

day 1: (Mark 1: 1-13) This is Mark's very brief introduction to Jesus, at least its brief compared to Matthew and Luke. Yet in the midst of this brevity, Mark is sure to include the voice from heaven saying, "...This is my Son..." Mark wants us to be sure that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, the Lord-- right at the beginning of his gospel. What does it mean in our lives that Jesus is God's son?

day 2: (Mark 1: 9-13, Mark 9: 2-8) Here again, a voice from heaven identifies Jesus as the Son of God. What is added to this declaration that is different from the one in Mark 1? How can you listen to Jesus? Does he speak? What is he saying?

day 3: (Mark 1: 9-13, Mark 9: 2-8, Mark 14: 53 - 65) The high priest asks a question that has already been answered by the voice from heaven in Mark 1 and Mark 9. God has declared that Jesus is his Son, that he is pleased with him, and that we should listen to him. The high priest's question begs another question. If Jesus is God's Son, what claims does this make on my life? How should I live in light of who Jesus is?

day 4: (Mark 1: 9-13, Mark 9: 2-8, Mark 14: 53-65, Mark 15: 33-39) The Roman centurion voices what seems to be a hopeless cry. Watching Jesus die and hearing his words convinced this hardened torturer that Jesus was who the voice from heaven declared him to be. I can hear the resignation in his voice, but isn't there more to the story? Is it the end as the centurion declares, "...this man was the Son..."? Finish reading Mark's gospel (through chapter 16). What is the rest of the story?

day 5: (Mark 1: 9-13, Mark 9: 2-8, Mark 14: 53-56, Mark 15: 33-39, Matthew 16: 13-20) The question Jesus asks his disciples is no different today than it was when he first uttered it. "What about you? Who do you say that I am?" Your answer is everything. It is life-changing. What is your answer? Who do you say that Jesus is?

day 6: (Matthew 16: 13-20) Simon gets a new name in this passage. Jesus renames him, "Peter" or "rock", and declares that he will build his church on this rock. We are so quick to identify with Peter in his failures, let's now identify with him in his successes. He is the rock, the foundation upon which Jesus will build his church...and so are you! If you declare that Jesus is Lord of your life and Lord of all, he declares you to be his church. He wants to build on you! Pray about how He might like to do this.

The Baptism of Jesus

Sunday, January 11, 2009

Mark 1: 9-13

I. Did Jesus need Baptism?

II. Connection to Israel's history

III. Reinforcement of Jesus' Identity

IV. Foreshadowing of His Substitutionary Death

What does it mean for us?