

Mark

**JOHN PREPARES FOR
JESUS** (1:1–8; Matt. 3:1–12;
Luke 3:1–18; John 1:19–28)

1 This is the beginning of the Good

News

2 “[Look; ^TBehold,] I will send [am sending] my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way [Mal. 3:1].”

3 “This is a voice of one who calls out [shouts; cries out] in the desert [wilderness]: ‘Prepare the way for the Lord. Make the road straight [a clear path] for him [Is. 40:3].”

4 John [cthe Baptist] was baptizing people in the desert [wilderness] and preaching a baptism of changed hearts and lives [turning from sin; repentance] for the forgiveness [remission] of sins.

5 All the people from Judea and Jerusalem were going out to him. They confessed their sins and were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

6 John wore clothes made from camel’s hair, had a leather belt around his waist [creminiscent of the prophet Elijah; 2 Kin. 1:8], and ate locusts and wild honey [csignifies living off the land].

7 This is what John preached to the people: “There is one coming after me who is greater [mightier; more powerful] than I; I am not good enough [fit; qualified] even to kneel down and untie [^Lthe thong/strap of] his sandals [ca task of a servant or slave].

8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**JESUS IS BAPTIZED
AND TESTED** (1:9–13;
Matt. 3:13–17; 4:1–11; Luke 3:21–
22; 4:1–13)

9. **At that time** [In those days] **Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River.**

10. **Immediately, as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven** [the sky] **open** [split open]. **The Holy Spirit** [LSpirit] **came down** [descended] **on him like a dove** [ceither in the form of a dove, or in bird-like descent],

11. **and a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love** [dearly beloved Son; Ps. 2:7; Gen. 22:2], **and I am very pleased with you** [in whom I take great delight; Is. 42:1].”

12. **Then** [Immediately] **the Spirit sent** [drove; compelled] **Jesus into the desert** [wilderness].

13. **He was in the desert** [wilderness] **forty days** [canalogous to Israel’s forty years] **and was tempted** [or tested] **by Satan** [cas both Adam and Eve and the nation Israel in the wilderness were tempted, but failed]. **He was with the wild animals** [cdangerous or perhaps Eden-like conditions], **and the angels came and took care of** [served; ministered to] **him.**

**JESUS ANNOUNCES
THE GOOD NEWS** (1:14–
15; Matt. 4:17)

14. **After John was put in prison** [cby Herod Antipas; cf. 6:14–29], **Jesus went into Galilee, preaching the Good News** [Gospel] **from** [about] **God.**

15. **He said, “The right time has come** [Ltime is fulfilled]. **The kingdom of God** [God’s sovereign rule] **is near** [at hand]. **Change your hearts and lives** [Turn from your sins; Repent] **and believe the Good News** [Gospel]!”

**JESUS CHOOSES HIS
FIRST FOLLOWERS**
(1:16–20; Matt. 4:18–22; Luke
5:2–11; John 1:35–42)

16 **When Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee** [the Sea of Galilee], **he saw Simon** [Peter; cf. 3:16] **and his brother Andrew** **throwing** [casting] **a net into the lake because they were fishermen.**

17 **Jesus said to them, “Come follow me** [be my disciples], **and I will make you** [teach you how to] **fish for people.”**

18 **So Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him.**

19 **Going a little farther, Jesus saw two more brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee** [James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John]. **They were in a boat, mending** [preparing] **their nets.**

20 **Jesus immediately called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers and followed Jesus.**

**JESUS FORCES OUT
AN EVIL SPIRIT** (1:21–
28; Luke 4:31–37)

21 **Jesus and his followers** [disciples] **went to Capernaum** [a town on the northwest shore of Lake Galilee; it became Jesus’ home base]. **On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue and began to teach.**

22 **The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught like** [as] **a person who had authority, not like** [as] **their teachers of the law** [the scribes; experts in the law of Moses]. 23 **Just then, a man was there in the synagogue who had an evil** [defiling; unclean] **spirit in him.** [Demons were viewed as “unclean” or defiling spirit-beings.] **He shouted,**

24 **“Jesus of Nazareth [the Nazarene]! What do you want with us?** [Let us alone!; What business do we have with each other? What to us and to you?] **Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are — God’s Holy One!”**

**JESUS HEALS MANY
PEOPLE** (1:29–39; Matt.
8:14–17; Luke 4:38–43)

²⁵**Jesus** ·**commanded** [reprimanded; rebuked] **the evil spirit**, “**Be quiet! Come out of the man!**”

²⁶**The** ·**evil** [defiling; Lunclean] **spirit** ·**shook the man violently** [threw him into convulsions], **gave a loud cry** [shriek], **and then came out of him.**

²⁷**The people were** [all] **so amazed they asked each other**, “**What is happening here? This man is teaching something new, and with authority. He even gives commands** [orders] **to evil** [defiling; Lunclean] **spirits, and they obey him.**”

²⁸**And the news** [report; fame] **about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the area of Galilee.**

²⁹**As soon as Jesus and his followers** [disciples] **left the synagogue, they went to the home of Simon** [CPeter] **and Andrew, together with James and John.**

³⁰**Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and the people** [Lthey; Ceither the people or the disciples] **told Jesus about her.**

³¹**So Jesus went to her bed, took her hand, and helped** [raised] **her up. The fever left her, and she began serving them** [waiting on them; Cpresumably meal preparation].

