

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Read Mark 1:1-20 and then consider the following questions:

What does the first sentence tell us about who Jesus is, why he matters, what he's up to, and what the gospel is?

Mark quotes Mal 3:1 & Is 40:3-5. What's significant about Mark explicitly using the Old Testament to introduce his gospel account?

Where else in scripture are there significant "wilderness" themes?

What do we know about the messenger and the message?

How does John's posture toward Jesus model discipleship for us?

Why was Jesus baptized? Does he need forgiveness? (see Is 53:12 & 42:1)

What is significant about what happens at Jesus' baptism?

Why does the Spirit drive Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted?

How does it parallel the Moses story in Ex 24:18 & 34:28?

How does it parallel the Elijah story in 1Kings 19:8?

What is different between being tested by God and tested by the Satan?

What is the gospel that Jesus preaches? What is the significance of this?

Mark seems to indicate that Jesus is bringing both judgment and salvation.

How does this make you feel? Why?

What response should this evoke from us?

How might this inform how we read about Jesus going forward?

Jesus called people to come and follow him.

What did it cost to follow Jesus?

What would it cost not to follow Jesus?

If you're not yet a follower of Jesus, what would it take for you to follow him and join his kingdom today? If you want to take this step please tell someone in your small group or get in touch with the Pastors at First Cov.

If you have never been baptized, why not? Is this the next step of obedience for you to take?

If you have been baptized are you currently living into your baptism? Is there a specific way the Spirit is calling you to die to self, to leave an earthly kingdom, and to return fully to Jesus? Or, are you being invited to remember that because you are in Christ God has declared you beloved and is well-pleased with you?

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