

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: The Son of God who came to serve, suffer, and save.

Scriptures: Mark 1:1–11

Opening:

Open your time in prayer by thanking God for the good news of Jesus, asking for clarity in seeing who He truly is, and praying that your group would grow in obedience as you follow Him.

Give Background & Context:

Mark opens his Gospel with urgency and clarity—Jesus is the Son of God, and His coming marks a new beginning. Rather than focusing on birth narratives, Mark moves quickly to Jesus’ identity and mission, showing how Scripture, John the Baptist, the Spirit, and the Father all affirm who Jesus is. This passage sets the foundation for everything that follows.

- RRead Mark 1:1–3
 - What does Mark mean by calling this the “gospel,” and how would that have been understood in the Roman world?
 - Why is it important that Mark clearly identifies Jesus as the “Son of God” at the start?
 - How do the Old Testament references (v. 2–3) help establish the authority and purpose of Jesus’ coming?
 - What does this section teach about how God prepares people for what He is about to do?
- Read Mark 1:4–8
 - What is the message of John the Baptist, and why is repentance central to it?
 - How does John’s lifestyle and ministry set him apart from others of his time?
 - What does John mean when he says someone greater is coming after him? How does John contrast his baptism with what Jesus will bring?
 - What does this section show about the role of preparation in responding to God’s work?
- Read Mark 1:9–11
 - What stands out about Jesus’ baptism, especially since He had no sin to repent of?
 - How does this moment show the involvement of the Father, Son, and Spirit together?
 - What does the Father’s statement (“You are my beloved Son...”) reveal about Jesus’ identity and mission?
 - What does Jesus’ willingness to be baptized teach us about obedience and submission to God’s will?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
 - Mark quickly establishes who Jesus is before showing what He does. Why is it important to understand Jesus’ identity before focusing on His actions?
 - Jesus’ baptism marked the beginning of His public ministry and was an act of obedience. What does this teach about the role of obedience in following God?
 - John pointed people away from himself and toward Jesus. What does that model teach about how believers should live and influence others?
 - The passage shows multiple confirmations of who Jesus is. Why is clarity about Jesus’ identity so essential to the Christian faith?