

# MARK 1:1-20

## OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. What is the book of Mark about?
2. Describe John the Baptist. Where did he live, what did he wear, what did he eat, what was his message?
3. How did the people respond to John?
4. How did Jesus respond to Jesus?
5. What happens to Jesus after his baptism by John?
6. Identify all the different beings who were with Jesus in the wilderness in verse 13.
7. What was the message that Jesus preached?
8. Who does Jesus approach in verses 16-20? What are we told about them? What does he ask them to do? How do they respond?

## INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Who is John the Baptist? Compare Matthew 3:1-11; 11:9-18; 14:3-12; Luke 1:11-20; 3:2-16; John 1:6-8; 15-37; 3:25-31; 5:33.
2. What is the difference between water baptism and the baptism with the Holy Spirit? When did Jesus baptize with the Holy Spirit?
3. What is the difference in the people coming to John (v.5) and Jesus coming to John (v.9)? Why did Jesus need to be baptized?
4. Why is the Spirit described as a dove? What is the significance of the words spoken to Jesus?
5. Verse 12 tells us that the Spirit impelled or forced Jesus into the wilderness. Why? What is the significance of Mark's mention of the wild beasts in verse 13?
6. Was there a difference between the preaching of Jesus & John (vs. 4, 7, & 14)?
7. Looking at this passage, what is it about Jesus that would have compelled the fisherman to follow Jesus? Try to answer this question with the events told to you in this gospel, in the immediately preceding context, as if you had never heard the story before.
8. On a very practical level, what did following Jesus mean for these men?

## APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. How would you have responded to John?
2. The baptism with the Holy Spirit signifies affirmation by God. Before Jesus did anything, God affirmed him as his beloved Son. Before you do anything, God affirms you as a beloved child. Is that the message you hear from God regarding you? Why or why not?
3. We see in this passage that believing and following are linked. Following is then linked with leaving. In what area of your life could you use some strength in believing? How can you more fully follow Jesus? Is there anything holding you back that needs to be left behind?

## ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.