… **THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD … 1.15… THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND**—“The main theme of John’s preaching had been, ‘Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ‘Now after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe in the gospel.’ The connection shows that the gospel of God which Jesus preached was the good news that the kingdom of God was at hand—its establishment was near. That was not man’s opinion, but God’s statement of a truth. To prepare for that kingdom many believers repented and were baptized. To say that God did not give the kingdom to these obedient believers is to accuse God of dealing falsely with them. Jesus made two emphatic declarations; namely, ‘the time is fulfilled,’ and ‘the kingdom of God is at hand.’ To say that this kingdom is yet future is to say that both statements of Jesus were, and are, false” [R.L. Whiteside, Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary, 1944, p. 20].

1.17… **I WILL MAKE YOU TO BECOME FISHERS OF MEN**—“When He calls, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men,” He promises a lifelong learning and growth process. Not by accident, He chooses unschooled and unsophisticated fishermen. What a miserable start for world evangelization. We must never forget that Jesus knows what He is doing. He wants teachable men without intellectual preconceptions or cultural mindsets that will be insurmountable barriers to truth. I am a self-made tennis player, modestly successful in a game built upon bad habits. A tennis lesson destroys me because I begin trading confidence in bad strokes for hesitation with good strokes. Of all the students of tennis, I am the worst kind because I must unlearn bad habits before I can stamp in the good ones. My twelve-year-old son is just the opposite. With nothing to unlearn, he strokes the ball better after three lessons than I do after thirty years. Without a doubt, he will be the first of my sons to beat me. The learning principle is obvious. It is easier to learn than it is to unlearn. Jesus chooses men who have little to unlearn. Like hungry fledglings with their mouths wide open, they have nothing to hinder the process of becoming "fishers of men." Teachability is second only to trust” [David L. McKenna, The Preacher’s Commentary, 1982-1992, Word, Inc., an e-Sword Module].

1.20… **AND THEY LEFT THEIR FATHER … WITH THE HIRED SERVANTS**—“Peculiar to Mark It may imply that Zebedee carried on his business on a larger scale than ordinary fishermen” [Vincent’s Word Studies].  “Though it was common to work in the family business one’s whole life, the disciples appear to have been relatively young. The text mentions that Peter was married but does not mention children (v. 30). According to Luke, Jesus was around 30 years old (see Luke 3.23), and almost certainly the disciples would have been younger than their rabbi” [Kent Dobson, NIV-FCSB].

1.21… **SYNAGOGUE**—“Synagogues were numerous among the Jews from the Babylonian captivity on. They were erected in all cities and towns and in the country on rivers, that there might be plenty of water for the many washings. Ten Jews could start one, as it took this many to run and support such a place. There were many in all lands for each Jew was required to attend services every Sabbath. Jerusalem alone had 480 of them. They were places of instruction and worship. They were also places for courts of justice (Luke 12.11; Acts 9.2). Officers and a council of 3 to 13 men were chosen by the congregation to teach school and hold court concerning religious and civil cases (Matthew 10.17; 23.34; Acts 22.19; 26.11; John 9.22, 34; 12.42; 16.2). Priests were honored but had no official standing unless they were members of the council or served as
teachers. The leader or president could ask anyone to speak, read Scripture, or expound the law. Christ often spoke in the synagogues (Matthew 4.23; 13.54; Mark 6.2; Luke 4.15-22; John 18.20), as did the apostles (Acts 13.5, 15; 14.1; 17.10-17; 18.19). Services were held in them 3 times on the Sabbath. The scribes and lawyers in every community in Israel were the school teachers and interpreters of the law and used such places for almost daily instruction. They were built on the highest ground and were often without roofs, being situated so the worshipper entering could pray toward Jerusalem (cf., Daniel 6.10). **Chief Things in Every Synagogue:**

1) An ark or chest containing the Law
2) Raised platform and a desk from which to read and expound the law
3) Seats for the men below and galleries for women above, or in others a low partition separating men and women
4) Seats for officers in front of the platform facing the congregation
5) Lamps to give light in the evening services and at feasts
6) Apartments for the many utensils, alm-chests, and other needful things” [Finis Dake].

