

Presentation 3

Mk 1.1-15

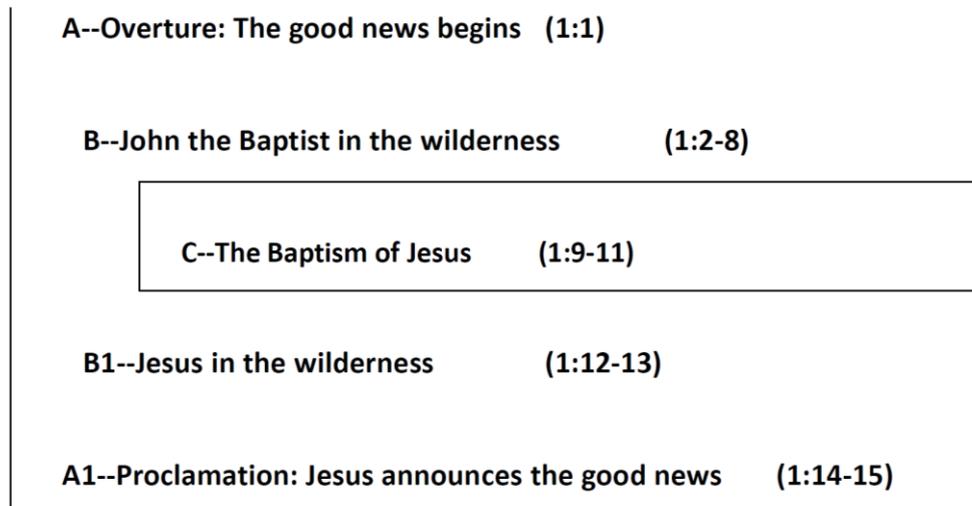
Jesus announces the “Gospel” from the “Wilderness”



The tomb of St Mark the Evangelist at the high altar in the Cathedral St Mark, in Venice.

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1. *Structure of Mk 1:1-15*



2. *John the Baptist announces in the "wilderness"*

The Isaiah Quote (Mk 1:2-3)

Mk 1:2-3

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

Ot Sources

Ex 23:20 (" ²⁰ I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. ")

Mal 3:1 ("See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.")

Is 40:3 (" ³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ")



The Judean Wilderness. Photo © Michael Trainor, used with permission.

Mk 1.6: John is ascetic from the wilderness.

Mk 1.7: John, the messenger announces the preparation for the one to come.

Mk 1.9: Jesus comes from the village of Nazareth and baptized by John “into” the Jordan → submersion into the water, the original material and chaos of the story of Creation. Jesus is connection to Creation.

Mk 1.10: Jesus connects the earth to the heavens, as God’s Spirit agent who connects the heavenly presence to earth.

Mk 1.11: God delights in Jesus as the beloved One of God—needs to be remembered throughout the Gospel, in the death of Jesus in the Gospel. This has implications for all who are baptized. We, too, are God’s beloved ones.

3. *The Baptism of Jesus Mark 1:9-11 (NRSV)*

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

Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:13 - 4:1	Mark 1:9-12	Luke 3:21-23
<p>¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had</p> <p>been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil...</p>	<p>⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John into the Jordan.</p> <p>¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.</p> <p>¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.</p>	<p>²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized</p> <p>and was praying,</p> <p>the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.</p> <p>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ²³ Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son...</p>

4. *John the Baptizer*

- Member of the Qumran community?
- Essene?
- Historical relationship between Jesus and John Baptist?
- Clothing: camel hair, leather belt around waist (1:6)
- Food: locusts and wild honey
- Water in the wilderness

5. *The First Words of Jesus in the Gospel (Mk 1.15)*

- a. "The time (*Kairos*) is fulfilled,
- b. and the kingdom (*Basileia*) of God has come near;

- c. repent (*meta+noiete*),
- d. and believe in the good news (*evangelion*).

6. Summary

- Role of the “wilderness” out of which the Gospel and Jesus comes.
- The wilderness is the place of aloneness, vulnerability, fear, openness for what is possible, struggle, mortality.



The Judean Wilderness. Photo © Michael Trainor, used with permission.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

- The Gospel begins in the “wilderness” and from it Jesus comes and speak his first words. What is the “wilderness” that others (and I) experience around me?
- What is the “good news” that we need to hear today? What “good news” can the Church offer or speak to Jesus followers today and to the world?

IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT PRESENTATION

- For the next presentation, read Mk. 1.16-3.35

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