

“Introduced” - Mark 1:1-13

Ask - “Have you ever had to formally introduce someone? Share your story.”

Background - The gospel of Mark was the first of the 4 gospels to be written. It is also the shortest in length. Though written by Mark, most of its content comes from the apostle Peter who shared these accounts with him. Mark was a disciple of and close companion to Peter.

“The Messenger” - Mark 1:1-5

(v1) How does Mark begin his gospel? How does he identify Jesus?

(v2-3) What was the primary purpose of this messenger who would immediately precede or go before the ministry of Jesus Christ? (Read Isaiah 40:3)

(v4-5) Who was this messenger? Where did he preach? What did he call people to do and what was his practice? How was he received by the people?

IN FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY, JOHN THE BAPTIST CAME AS THE FORERUNNER OF JESUS CHRIST. HE CALLED PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE AND BAPTIZED THOSE WHO CONFESSED IN THE JORDAN RIVER.

“The Message” - Mark 1:6-8

(v6) How did John dress and what did he eat? What does this imply about his character and/or personality?

(v7-8) How did John describe the One who was coming after Him? How would this coming One baptize people? Who was this coming One? Discuss.

JOHN SPOKE OF JESUS CHRIST, THE COMING ONE, AS MUCH GREATER THAN HIMSELF. JOHN DECLARED THAT JESUS WOULD BAPTIZE BELIEVERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

“The Messiah” - Mark 1:9-13

(v9) Who came to be baptized by John? From where did He come (what was Jesus' hometown)?

(v10-11) What happened when Jesus was baptized? What did God the Father say? What do His words indicate?

(v12) What did the Spirit of God compel Jesus to do?

(v13) How long was Jesus in the wilderness? What happened to Him while He was there? Who ministered to Him during this time?

PRIOR TO LAUNCHING HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY, JESUS WAS BAPTIZED IN THE JORDAN RIVER AND TEMPTED BY SATAN IN THE WILDERNESS.

Application - John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. He came before Him in order to prepare the way. John called people to repent of their sins and baptized them as a symbol of their confession. Jesus came to be baptized by John before He began His public ministry. Jesus was and is the Son of God. How can we, like John the Baptist, prepare people for the (second) coming of Christ?