

- 1) Back into chapter 1, reading from vs. 9-13.
- 2) I chose the NASB2020 version because of a couple of words and phrases that are probably clearer.

Mark 1:9-13

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens ***opening***, and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon Him; 11 and a voice came from the heavens: “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” 12 And immediately the Spirit ****brought*** Him out into the wilderness. 13 And He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild animals, and the angels were serving Him. (NASB 2020)

- 1) It is estimated that Jesus is in his early thirties at this point.
- 2) Beyond the experience in the temple at age 12 (Luke chapter 2), we have no canonical record of what Jesus did during those intervening years.
- 3) Some of the non-canonical works give stories of his youth but though they are interesting and perhaps entertaining, we as a rule do not accept them as truth.
 - a) Infancy Gospel of Thomas
- 4) Mark is no help here either. As we see, he brings us immediately to Jesus’ baptism and the beginning of His ministry.
- 5) However, what Mark does do here is simply and powerfully reveal the fact that Jesus is the Son of God.
- 6) The heavens open and God expressly states that Jesus is His Son and that He is well pleased.
 - a) Just as comparison, the word translated *opening in the NASB is rendered . . . “heaven being torn open” in the NIV. Again, just feel the NASB is clearer here.
 - b) There is some debate regarding God’s statement to Jesus.
 - i) Some think it is perhaps only referring to His baptism others to His entire life to this point.
 - c) I personally think it is the latter –the comment refers to Christ’s entire life to this point.
- 7) We see here in this next verse, Mark’s use of his favorite word “immediately” for the first time. And immediately the Spirit ****brought*** Him out into the wilderness.
- 8) Here is the second word that I mentioned at the beginning.
- 9) The word “brought” in the NASB2020 (ekballō in Greek) is a forceful word, meaning “to cast out”, “to drive out”, or “to compel one to depart.”
- 10) The verb fits Mark’s dramatic style, however, but, the word can also be translated “to take out”

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- 11) This is why I think the NASB is perhaps a clearer translation. The NIV has Spirit sent him out into the desert NIV
- 12) The point here is that certainly, the Holy Spirit did **not** “force” Jesus into the wilderness temptations
- 13) He was **not** resistant to the Spirit’s leading.
- 14) Rather, it underscores the reality that the Spirit was in control – perfectly leading Jesus to fulfill each element of the Father’s plan.
- 15) The Judean wilderness is an arid, inhospitable desert that stretches west from the Dead Sea toward Jerusalem, encompassing an area roughly thirty-five miles long and fifteen miles wide.
- 16) The dusty, desolate, and dangerous landscape is broken up by rocky peaks, craggy cliffs, and plunging ravines.
- 17) Jesus faces the devil in the middle of this foreboding wasteland.
- 18) Jesus finds Himself all alone and weakened by 40 days of fasting.
- 19) Mark explains that He was with the wild beasts.
- 20) This emphasizes the reality that He was completely isolated from human care.
- 21) There many untamed animals living in this area and may have included leopards, foxes, jackals, and wild pigs. Of course, along with snakes and scorpions and the like.

What is the worse most uncomfortable situation you have ever found yourself in?

- 22) Many of us would basically do anything to get out of this situation and back to civilization.
- 23) So, when the devil temps Christ, there is more at play here than just his ability to resist the temptation.
- 24) There are external forces that bear on the situation.
- 25) Mark’s concluding phrase and the angels were ministering to Him implies what Matthew and Luke state explicitly—that, indeed,
 - a) Jesus triumphed over all the temptation Satan brought.
 - b) He emerged victorious from His forty-day isolation in the wilderness.
- 26) The word ministering indicates that these angels provided Jesus with food.
- 27) But the angels also ministered to Him by their very presence, which served as confirmation that the Father who sent them was still well pleased with His Son.

Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)

- 1) Mark followed his brief description of Christ’s temptation with an equally short introduction to Jesus’ preaching ministry.
- 2) Quite some time had passed since Jesus’ baptism.

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- 3) If we look at a timeline, we see that he had been in Judea, ministering there and even cleansing the temple.
- 4) This time period is covered in John's gospel (John 2:13–4:3).
- 5) Mark bypasses those events, along with Jesus' journey through Samaria (John 4:4–42), to focus on the beginnings of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee.
- 6) Going on starting in vs. 16 >>>>

Mark 1:16-20 (NIV)

- 1) Several months have now passed since Jesus was baptized.
- 2) Looking at John 1:35–42, it appears that Jesus had already met Simon Peter and Andrew his brother.

John 1:35-42 (NIV)

- 3) So, from this we see that Andrew was with John the Baptist when John pointed to Jesus and declared, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"
- 4) After spending the day with Jesus, Andrew went and found his brother Simon, who also came to see the Lord. Of course, this is Simon Peter.
- 5) After spending this time with Andrew and Simon, Jesus leaves Judea the next day for Galilee but we do not know if Simon and Andrew accompany him or not.
- 6) At the very least, we can assume here that once John the Baptist was imprisoned, the two of them returned to their livelihood as fishermen in Galilee.
- 7) This is where we pick up next.
- 8) Jesus walking along the sea of Galilee sees them fishing and then calls them to leave their work as fishermen and follow Him to share His eternal work.
- 9) We can probably assume that Jesus accompanied by Andrew and Simon proceed a short distance along the shore to another fishing boat.
- 10) There He sees the two men who will eventually be called the "sons of thunder", James and John, the sons of Zebedee.
- 11) Jesus calls them as well, and they too leave everything immediately to follow Jesus.
- 12) I think we must be struck by how quickly these men left everything and followed Jesus.
- 13) Simon Peter and Andrew had spent a day with Jesus plus, they had heard John's testimony regarding Jesus.
- 14) James and John, however, from what we are told had not seen or met Jesus prior to this encounter while preparing their nets for the days fishing with their father.
- 15) Yet, all four men left everything immediately and followed Jesus.
- 16) Here is perhaps a hard question ...

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Do you think that the commitment they demonstrated by leaving everything was greater than ours?

Should it be?

Why? Why not?