³²**That evening, after the sun went down, the people brought to Jesus all who were sick and had demons in them** [were demon-possessed]. ³³**The whole town gathered at the door.**

³⁴**Jesus healed many who had different kinds of sicknesses, and he forced many demons to leave people** [Ldrove/cast out many demons]. **But he would not allow the**

demons to speak, because they knew
who he was. [CThey knew he was the Messiah;
Jesus wanted to avoid premature publicity.]
35 [Very] Early the next morning, while it
was still dark, Jesus ·woke [got up] and
left the house. He went to a ·lonely
[isolated; deserted] place, where he prayed.
36 Simon and his ·friends [companions]
went to look for Jesus.

37 **When they found him, they said,**
“Everyone is looking for you!”
38 **Jesus answered, “We should [Let us] go**
to other towns around here so I can
preach there, too. That is the reason I
came.”
39 **So he went everywhere in Galilee,**
preaching in the synagogues and forcing
[driving; casting] **out demons.**

JESUS HEALS A SICK
MAN (1:40–45; Matt. 8:1–4;
Luke 5:12–16)

40 **A man with a skin disease*** [Tleprosy;
Cthe term does not refer to modern leprosy
(Hansen’s disease), but to various skin disorders;
Lev. 14] **came to Jesus. He fell to his**
knees and begged* Jesus, “You can
heal* me [Lmake me clean; Cleprosy rendered
a person ceremonially defiled (“unclean”), and so
unable to participate in Israel’s religious life] **if**
you will [are willing; want to].”
41 **Jesus felt sorry”** [compassion*] **for the**
man, so he reached out* his hand and
touched* him and said, “I will [am
willing; want to]. **Be healed*** [Lcleansed]!”
42 **Immediately the disease*** [Tleprosy] **left**
the man, and he was healed* [Lcleansed].
43 **Jesus told the man to go away at once,**
but he warned* him strongly,
44 **“Don’t tell anyone about this. But go**
and show* yourself to the priest. And
offer the gift* [offering; sacrifices] **Moses**
commanded for people who are made
well* [Lyour cleansing; Lev. 14:1–32]. **This**
will show* the people [be a public
testimony to; be evidence for] **what I have**
done.”
45 **The man left there, but he began to tell**
everyone that Jesus had healed* him,
and so he spread* the news about Jesus

[the message; the word]. **As a result**, **Jesus could not enter a town** **·if people saw him** [publicly]. **He stayed in places where nobody lived** [secluded/ deserted places], **but people** **·came** [kept coming] **to him from everywhere**.

**JESUS HEALS A
PARALYZED MAN** (2:1–
12; *Matt.* 9:1–8; *Luke* 5:17–26)

2 **A few days later***, **when Jesus came**

back to Capernaum*, **the news spread that he was at home**.

2 **Many people gathered together*** **so that there was no room in the house, not even** **·outside** [near; in front of] **the door**. **And Jesus was** **·teaching*** **them God's message*** [Lspeaking the word to them].

3 **Four people came, carrying a paralyzed* man**.

4 **Since they could not get to Jesus because of the crowd***, **they dug a hole in the roof* right above where he was speaking**. [CPalestinian roofs were generally flat and made of thatch and dried mud.] **When they got through***, **they lowered* the** **·mat*** [cot] **with the paralyzed* man on it**.

5 **When Jesus saw the faith* of these people, he said to the paralyzed* man**, **“·Young man* [Child; Son], your sins* are forgiven*.”**

6 **Some of the** **·teachers* of the law** [scribes] **were sitting there, thinking* to themselves**,

7 **“Why does this man** **·say* things like that** [speak this way]? **He is** **·speaking* as if he were God** [Lblaspheming]. **·Only God can forgive* sins*.”** [L“Who can forgive sins but God alone?”; cf. Is. 43:25].

8 **Jesus knew* immediately** [in his spirit]

what these teachers* of the law were thinking*. So he said* to them, “Why are you thinking* these things [L in your hearts]?”

⁹ Which is easier*: to tell* this paralyzed* man, ‘Your sins* are forgiven*,’ or to tell* him, ‘Stand up*. Take your ·mat* [cot] and walk*?’