- **1.23… A MAN WITH AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT**—“The term ‘unclean spirit’ was used by the Pharisees to refer to evil spirits. It was in contrast with the ‘cleanliness’ and purity of God. The point is that these spirits were not wholesome. They were seen as excluded from God’s presence by their uncleanness, their lack of moral fitness. We should note that in Mat.4:24 a clear distinction is made between those who are diseased, those who are lunatic and those who are possessed with devils. It is wrong to think that in those days men necessarily saw all disease and madness as resulting from evil spirits” [Peter Pett. *Commentary Series on the Bible*, an e-Sword Module].

- **1.24… I KNOW THEE WHO THOU ART, THE HOLY ONE OF GOD**—“Demons knew Jesus and recognized His authority (Acts 19.15). Perhaps the demon sought to show acquaintance with Jesus to discredit Him and make it appear that He was in league with the demon world, but Jesus put an end to this by casting him out, thus proving that He was their enemy and showing that He had power over them” [Finis Dake].

- **1.28… GALILEE**—“A region in northern Israel that contained a lake by the same name. In the Old Testament, Galilee formed a part of the tribe Naphtali’s territory (Joshua 20.7). King Solomon gave twenty of its town to the king of Tyre to pay him for temple wood supplies, but the king, unimpressed by the land, was less than flattered by the offer and refused (1 Kings 9.11-13). Galilee was one of the first areas of Israel whose people were deported to Assyria at the start of the Assyrian exile (2 Kings 15.29). It is called ‘Galilee of the nations’ in Isaiah’s well-known messianic passage (Isaiah 9.1), probably because the area included a mix of Jews and non-Jews since the Naphtalites had failed to drive out all of its previous inhabitants (Judges 1.33). Matthew interprets Christ’s ministry in Galilee as the fulfillment of this Isaiah passage (Matthew 4.12-16). In the New Testament, Israel was divided into three districts. Galilee was the farthest north and lay west of the Sea of Galilee. Some of its main towns included Capernaum, Cana, and Bethsaida. Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth was in the region of Galilee, where much of His ministry took place (Matthew 11.1; Mark 1.14; Luke 23.5; John 7.1). Jesus was often linked with Galilee (Matthew 2.11; 26.69; John 7.52), which confused Jews not expecting a Messiah from Nazareth (John 7.41). Herod served as the Jewish ruler of Galilee during Jesus’ life (Mark 6.21; Luke 3.1). Galileans had a different accent from people in Jerusalem, which is likely what marked Peter as a Galilean before he denied his relationship to Jesus (Mark 14.70). Jesus told His disciples after His death and resurrection in Jerusalem that He would meet them back in Galilee (Matthew 28.10; Mark 14.28; 16.7) Galilee naturally became a central region of the early church” [Olive Tree Places of the Bible, an Olive Tree Bible Study App Module].

- **1.29… THEY ENTERED INTO THE HOUSE OF SIMON AND ANDREW, WITH JAMES AND JOHN**—“The mention of these four—which is peculiar to Mark—is the first of those traces of Peter’s hand in this Gospel, of which we shall find many more. The house being his, and the illness and cure so nearly affecting himself, it is interesting to observe this minute specification of the number and
names of the witnesses; interesting also—as the first occasion on which the sacred triumvirate of Peter and James and John are selected from among the rest, to be a threefold cord of testimony to certain events in their Lord’s life (see on Mark 5:37)—Andrew being present on this occasion, as the occurrence took place in his own house” [JFB].

- **1.30… SIMON’S WIFE’S MOTHER LAY SICK OF A FEVER**—“Remnants of an ancient church presumed to have been built upon this house were found in Capernaum. Excavations revealed fishing implements under the first-century floor” [Kent Dobson, *NIV-FCSB*]. “Luke, as was natural in ‘the beloved physician’ (Colossians 4:14), describes it professionally; calling it a ‘great fever,’ and thus distinguishing it from that lighter kind which the Greek physicians were wont to call ‘small fevers,’ as GALÆN, quoted by WETSTEIN, tells us” [JFB].

