

Sermon Notes

“John the Baptist Prepared the Way”

Mark 1:1-8

March 9, 2025

See the Bible Project’s 10-minute video on the Gospel of Mark for a helpful summary of the book, it’s design and flow of thought. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGHqu9-DtXk>

5. Malachi 4:5 describes this messenger as one having a ministry like that of the prophet Elijah. Compare Mark’s description of John (1:6) with the description of Elijah in 2 Kings 1:8. Why do you think Mark includes the particular details he does about John’s appearance?

6. Malachi wrote more than 400 years before the coming of Jesus, and Isaiah wrote almost 400 years before Malachi. What difference does it make to you that the gospel is so deeply rooted in history? What is your reaction to the fact that these prophecies were fulfilled?

7. What does the crowd’s response to John’s message suggest about their sense of need?

8. How does John emphasize the greatness of the one who will come after him (1:7-8)?

9. How can Jesus’ gift of the Holy Spirit make a difference in our lives?

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 03-09-2025

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, p. 67; Lyman Coleman, et.al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 88; James Hoover, Mark: Follow Me, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1999, pp. 9-12; Ted Dorman, Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Mark, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995, pp. 23-24;

Getting Started:

1. Think of a story, picture or object in your family that links you to past generations. Explain to the group what this link to history means to you.

Digging Deeper:

Read Mark 1:1-15 for context.

2. What does verse 1 reveal about Mark's own view of the events and the person he is about to describe?
3. Mark begins his gospel by rooting it in God's promises and actions in the past. Mark 1:2 is a quote from Malachi 3:1 (and perhaps also from Exodus 23:20). Mark 1:3 from Isaiah 40:3. Look up each verse in its context. What is the Old Testament author's main point in each case? How do these original main points coincide with what Mark is trying to say?
4. How does John's ministry prepare the way for Jesus?