¹⁰ But ·I will prove* to you [L so that you may know] that the Son of Man* [C a title for the Messiah; Dan. 7:13–14] has authority* on earth to forgive* sins*.” So Jesus said* to the paralyzed* man,

¹¹ “I tell* you, stand up*, take your ·mat* [cot], and go home*.”

¹² Immediately the paralyzed* man stood up*, took his ·mat* [cot], and walked out* while everyone was watching* him. The people were [all] amazed* and praised* God. They said*, “We have never seen* anything like this!”

JESUS CALLS LEVI TO FOLLOW HIM (2:13–17;
Matt. 9:9–13; Luke 5:27–32)

¹³ Jesus went to the lake again*. The whole crowd ·followed* him [came to him] there, and he taught* them.

¹⁴ While he was walking along, he saw* a man named Levi* son of Alphaeus* sitting in the tax collector’s booth* [C probably a tariff booth for taxing goods in transit]. Jesus said to him, “Follow* me,” and he stood up and followed* Jesus.

¹⁵ Later, as Jesus was ·having dinner* [L reclining; C around a low table, the posture for a formal banquet or dinner party] at Levi’s house, many tax collectors* and sinners* were eating* there with Jesus and his followers*. Many people like this followed* Jesus.

¹⁶ When the ·teachers* of the law*

[scribes] who were Pharisees* saw Jesus eating* with the tax collectors* and sinners*, they asked his followers*, “Why does he eat* with tax collectors* and sinners*?” [CTax collectors were despised because they worked for the Roman rulers and were notorious for corruption and extortion.]

¹⁷Jesus heard this and said to them, “It is not the healthy* people who need a doctor*, but the sick*. I did not come to ·invite* [call] ·good* people [the righteous; Cmeaning the “self-righteous” who feel no need to repent] but to ·invite* [call] sinners* [Cthose who recognize their need to repent].”

**JESUS IS
QUESTIONED ABOUT
FASTING** (2:18–22; Matt.
9:14–17; Luke 5:33–39; John
3:29–30)

¹⁸Now the ·followers [disciples] of John [Cthe Baptist; 1:4–8] and the Pharisees often fasted [Cgiving up eating for spiritual purposes]. ·Some people [LThey] came to Jesus and said, “Why do John’s ·followers [disciples] and the ·followers [disciples] of the Pharisees often fast, but your ·followers [disciples] don’t?”

¹⁹Jesus answered, “The ·friends of the bridegroom [or wedding guests; Lchildren of the wedding hall] do not fast while the bridegroom is still with them [CJesus is referring to himself; John 3:29; Rev. 19:7]. As long as the bridegroom is with them, they cannot fast.

²⁰But the ·time [Ldays] will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and ·then [in that day] they will fast.

²¹“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth over a hole in an old ·coat [garment]. Otherwise, the patch will shrink and pull away — the new patch will pull away from the old ·coat [garment]. Then the ·hole [tear] will be worse.

²²**Also, no one ever pours new wine into old leather bags** [wineskins]. **Otherwise, the new wine will break the bags** [skins; Cas the wine ferments and expands], **and the wine will be ruined** [lost] **along with the bags** [skins]. **But new wine should be put into new leather bags** [wineskins].”

JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH (2:23–28; *Matt. 12:1–8; Luke 6:1–5*)

²³**One Sabbath day, as Jesus was walking through some fields of grain, his followers** [disciples] **began to** [make a path and] **pick some grain to eat** [Deut. 23:25].

²⁴**The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Why are your followers doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath day?”** [cGleaning was viewed as work, and therefore forbidden on the Sabbath; Ex. 34:21.]

²⁵**Jesus answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and those with him** [his companions] **were hungry and needed food** [1 Sam. 21:1–6]?”

²⁶**During the time of Abiathar** [*or, In the account about Abiathar*] **the high priest, David went into God’s house and ate the holy bread** [consecrated bread; ^lbread of presentation], **which is lawful only for priests to eat** [Ex. 25:30; Lev. 24:5–9]. **And David also gave some of the bread to those who were with him.**”

²⁷**Then Jesus said to the Pharisees, “The Sabbath day was made to help people** [^Tfor man]; **they were not made to be ruled by** [^Tnot man for] **the Sabbath day.**

²⁸**So then, the Son of Man is Lord** [Master] **even of the Sabbath day.**”

JESUS HEALS A MAN’S HAND (3:1–6; *Matt. 12:9–14; Luke 6:6–11*)

3 **Another time when Jesus went into a**

synagogue, a man with a crippled
[paralyzed; deformed; shriveled] hand was
there.

