

Good News In The Wilderness

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, November 4, 2018; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme – Jesus is the Promised Messiah who enters into the wilderness of our lives to do battle with the devil; and where Adam and Israel failed, the Lord Jesus will prevail and win the victory on our behalf, as our great Rescuer.

I. Introduction to the Messiah – Read Mark 1:1-3

- A. What do you think Mark means when he says, “*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*” What section or sections do you think verse 1 is the beginning of?
- B. How would you define the following terms in verse 1: gospel, Christ, and Son of God?
- C. Verses 2 and 3 contain a combined quote from Exodus 23:20, Malachi 3:1, and Isaiah 40:3. What is the background of each of these passages and the significance in reference to Jesus?

II. Preparation for the Messiah – Read Mark 1:4-8

- A. In what ways does John the Baptist remind you of the prophet Elijah? After reading Acts 19:1-7, how does John’s baptism of repentance compare to believer’s baptism found in Acts 2:36-41?
- B. How do John the Baptist’s comments and actions demonstrate that Jesus is superior to him?

III. Affirmation of the Messiah – Read Mark 1:9-11

- A. If Jesus is without sin, why do you think He was baptized? How is Matthew 3:13-17 helpful?
- B. What are the significance of the heavens being torn open (Isaiah 64:1) and the Spirit descending on Jesus like a dove (Isaiah 11:1-9)? How does this help us understand Jesus as the Messiah?
- C. Verse 11 contains a combined quote from Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1. What is the background of each of these passages and the significance of the quote in reference to Jesus?

IV. Confirmation of the Messiah – Read Mark 1:12-13

- A. Can you think of anyone else who was tempted by the devil or spent any extended time in the wilderness? How did things go for these folks with regard to their interactions with Satan?
- B. Comparing Mark 1:12-13 with Matthew 4:1-11. Why do you think Mark’s narrative is shorter?
- C. What’s the significance of Jesus being tempted by the devil in a very similar fashion to Adam and Israel and yet remaining sinless? How is Hebrews 4:15 helpful as you think about it?
- D. In what ways do you struggle with being enslaved to your sin? How is Mark 1:1-13 helpful as you think about all that Jesus has done to deliver you from the penalty and power of sin?