



## Mark: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus

### Chapter #1 – Introducing Jesus: Power, Purpose, and Call

#### Main Idea

The Gospel of Mark opens with an “action packed” first chapter, where from the very first line Mark declares that this story is about the beginning of the Good News of Jesus, the Son of God. Unlike the other Gospels, Mark does not focus on Jesus’ birth or ancestry. Instead, this Gospel moves quickly and intentionally to show that Jesus is the Son of God through His purpose and actions. Mark presents Jesus as God’s promised Messiah, clothed with divine authority, empowered by the Spirit, and fully obedient to the Father’s will. Mark 1 reveals Jesus as utterly unique: affirmed by the Father at His baptism, victorious over Satan in temptation, commanding demons, healing the sick, and proclaiming the arrival of God’s kingdom. This Gospel invites us to see Jesus not only as teacher, but as the powerful, compassionate Son of God who demands a response through transformed lives for those called by Him.

#### Chapter Outline

Provided below are the main topics addressed in this chapter:

- John the Baptist Prepares the Way (verses 1 through 8)
- The Baptism and Testing of Jesus (verses 9 through 13)
- Jesus Announces the Good News and Calls His First Disciples (verses 14 through 20)
- Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit (verses 21 through 28)
- Jesus Heals Many (verses 29 through 34)
- Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place (verses 35 through 39)
- Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy (verses 40 through 45)

#### Questions for Consideration

1. Clearly, John the Baptist was prophesied in the Old Testament (see footnote references: Malachi and Isaiah). What are some reasons why would God have sent a forerunner ahead of the Messiah?
2. In verses 9 through 13 we read about Jesus’ baptism and temptation (read Luke 3 and 4 for additional details). Why were the baptism and temptation important and why did they occur early in Jesus’ ministry?
3. In your own words, describe Jesus’ proclamation: “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”
4. Mark 1 emphasizes Jesus’ work in healing, including casting out evil spirits. Why was this an important part of Jesus’ ministry and are there implications for us today? Consider the role in faith in developing your answer.
5. Verse 35 contains a very subtle message about Jesus retreating to pray. Do you have plans for 2026 for spending more time with the Lord?



## Mark 1 (NIV)

### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,<sup>1a</sup> the Son of God,<sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”<sup>1a</sup>—  
**3** “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”<sup>1a</sup>

**4** And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. **6** John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. **8** I baptize you with<sup>1a</sup> water, but he will baptize you with<sup>1a</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

### The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

**9** At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” **12** At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, **13** and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted<sup>1a</sup> by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

### Jesus Announces the Good News and Calls His First Disciples

**14** After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. **15** “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” **16** As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **17** “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” **18** At once they left their nets and followed him.

**19** When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. **20** Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

### Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

**21** They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. **22** The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. **23** Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, **24** “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

**25** “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” **26** The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

**27** The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” **28** News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.



### Jesus Heals Many

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

### Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" <sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

### Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

<sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy<sup>Ⓜ</sup> came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>41</sup> Jesus was indignant.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. <sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>45</sup> Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

#### Footnotes

- a. [Mark 1:1](#) Or *Jesus Christ. Messiah* (Hebrew) and *Christ* (Greek) both mean *Anointed One*.
- b. [Mark 1:1](#) Some manuscripts do not have *the Son of God*.
- c. [Mark 1:2](#) Mal. 3:1
- d. [Mark 1:3](#) Isaiah 40:3
- e. [Mark 1:8](#) Or *in*
- f. [Mark 1:8](#) Or *in*
- g. [Mark 1:13](#) The Greek for *tempted* can also mean *tested*.
- h. [Mark 1:40](#) The Greek word traditionally translated *leprosy* was used for various diseases affecting the skin.
- i. [Mark 1:41](#) Many manuscripts *Jesus was filled with compassion*