2. Some people [LThey; Cprobably the Pharisees;
see 2:24, 27] watched Jesus closely to see if
he would heal the man on the Sabbath day
so they could accuse him.

3. Jesus said to the man with the crippled
hand, “Stand up here in the middle
[front] of everyone.”

4. Then Jesus asked the people [Lthem;
Cprobably the Pharisees], “Which is lawful
[Caccording to the law of Moses] on the
Sabbath day to do good or to do evil, to
save a life or to kill?” But they said
nothing to answer him [remained silent].

5. Jesus was angry as he looked at them,
and he felt very sad [distressed; grieved]
because they were stubborn [of their hard
hearts]. Then he said to the man, “Hold
out [stretch out] your hand.” The man held
out [stretched out] his hand and it was
healed [restored].

6. Then the Pharisees left and [immediately]
began making plans [plotting] with the
Herodians [Ca political group that supported
king Herod and his family] about a way to
kill [destroy] Jesus.

7. [But] Jesus left with his followers
[disciples] for the lake, and a large crowd
from Galilee followed him.

8. Also many people came from Judea,
from Jerusalem, from Idumea [Clocated to
the south], from the lands across the
Jordan River, and from the area of Tyre
and Sidon [Clocated to the north]. When they
heard what Jesus was doing, many
people came to him.

MANY PEOPLE
FOLLOW JESUS (3:7–12;
Matt. 12:15–16; Luke 6:17–19)

⁹ **When** Jesus saw the crowds, he told his ·followers [disciples] to get a boat ready for him to keep people from ·crowding against [crushing] him.

¹⁰ [**For**] He had healed many people, so all the sick were pushing toward him to touch him. ¹¹ **When** ·evil [defiling; unclean; see 1:23] spirits [within people] saw Jesus, they fell down before him and shouted, “You are the Son of God!”

¹² **But** Jesus strongly ·warned [rebuked; ordered] them not to tell who he was.

¹³ **Then** Jesus went up ·on a mountain [to the hills] and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.

¹⁴ Jesus ·chose [appointed] twelve [cparalleling the twelve tribes of Israel] and called them apostles” [c“apostle” means a messenger, or someone sent with a commission].

He wanted them to be with him, and he wanted to send them out to preach

¹⁵ and to have the authority to ·force [drive; cast] demons out of people.

¹⁶ **These** are the twelve he ·chose [appointed]: Simon (Jesus named him Peter),

¹⁷ James and John, the sons of Zebedee (Jesus named them Boanerges, which [cin Aramaic] means “Sons of Thunder”),

¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot [ceither religiously zealous, or a (former) member of the revolutionary movement known as Zealots],

¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot [cIscariot probably means “man of Kerioth”], who later ·turned against [betrayed] Jesus.

**JESUS CHOOSES HIS
TWELVE APOSTLES**
*(3:13–19; Matt. 10:1–4; Luke
6:12–16)*

**SOME PEOPLE SAY
JESUS IS POSSESSED BY
AN EVIL SPIRIT** (3:20–30;
Matt. 9:32–34; 12:24–37; Luke
11:14–15, 17–23; 12:10)

²⁰**Then Jesus went home** [into a house], **but again a crowd gathered. There were so many people that Jesus and his followers could not eat.**

²¹**When his family** [own people] **heard this, they went to get** [seize; take charge of] **him because they thought he was out of his mind.**

²²**But the teachers of the law** [scribes] **from Jerusalem were saying, “Beelzebul** [another name for Satan] **is living inside** [possessing] **him! He uses power from the ruler** [prince] **of demons to force** [drive; cast] **demons out of people.”**

²³**So Jesus called the people together and taught them with stories** [spoke to them in parables; ^cGreek *parabole*, which can mean stories and analogies of various kinds]. **He said, “Satan will not force himself out of people.** [“How can Satan drive out Satan?]

²⁴**A kingdom that is divided** [at war with itself] **cannot continue** [stand],

²⁵**and a family** [household; house] **that is divided cannot continue** [stand].

²⁶**And if Satan is** [rises; rebels] **against himself and fights against his own people** [is divided], **he cannot continue** [stand]; **that is the end of Satan.**

²⁷**No one can enter a strong man’s house and steal** [seize; plunder] **his things unless he first ties up** [binds] **the strong man** [Is. 49:24–25]. **Then he can steal** [seize; plunder] **things from the house.** [^cSatan is the strong man and his possessions are the people Jesus is freeing from Satan’s power.]

²⁸**I tell you the truth, all sins that people do and all the things people say against God** [blasphemies] **can be forgiven.**

29But anyone who speaks against [blasphemes] the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of a sin that continues forever [a sin with eternal consequences; ^Lan eternal sin].”

30Jesus said this because the teachers of the law said that he had an evil [defiling; ^Lunclean] spirit inside him.