- **1.35… DEPARTED INTO A SOLITARY PLACE, AND THERE PRAYED**—“He was about to begin His first preaching and healing circuit; and as on similar solemn occasions (Luke 5.16; 6.12; 9.18, 28, 29; Mark 6.46), He spent some time in special prayer, doubtless with a view to it. What would one not give to have been, during the stillness of those grey morning hours, within hearing—not of His ‘strong crying and tears,’ for He had scarce arrived at the stage for that—but of His calm, exalted anticipations of the work which lay immediately before Him, and the outpourings of His soul about it into the bosom of Him that sent Him!” [William Hendriksen,

- **1.36… SIMON AND THEY THAT WERE WITH HIM FOLLOWED AFTER HIM**—“katedioxan. The word found only in Mark. Simon and his companions, as well as the people of the city, seem to have been afraid lest he should have permanently left them. Hence the compound verb indicates that they followed Him EAGERLY, pursued Him as if He were fleeing from them. Simon, true to his nature, was foremost in the pursuit:…” [Vincent’s Word Studies].

- **1.38… LET US GO INTO THE NEXT TOWNS, THAT I MAY PREACH THERE ALSO**—“Our Lord’s present purpose was, not to remain in any one place, but to make the circuit of Galilee; not to work miracles, but to preach” [Henry Alford, *The Greek New Testament—An Exegetical and Critical Commentary*, an e-Sword Module].

- **1.44… OFFER FOR THY CLEANSING THOSE THINGS WHICH MOSES COMMANDED**—“This implied that he must bring the required offering (Leviticus 14:1-7). That offering consisted of two clean, living birds. One had to be killed. In its blood the other bird had to be dipped and then released. The blood of the slain bird was also sprinkled over the healed man; in fact, seven times. He was then pronounced cured. When the priests hear that it was Jesus who had so completely and instantly cured this man, they will have received an irrefutable testimony to Jesus' power and love. They will also know that even though Jesus condemns human traditions that make void God's holy law, he does not disobey that law” [William Hendriksen, *Baker’s New Testament Commentary*, 1975, an e-Sword Module].

---

V. Lessons & Applications. Content below is from: B.C. Carr, in *The Book of Mark*, Edited by Jim Laws, 14th Spiritual Sword Lectureship, pp., 79-81, under the heading—“Lessons We Can Learn from John”…

- **Servants of God Need to be Content with the Simple Things of Life.** John was clothed with camel’s hair, and garments of the poor. He ate locusts and wild honey (Mark 1.6). These were things available in the wilderness. Many preachers need to learn the lesson of contentment. “For godliness with contentment is great gain.” “Having food and raiment, let us be therewith content” (1 Timothy 6.6-9). Many who strive to keep up with the “joneses” lose sight of their great mission in serving God. They become miserable I following after the things that bring sorrow and discontent.

- **We can learn to stand with conviction against sin.** Too many today are running with the crowd trying to determine what people want to hear and then preaching soothing sermons. John was not this kind of a preacher. He was not a shaking reed blowing in the wind (Matthew 11.7). He boldly confronted Herod concerning his marriage. No doubt he knew that this was unpopular but he told
Herod that it was not right for him to have his brother Phillip’s wife (Mark 6.17). This caused him to be beheaded (Matthew 14). This was not the only sin that John condemned, for Luke tells us that he not only reproved Herod because of his brother, Phillip’s, wife, but also for all the evils which Herod had done (Luke 3.19). Some preachers find it convenient today to look the other way when sin appears in the congregation. They find other sermons to preach so as not to offend the guilty. Thereby, they are able to boast of long tenures at one place. We need more men who can preach with the conviction of John.

- **We could learn from John how to preach on repentance.** Many preachers today have a specialty upon which they preach frequently. If John had one it seems to have been on the subject of repentance. We need to get back to more basic preaching on this great Bible subject. When people are truly motivated to repent of their sins, it will not take such persuasion to get them to be baptized and to do all that the Lord commands us to do. But some willfully avoid this kind of preaching. One well-known educator recently said in a public address, “We do not need descriptive preaching today.” He thought people already knew of their shortcomings and that preachers should avoid giving people a “guilt-trip.” John had no such hang-ups. His preaching was very pointed, being both descriptive and prescriptive. People responded in great numbers.

