



Mark 1:9-15

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:9-15

12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."



Believe: You are God's Beloved
Believe: You Have Christ's Victory Over Sin
Believe: The Kingdom of God is at Hand

Believe: You are God's Beloved

Mark 1:9-11

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"For human beings by nature, when they get near either danger or death itself, will of necessity examine their own worthiness. We defend ourselves before all threats by recounting our good deeds and moral efforts. But then the remembrance of sins and flaws inevitably comes to mind, and this tears us apart, and we think, 'How many errors and sins and wrongs I have done! Please God, let me live so I can fix and amend them.'

We become obsessed with our active righteousness and are terrified by its imperfections. But the real evil is that we trust our own power to be righteous and will not lift up our eyes to see what Christ has done for us...So the troubled conscience has no cure for its desperation and feeling of unworthiness unless it takes hold of the forgiveness of sins by grace, offered free of charge in Jesus Christ, which is this passive or Christian righteousness...

If I tried to fulfill the law myself, I could not trust in what I had accomplished, neither could it stand up to the judgment of God. So...I rest only upon the righteousness of Christ...which I do not produce but receive, God the Father freely giving it to us through Jesus Christ."

- Martin Luther

Believe: You Have Christ's Victory Over Sin

Mark 1:12-13

12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

"No, it was none of these. Rather, as Dinur explained to Wallace, all at once he realized Eichmann was not a godlike officer who had sent so many to their deaths. This Eichmann was an ordinary man. "I was afraid about myself," said Dinur. "I saw that I am capable to do this. I am...exactly like he."

Wallace's subsequent summation of Dinur's terrible discovery - "Eichmann is in all of us" - is a horrifying statement; but it indeed captures the central truth about man's nature. For as a result of the fall, sin is in each of us - not just the susceptibility to sin, but sin itself."

- Kent Hughes commentary from Charles Colson's book, Who Speaks For God

Believe: The Kingdom of God is at Hand

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

"It is easy to use the words faith and repentance, but the things are most difficult to perform. He therefore who makes the worship of God consist in these by no means loosens the reins of discipline, but compels men to the course which they are most afraid to take."

- John Calvin

