

**Mark**  
**Chapter 1:9-13**  
**“Dye, Dye, Die”**

**\*All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted\***

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid  
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**Teaching:** Last week, as we began our study of **the gospel of Mark**, we talked a bit about this character, John the Baptist and about the “Baptism of Repentance” than he brought to the people.

But in preparation for our study this morning, a few additional points are important to our understanding so would you read again with me ... **verse 4** ...

**Mark 1:4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**

**Q. So ... what then, did John’s baptism forgive the sins of the people who submitted to it?** – No, not at all and if you read it carefully, that’s not implied ...

**Q. Does it say that John came “performing” a baptism for the forgiveness of sins?** – No, it says that he came “**preaching**” about that baptism. It would seem then, that the baptism that he “preached” was not the baptism that he “performed”.

**Q. What?** – No ... the baptism that he performed was merely preparatory.

**Q. Wasn’t that his job?** –

**Mark 1:3 ... 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.'**

John’s job was to show people their sin and remind them of the just consequences of it ... eternal death in Hell.

So this “Baptism of Repentance” for the forgiveness of those sins was indeed good news and John’s introduction to that good news is what we read in **verses 7 & 8** ...

**Mark 1:7 ... he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. 8 "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."**

John was a minister who had no delusions of grandeur. He knew what his job was, but he

also knew what his job wasn't. He knew his limitations.

He could point out their sin, but he could not affect the forgiveness of it. For that, they needed Jesus ... not John, not Matthew ... not Dave or Travis or Scharry or Kim ... Jesus ... **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**

And for those of you who wish to ... you can read more about that in **John 20:22.**

**Q. So ... why am I dwelling on this baptism of John's?** – Verse 9 is why ... as we get started this morning ...

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**Verse 9:**

**Q. What ... did Jesus needed John to point out His sins?** – Couldn't be ... **Hebrews 4:15** says Jesus was without sin.

**Q. So why did He come to John for baptism then?** – Identification! He did it to identify with us ... with me and with you.

And it is noteworthy that in the prescription for baptism today (**Romans 6**), one of the chief aspects of that act is still identification.

People think of its symbolism of death and resurrection to newness of life and those things are true, but the purpose of baptism and its impact on us, is not just in the symbolism of death, but in a literal way ... dyeing ... that is ... "dyeing" as in D-Y-E-I-N-G.

It is intriguing to me because the Greek word for "Dye" ... D-Y-E, is not used in the Bible but it should have a familiar ring because it's the word Bapto which means "To take on the likeness of, by immersion". And I would be blown away if John and Paul and Jesus Himself didn't have that in the back of their minds as they each explained the baptism that's prescribed for all Christians ... then and now.

When Jesus submitted to the act of baptism, he was identifying Himself with us in our sin and when we submit to baptism we are identifying with Him in His righteousness ... taking on His likeness by immersion.

Doesn't sound like a fair trade to me, but hey ... it was His idea so I, for one, am happy to take advantage of it.

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**Verses 10-11:** What I want you to notice here is again related to this idea of identification.

Not being sinless, I don't think that any of us can accurately imagine what Jesus' emotions were like. For us ... all too often, our emotions are major problems, but Jesus' emotions were as submitted to the Father as every other aspect of Him. But that does not

mean that He didn't have emotions ... He clearly did.

So I would argue that by all estimations ... this had to be a spiritual and, at the same time, emotional, high for our Lord.

He was with the brethren; He had just been ritually cleansed through baptism and had delivered the long awaited message of God's identification with fallen man. And, as if that weren't enough ... the Father opened the Heavens and anointed Him publically with the Holy Spirit even as He thundered His approval from Heaven ... "Great job Son, I love You and I'm so proud of You."

So Jesus can relate to us in those times of closeness and spiritual intensity.

**Q. But what usually follows such a time in your life?** – For me, and very likely for you too ... it's the valley ... the pits ... dark times.

**Q. And so does our Lord relate to us then too?** – Let's read on ...

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**Verses 12-13:** Oh ya ... to the wilderness where Satan and the wild beasts are lying in wait to do you in.

Now those times often sneak up on us. We sometimes don't see them coming ...

**Q. But did Jesus? Did He know that Satan and the wild beasts were hiding under the rocks ... waiting to pounce on Him ... to hurt Him and if possible, destroy Him? Did He know that?** – Of course He did ... in fact it says that the Holy Spirit impelled Him to go.

And so again ... identification. Just like we feel the urging of the Holy Spirit ... so did Jesus. And so, at the Spirit's urging ... He went into the wilderness.

**Q. But why? What else?** – To identify with us. As we read in ...

**Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin . 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

He knows what it's like to have a spiritual high and He knows what we go through in those valleys of temptation and pain. He knows.

But I'll tell what else He knows ... He knows, not only how faithful the Father is, but how capable as well. We see that here as the angels were sent to minister to Him.

And Jesus could have made bread from the rocks to meet His physical needs, but instead He chose to do it just like we have to ... He relied on the provision of His Father.

But through that He shows us that when we're where the Lord wants us to be ... and we'll wait upon Him ... He will provide.

**Q. But let me ask you ... did the angels bring Jesus Filet Mignon and shrimp skewers?** – No ... you can read the story for yourself in **Matthew chapter 4**, but what we learn there is that the angels did not provide any food whatsoever for Him ... they allowed Him to feel hunger pains.

