**You are My beloved Son**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Mark 1:9-13**

**Sunday Morning**

**June 15, 2025**

**Mark 1:9-20**

9 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 And 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.

**9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.**

Saints, Nazareth when he was a young boy and grew up there.

**Matthew 2:22-23**

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Nazareth was a small town in Galilee, located about halfway between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea.

The city was despised and avoided by many Jews because it had a reputation for independence.

Nazareth was an unlikely hometown for so great a king as Jesus. Yet even Jesus’ hometown demonstrated his humility and identification with ordinary people.

**If John’s baptism was for repentance from sin, why was Jesus baptized?**

While even the greatest prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) had to confess their sinfulness and need for repentance, Jesus didn’t need to admit sin—he was sinless.

**John 8:46**

Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Hebrews 4:15**

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**1 John 3:5**

And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Saints, although Jesus didn’t need forgiveness, he was baptized for the following reasons:

**1. To confess sin on behalf of the nation**

**Isaiah 6:5**

So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

**Nehemiah 1:6**

“please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned”

**Ezra 9:2-3**

“For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass."

**2.** **To fulfill all righteousness**

It was in order to accomplish God’s mission and advance God’s work in the world;

**Matthew 3:13-15**

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

**3. To inaugurate his public ministry to bring the message of salvation to all people**

**4. To show support for John’s ministry**

**5. To identify with the penitent people of God, thus with humanness and sin**

**6. To give us an example to follow God’s Way**

Jesus, the perfect man, didn’t need baptism for sin, but he accepted baptism in obedient service to the Father, and God showed his approval.

We need this same attitude of humility, submission to God, and dedication to servanthood.

**10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.**

Saints, apparently the action of the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove was a sign for John that Jesus was the Messiah.

The “splitting” of the heavens presents God’s intervention into humanity in the human presence of God in Jesus Christ.

It was as if the heavens rolled back to reveal the invisible throne of God.

**Isaiah 64:1-2**

1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence--2 As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil--To make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence!

**Characteristics of the Dove**

**Jesus' Baptism**

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all describe the Holy Spirit descending like a dove upon Jesus during his baptism. This event firmly established the dove as a symbol of the Spirit's presence and anointing.

**Gentleness and Innocence**

Doves are known for their gentle and peaceful nature, qualities that align with the character of the Holy Spirit. They are also seen as symbols of innocence and purity.

**New Beginnings**

The dove's appearance in the story of Noah's Ark, returning with an olive branch after the flood, also connects it with themes of reconciliation and new beginnings, further solidifying its symbolic meaning.

**Gentle Nature**

Beyond the dove, the Holy Spirit is also symbolized by fire and wind, but the dove is particularly emphasized for its ability to depict the Spirit's personal and gentle nature.

The dove serves as a visual reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence, peace, purity, and role in bringing about new life and transformation in believers

In the same way, since Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit, he is available to us as well.

**11 Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

Saints, the Spirit descended and a voice came from heaven proclaiming the Father’s approval of Jesus as his divine Son.

Saints, Jesus is God’s divine Son is the foundation for all we read about Jesus in the Gospels. This voice came from the heavenly realm that had been briefly “split open”

The voice said, “You are my beloved Son.” Jesus Christ has a unique relationship with God because he is God’s one and only Son.

The phrase “I am fully pleased with you,” means that the Father takes great delight, pleasure, and satisfaction in the Son.

Jesus did not become the Son or the Messiah at this baptism. Jesus already had his divinity from eternity past.

The opened heavens, the dove, and the voice revealed to John the Baptist that Jesus was God’s Son, come to earth as the promised Messiah to fulfill prophecy and bring salvation to those who believe.

In this event, we see all three members of the Godhead together—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Godhead means that God is three persons and yet one in essence.

In this passage, all three persons of the Godhead are present and active. This is one of God’s incomprehensible mysteries.

Other Bible references that speak of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are:

**Ephesians 2:18**

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

**2 Corinthians 13:14**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-5**

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

**12 And immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.**

Saints, Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, takes the offensive against the enemy, Satan, by going into the lonely and desolate wilderness to fight temptation.

**Romans 8:14**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God…

**The word for compelled is very forceful in the Greek called Anagkazo Definition: conveying the meaning of “thrown out” or “cast out.”**

**Mark 1:34**

Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

**Mark 1:39**

But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." 39 And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

This does not imply that Jesus was reluctant, but rather that God’s Spirit was intensely motivating him to go. As with Jesus’ disciples, the Spirit may have in mind to test us in order to prepare us for greater service.

**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.**

Saints, Jesus remained alone for forty days; Matthew and Luke add that Jesus fasted during that time (Matthew 4:2; Luke 4:2).

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke describe in more detail the temptation endured by Jesus.

Satan is an angel who rebelled against God. He is real, not symbolic, and he is constantly working against God and those who obey him.

Satan tempted Eve in the Garden and persuaded her to sin; he tempted Jesus in the wilderness and did not persuade him to fall.

The verb being tempted describes continuous action because Jesus was tempted constantly during the forty days.

Jesus’ personal victory over Satan at the very outset of his ministry set the stage for his command over demons throughout his ministry, but it did not dissuade Satan from continuing to try to ruin Jesus’ mission.

Saints, the wilderness was a dangerous and desolate place, inhabited by wild animals.

The wilderness regions of Palestine had animals such as boars, jackals, wolves, foxes, leopards, and hyenas.

Mark is the only Gospel writer to mention this, pointing out the hostile nature of the wilderness where Jesus spent forty days being tempted.

**The Wilderness Experience**

**Purification and Preparation:**

The wilderness served as a place of spiritual cleansing and preparation for the ministry Jesus was about to embark on. It was a time of intense focus on God and His will, setting the stage for the teachings and actions that would follow.

**Testing and Temptation:**

During his time in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted by Satan in various ways, including physical hunger, the desire for earthly power, and the temptation to prove his divinity through a miraculous act. This testing was a crucial part of his preparation, demonstrating his commitment to God's will and his ability to resist sin.

**Demonstrating Divine Identity:**

The wilderness experience also served to reveal Jesus' true identity as the Son of God, the Messiah. His ability to overcome temptation and his focus on spiritual matters over worldly desires reinforced his divine nature.

**Symbolic Significance:**

The 40 days in the wilderness also hold symbolic meaning, paralleling the 40 years of Israel's wandering in the desert and representing a period of trial, testing, and transformation. It's a reminder of the spiritual journey and the challenges believers face in their faith.

Saints, Angels took care of him in no way lessens the intensity of the temptations that Jesus faced.

Angels, like these who waited on Jesus, have a significant role as God’s messengers.

These spiritual beings were involved in Jesus’ life on earth by

**1. Announcing Jesus’ birth to Mary**

**2. Reassuring Joseph**

**3. Naming Jesus**

**4. Announcing Jesus’ birth to the shepherds,**

**5. Protecting Jesus by sending his family to Egypt**

**6. Ministering to Jesus in Gethsemane**

From Jesus’ temptation we can learn that following our Lord could bring dangerous and intense spiritual battles.

It warns us that we won’t always feel good; there will be times of deprivation, loneliness, and hostility.

It also shows that our spiritual victories may not always be visible to the watching world.

Above all, it shows that we must use the power of God to face temptation, and not try to withstand it in our own strength.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**