- **We can learn from John that one does not need a great cathedral from which to preach the everlasting gospel.** For the most part, his preaching was done in the wilderness. Multitudes gathered to hear him. Someone has said, “If you will build a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to your door.” Marshall Keeble said, “If you put good food in the hog’s trough you can’t keep them away. But if you give them only colored dishwater, they will not return for the feeding.” Much of that being offered from the pulpits from our land today has little Bible content.

- **We can learn from John the great lesson of how to take the second place.** Too many want to be regarded as the “top dog” where they minister. John always knew that he was not the bridegroom but rather he rejoiced to be called the friend of the bridegroom (John 3.29). He could predict the increase of Jesus but his own decrease in importance without shame or embarrassment. He freely admitted there is one greater than I (Mark 1.7). How wonderful it would be if all of us would learn to serve well in lower positions that may be presented to us.

- **John is a great example of one who could not be provoked to jealousy and envy.** When some of his disciples came to him reporting that Jesus was baptizing and that all men were coming to Him, it did not make John jealous. The Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John. John did not feel that he was in competition with our Lord, but answered, “A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven” (John 3.27). There is too much petty jealousy among preachers and others in the church of our Lord. We should rejoice in any good that is accomplished by ou brethren and forever stifle that feeling of envy that causes some to sin.

- **Finally, we should be impressed with the purity of life that John lived.** It is an absolute necessity for those who would lead God’s people today, to be themselves examples of purity in life (Luke 1.15). John had no fear that some evil deed of his past life would be found out which would hinder the great work that he was to do. Just imagine what a tragedy it would have been if one, at the very peak of John’s ministry, had announced that John had been found out to be an adulterer or that he had defrauded others in some financial deal. To be the most effective servants of our Lord, we need to be an example to others (1 Timothy 4.12).

### VI. Questions.

**True or False**

01. _____ We are told about the emotion Jesus felt when he reached forth and touched the leper.

02. _____ Matthew 17.5 repeats some of the words found in this chapter.

03. _____ Holy Ghost baptism is not mentioned in the Bible.
04. _____ James was John’s brother.
05. _____ Simon Peter was never married.

**I Found it in Verse(s)**

06. _____ People were astonished at the doctrine taught by Jesus.
07. _____ Jesus moved from village to village for the purpose of preaching to them.
08. _____ Verse where Mark calls Jesus the Son of God.
09. _____ Where we learn the type of place Jesus went when He wanted to pray.
10. _____ John was put in prison.

**Short Answer**

11. John the Baptist’s clothing and food:

12. Jesus told the cleansed leper to say nothing to any man, BUT, he went out and began to
_______ it much.

13. _________ of _________ Jesus would make Simon and Andrew if they chose to come and follow Him.

14. What Jesus said to a demon or unclean spirit:

15. This happened at sunset:

**Each Question is worth 7 Points**

**My Score is: _______**

*Answers will be found on next week’s handout*
VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle. The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. –DRL

BAPTIZE  CAME  CAST  CLEANSED  COME
CRIED  DEVILS  DISEASED  ENTER  GALILEE
GOSPEL  HEAVEN  IMMEDIATELY  JESUS  JOHN
MAKE  OPENED  PLACE  PREACH  REPENT
SIMON  SPIRIT  STRAIGHTWAY  SYNAGOGUE  THERE
THING  VOICE  WENT  WHEN  WILDERNESS
VIII. Crossword Puzzle.

Mark 1 (KJV)

ACROSS
02) What Jesus did a great while before day.
04) Where Jesus was baptized of John.
08) People at Capernaum did this among themselves.
10) John felt unworthy to unloose Jesus’
12) Simon’s wife’s mother did this after being healed.
13) What John ate.
14) Jesus departed to this kind of place.

DOWN
01) The unclean spirit cried with this kind of voice.
03) Since Jesus taught with authority, hearers were...
05) They ministered unto Jesus.
06) John had a girdle of a ____ about his loins.
07) Jesus with ____ commanded even unclean spirits.
09) Jesus entered the synagogue to teach on this day.
11) James was John’s.
IX. **EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...**

Will you please consider answering these **three SIMPLE questions** based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a **great help to all of those in the class if you will do so.** Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!

**W O R D:  What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?**

**W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...**

**W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...**