**Q. Why?** – You tell me! – Identification. "**Bapto**" ... He related to us so that we can relate to Him.

**Conclusion:** Now ... we've talked about the assignment that was given to John the Baptist ... reminding people of their sin and the consequence of eternal damnation because of it and then to tell them the good news ... the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And I told you last week that you have that same assignment, just as I do, but I'd like to turn on the spotlight of practicality for the balance of our time this morning and we're going to do that in the **16<sup>th</sup> chapter of John** (the apostle), not the Baptist.

I this is important because it tells us something about how we can, and in most cases, should approach this assignment a little differently than John did. And that is in no way to suggest that John did it wrong ... he clearly did not, but the rules of engagement have been modified.

**Q. By what?** – By the Lord's life, death resurrection, ascension and ... perhaps most important to the topic ... His sending of the Holy Spirit.

So let's read it together ...

**John 16:5 "But now [Jesus says] I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ' Where are You going?' 6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper [that is, the Holy Spirit] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. 12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you [explanations added].**

John was the sole preparer of the way of the Lord ... we are not. We have a “helper” ... a divine helper. And on the practical side ... if we’re going to do our job right ... we need to know that and we need exactly what the Spirit is doing and how.

John was wave one of one ... we are wave two of two. The Holy Spirit plows through and we follow up.

So let’s look at how this works ... I’ve provided handouts of some of these slides because making the font small enough fit, makes it hard to read ... so refer to the handout if you need to.

The Holy Spirit’s striving with man then involves these two things:

A. He makes man aware of his own problem – that is, He brings conviction.

B. He makes man aware of the solution – that is, Jesus Christ.

**Q. Which sounds an awful lot like the plowing work of John the Baptist doesn’t it?**

**Q. So – He convicts the world – how?**

“Conviction” [elegcho (el-eng'-kho)], means to examine and find guilt.

And it says that He finds guilt on the basis of three things; sin (verse 9), righteousness (verse 10) and judgment (verse 11).

1. Jesus says that the Holy Spirit convicts the lost of **sin** and then goes on to say “**because they do not believe in Me.**” Not sin because of all their bad deeds. Not sin because they murder and covet and steal, but sin because they do not believe in Jesus. Remember that the primary purpose of all that the Holy Spirit does is to bring people to Jesus Christ, so He convicts those who don’t yet know Him – because unbelief in Jesus Christ is the only sin that will send a man straight to Hell.

In fact the sin of unbelief is the one and only sin for which there is no forgiveness. In **Matthew 12** Jesus refers to it as “**Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit**” (verse 31). Since Jesus is the only source of forgiveness – for those who deny Him – there can be no forgiveness.

2. And ... the Holy Spirit also brings conviction because of righteousness. He says “**conviction concerning righteousness because [Jesus went] to the Father.**”

Man’s standards of righteousness are based upon comparison. Traditionally, the church considers things like honesty and giving and church attendance and even appearances and then measures those things on the scale of other people, but Jesus doesn’t mention any such thing here – only **righteousness, because [He goes] to**

the Father.

**Q. But what does Jesus going to the Father have to do with righteousness?** – Well you ask yourself – how much righteousness does it take to go to the Father?

Jesus said “... **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven**” (Matt 5:20). And these guys made a profession of maintaining external righteousness. They drove themselves into the ground trying to keep the Law perfectly and yet Jesus plainly declared that that was not good enough; “... **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven**”. And if you think that makes it sound impossible – you’re right.

In fact Jesus concluded that message by saying; “... **be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect**” (verse 48).

So the Spirit brings conviction – that is, He examines and finds guilt in all whose righteousness is less than what is necessary to ascend to the Father.

**3.** And third, the Spirit brings **conviction concerning judgment. Judgment, because the ruler of this world** [that is, Satan] **has been judged.**

**Col 2:15** When [The Father] **had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through** [Jesus].

**Q. But if Satan’s been defeated already -- why do we still live in a world where it often seems that Satan is more evident than God?** -- Because as we’ve seen -- Satan still has great power.

But his power is like the power of King Saul in **1 Sam 16**.

When God rejected Saul as king of Israel and He sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint young David as king. As that anointing took place -- David was king! But Saul wasn’t willing to give up his power and position and so he began to operate by deception. As long as he could make the people believe that he was still king, he had authority over them. But it was only usurped authority. It was a smokescreen of deception – much like the deception that Satan exercises. He was replaced at the cross, but just like Saul -- as long as he can make people believe that He’s still their king – then he is.

Satan was judged when Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary. So the Holy Spirit reproves the world of judgment because mankind has been given a choice. Satan is certainly too powerful for you and me ... so prior to Christ’s victory over him – he held us in bondage with no hope, but that’s no longer the case. Mankind no longer has to live under Satan’s power of deception.

Jesus' victory can become our victory so the Spirit brings conviction concerning judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged. So we either claim Christ's victory or we lose! You're either under the authority of the defeated one or the authority of the Victor.

So when the Spirit examines the unsaved – “guilty”, is the only possible verdict because we have been given free choice by Jesus' judgment of Satan.

And all of this is the work of the Holy Spirit of God. A work that He carries on and carries out day and night without ceasing. He prepares the way by tilling the soil ... turning people's lives upside down so that you and I can come along and be that loving, gentle and yet firm seed planter.

Our job is so much easier than John's because really ... we're only tasked with confirming what the Spirit has already done in the lives of people.

In many case all that remains is the announcement of the good news! And don't forget to tell them that ...

**Heb 4:15 ... we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin . 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

**Invitation as the Spirit Leads:**

**Teaching on Communion:**

**1 Cor 11:23 ..... The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."**

**25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**\* Signal P& W Leader as to whether or not to bring the team up before prayer.**