

Daniel Perrin – Lesson 1: The Beginning of the Gospel – Wednesday July 3: Jesus' Baptism

Text: **Mark 1:9-18** – *It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹ Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. ¹² Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. ¹³ And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.*

1. Mark's Brief build-up
 - a. Scriptures pointed to a mighty forerunner
 - b. The forerunner appears
 - c. His words: Someone MIGHTY, Someone WORTHY is coming – HE will Baptize with Fire and Holy Spirit
2. FIRST GLIMPSE of Jesus
 - a. HE is Baptized – *like us*
 - b. HE hears God's voice, which He must believe – *like us*
 - c. HE is led by and obeys the Holy Spirit – *like us*
 - d. HE is Tempted – *like us*
 - e. HE is ministered to by Angels – *like us*
 - f. This is NOT what was expected
 - g. He is HUMBLE
 - **DA 650.1** – *In My kingdom the principle of preference and supremacy has no place. The only greatness is the greatness of humility. The only distinction is found in devotion to the service of others.*
3. Let's take these One at a time
 - a. HE is Baptized – like us
 - Jesus was baptized, but it was NOT because of His need to be cleansed
 - Mark simply shows Jesus leading the way that we must follow.
 - b. HE hears God's voice, which He must believe – like us
 - We trust God's Word in Scripture
 - c. HE is led by and obeys the Holy Spirit – like us
 - Spirit PROMPTS through the thoughts – no one else is described as seeing this.
 - Jesus' followers will be characterized by purity and peace that others will see.
 - The Holy Spirit shows us a Glimpse into Heaven – God's Plan.
 - d. HE is Tempted – like us – I want to focus here for a while
 - Jesus' First Official Act: Face the Accuser FACE-TO-FACE
 - His First PUBLIC ACT will be to Cast Satan Out – We will study this next week.
 - "Tempted" – full attack from Satan
 - There is a REAL Satan with REAL weapons and REAL strength
 - Satan is happy for us to doubt his existence of paint him as a fairy tale red-suited devil.
 - He's also happy for us to exalt his power when we SHOULD focus on Christ!
 - He resisted temptation – But He didn't resist BEING TEMPTED
 - **1 John 3:8** – *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*
 - Jesus' example shows us that Baptism DOES NOT FREE US FROM TEMPTATION

- God ALLOWS temptation, but He makes available every tool for us to be victorious
- Temptation is NOT a sin – It is a reminder that we must turn to God’s Word for our power
- Thoughts may *enter* your mind – but you choose the thoughts to meditate on, imagine, ponder, act on
- **Hebrews 2:18** – *For in that **He Himself** has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*
- APPLICATION of Jesus becoming “like us”:
 - **DA 123.3** – *“The prince of this world cometh,” said Jesus, “and hath nothing in Me.” [John 14:30](#). There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; **He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit**. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character.*

e. HE is ministered to by Angels – like us

- That is not just a statement – It’s a PROMISE!
- Surrounded by beasts – because this is the wilderness / no people there
 - Jesus was ALONE – ministered to by Angels AFTERWARD
- WE have the help of ministering angels IN our conflict
- **Hebrews 1:14** – *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*
 - Though your Physical Eyes may not see them, this Scripture opens our spiritual understanding to trust that God has Angels WITH US, MINISTERING TO US.
 - Jesus endured MORE than we endure.
- **1 John 5:18** – *We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.*

DA 493.1 – *There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?*

GC 516.3 – *There is nothing that the great deceiver fears so much as that we shall become acquainted with his devices. The better to disguise his real character and purposes, he has caused himself to be so represented as to excite no stronger emotion than ridicule or contempt. He is well pleased to be painted as a ludicrous or loathsome object, misshapen, half animal and half human. He is pleased to hear his name used in sport and mockery by those who think themselves intelligent and well informed.*