

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE:

A. Scriptures (Parallel Gospel Accounts)

John the Baptist:

Matt 3:1-12

Luke 3:1-18

John 1:19-23

Baptism of Jesus

Matt 3:13-17

Luke 3:21-22

John 1:29-34

Jesus' Temptation

Luke 4:1-13

B. Suggested Reference Materials

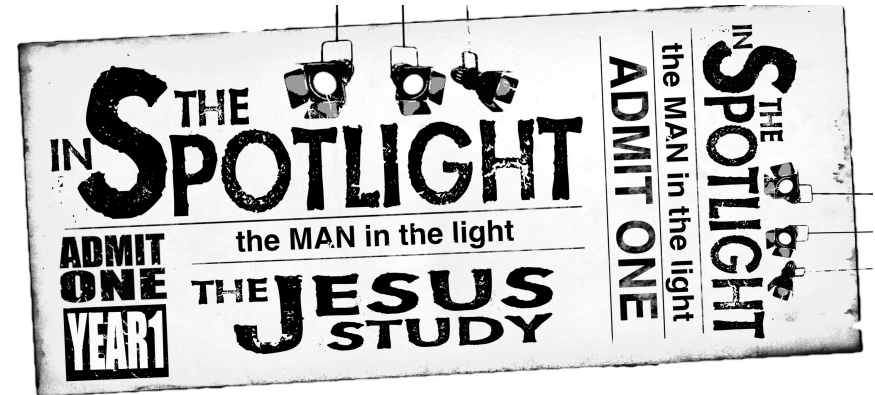
Beautiful Outlaw by John Eldredge

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey.

Next Week:

Mark 1:21-45 "IT BEGINS" Jesus Makes a Name for Himself

You won't want to miss it!



LESSON 1

“Preparation”

Mark 1: 1-13

- *John the Baptist Prepares the Way*
- *Jesus is Baptized and Tempted*

Focus Scripture:

“Here begins the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.” Mark 1:1

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Think of a time in your life when you embarked on a new phase of life, i.e. began a new career, got married... What kind of preparations did you have to make ahead of time, and what success would you have had without preparation?

YOU ARE THERE: Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context

1st century Middle East: Palestine is occupied by Rome. Jews are heavily taxed, and persecuted. The practice of Judaism is allowed only so long as the religious Jewish leaders keep the Jewish people quiet and in line. Jewish expectations for a Messiah are intense. Several militant uprisings with prophets claiming to be the Messiah have already been squelched, either by arrest, or outright massacre. The Messianic expectation is for a leader/prophet who will rise up against Rome and restore Israel to its former glory of an independent, powerful nation.

Vocabulary Definitions:

Gospel – (Ευαγγέλιο, Evangélío): “Good News”

Repentance – (μετάνοια, Metanoia): “Changing one’s mind”

Prophecy – (προφητεία, profiteía): “Discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God”

Scripture – (מִקְרָא, miqrâ): “Announcement, declaration” (The English translation refers to writing – scribing – whereas the Hebrew word denotes reading and calling out.)

THE LESSON

First Reading: Mark 1:1-11

HEAD: Read aloud

1. **YOU ARE THERE.** What are your 5 senses experiencing?
2. How does a dove descend? Was it a dove, or like a dove?

HEART: Read the passage from your own Bible

1. What is John's repentance about?
2. What does John say about Jesus?
3. What is God doing in this passage, and what might that tell you about God's nature?

Second Reading: Mark 1:12-13 & Matthew 4:1-11

HEAD: Read aloud

1. According to Matthew, who leads Jesus into the wilderness?
2. What are your five senses experiencing alone in the wilderness?
3. How might “The Tempter” have approached Jesus?

HEART: Read the Matthew passage from your own Bible

1. With what things is Jesus being tempted?
2. How might these be real temptations for Jesus? (What is more tempting, and encounter with a tempter you can see, or if the tempter is in your head?)
3. What does Jesus rely on for strength during the temptation?

HANDS: Look again over the scriptures for this lesson, ask God to reveal themselves to you.

1. Is there anything compelling about Jesus' character that makes you want to know him more?
2. Other thoughts?

Next Week: The Kingdom of God is near