

# Being Baptized by the Spirit

## Mark 1: 1-8

### **Jesus is your Hope – Mark 1:1**

- Gospel means Good News. Mark was providing Hope for those going through uncertain times in this first verse.
- Mark wrote this gospel through the eyes of Peter.
- Peter possibly killed in 64 AD and Mark was possibly written in 65 AD to 67 AD, during the time of Nero.
- Both Peter and Mark had failed and both experienced God's Grace and Mercy.
- It was important for Mark to describe the identity of Jesus. "Son of God."

I believe we have a serious problem in our world today. It is a Judgmental and unforgiving world. Today, people are being judged by the group they identify with vs. who they are as individuals. And, people are being judged and condemned for the actions whether in the present or the past without any understanding of Grace.

### **Repentance is the First Step – Mark 1:2-5**

- The Messenger was sent to prepare people's hearts. (attitude)
- The Prophets spoke of a prophet that would prepare the way for the Messiah.
- John was extremely popular, even though he preached about sin.
- John the Baptist preached a Baptism of Repentance. (Brokenness, humility, change of mind.)

Read Acts 2:38 – Peter preached, "Repent.... Then you will receive the spirit."

Verse 6 – John had an unusual appearance and diet.

### **Baptized with the Holy Spirit – Mark 1:7-8**

- The spirit is mentioned in the Old Testament and the New Testament. However, in the New Testament the power of the spirit entered the life of a believer due to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, the act of the spirit appeared more random in the life of those that were followers of God.
- Only an empty vessel can be filled by the spirit.
- Water Baptism is only a symbol, but the Holy Spirit provides Power. (Acts 1:8)

### **Questions to Consider**

Why does our culture not treat others with Grace and Mercy? Why do Christians also struggle in treating others with Grace?

Do you need to repent before you are able to become a Christian? How would you explain this to somebody that has not made a decision to follow Christ?

Why do you think Mark describes John's unusual appearance and diet?

How can sin in your life affect the Power of the Spirit in your life? Is Repentance only a one-time experience?

Are you able to look at other people through the lens of grace? What scenarios cause you to struggle in treating others with grace?

What are some attitudes or habits in your life that you realize are areas of sin that you need to repent?

How can you respond to the evil in our world in a manner that would honor God, instead of returning evil with evil?