

## Mark

### “The Emperors Credentials part 1”

#### 1:9-11

#### I. Introduction

#### II. Vs. 9-11 Baptism

##### I. Introduction

Any student of scripture faces the greatest challenges from the Bible not when looking at something that you have never seen but rather when examining something that you are far too familiar with. That is where we find ourselves this morning when we look at the first of two very familiar accounts:

- Jesus’ baptism, mentions in all 4 accounts
- Jesus’ temptation mentioned in all but John’s gospel

Having looked at the road worker (John the Baptist) who prepared the roads into the hearts of people Mark immediately moves to the King of Kings, Jesus, in a sudden simple statement, “*in those days...Jesus came.*” Those few words mark the only way any life can become better, they are words of radical change and they appear twice in 6 verses as we see them again in verse 14. The picture is clear from Mark to the Roman reader of this joyous news of the Emperor, after the Baptist cleared the debris from the roads to the human hearts “*Jesus came*” it didn’t matter where He came there were always results when He came. Specifically Mark tells us His initial entrance down the road to human hearts were down two very difficult roads and he does so in the “*passive voice*” in the Greek which means that these two things were “*done to Jesus*”. His *baptism* and *temptation* were both necessary *preparation* for His earthly ministry.

## II. Vs. 9-11 Baptism

Vs. 9-11 It is not into the world Jesus comes, He has been in the world 30 years, it is from Nazareth. These words don't speak of His beginning on this earth but the beginning of His earthly ministry. Nazareth, to Jesus was an ordinary human experience, filled with all the same responsibilities others experienced but in a place of seclusion, Luke records those years as being ones in which "*Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*"

All four of the gospels record the baptism of Jesus which suggests to us that the gospel considered this incident is very significant and important in Jesus life. From a Jewish perspective John's baptism marked a radical spiritual awakening for many in the nation. Thousands of people were leaving their cities, homes and jobs, going down to a secluded wilderness to listen to this Bulldozer of a man who brought them to a place that they needed to make a change as they acknowledged their failures. Those that made the trek to the wilderness went under the water as their forefathers had done a 1,000 years earlier at this same spot when they entered the promise land. Yet in Matthew 3:13-17 when Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee to John, John objected saying, "*I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?*" This is **a remarkable statement for two reasons:**

- a. First from a human perspective: ***John had known Jesus all his life, they were cousins, and we all know that it is easiest to find fault in folks that we are most familiar with.*** Yet John says to his younger cousin, "*You don't need to confess any sin, there is nothing in all your life that requires confession and repentance.*"

Spend any amount of time with any individual and you will very quickly discover that there is no such thing as a “**Holy Man**” from any descendants of Adam and Eve. Yet, John make this clear distinction in the form of an objection of Jesus request to be baptized by John.

- b. Second, we need to understand this statement in terms of its chronological placement in the text: **This statement of John In Matthew 3:14 comes PRIOR to his understanding that Jesus is the Messiah** which according to the apostle John’s account in 1:31-34 would happen only after the Baptist saw the “*Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him.*” The Baptists own testimony with regards to Jesus being the Messiah is that, “**I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water. I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. I have seen and testified that this is the son of God.**” **Prior to the sign that God had shown John with full knowledge of Jesus’ life as his cousin John acknowledges Jesus sinless-ness!**

Back in Matthew’s gospel he records Jesus’ response to John’s objection in chapter 3 verse 15 saying, “*Permit it to be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill righteousness.*” Clearly Jesus baptism wasn’t the same as the throngs that were coming out from Jerusalem and Judea. So **why was Jesus baptized by John the Baptist?** Mark speaks of **three reasons for Jesus coming to John to be baptized:**

1. **INTENT** Vs. 9 “*Jesus came...and was baptized by John in the Jordan*”: Mark first shows that Jesus’ intent in the words, “Jesus came” saying that He did so for a specific purpose. The purpose was not the purpose of the multitudes who had come His purpose was for “**INDENTIFICATION**” with fallen humanity. In the Greek word for “**baptized**” was not only used as a **symbol of death** but it was also used as a word to **dye cloth** as the fabric was put under the dye thus the cloth would retain the stain that was in the water. That’s what Jesus was doing here as He was put under the water of the Jordan where multitudes had gone under washing away their sin He was put under in a sinless condition and took upon Himself the stain of our sin. He was choosing to be placed under the same water where humanity was confessing sins, having the water that washed over the sin of humanity come upon Him. Simple put “***He who knew no sin became sin for us***”! This would culminate 3 ½ years later at the cross. This is why Jesus said in Matthew 3:15 “*it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*”. At His baptism Jesus declared His intent to meet the righteous demands of God by undertaking to pay off all of our debt caused by sin.
2. **POWER** Vs. 10 “*Immediately, coming up from the water, he saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove*”: It is interesting to note that Mark records the immediate parting of the heavens and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. The results were instantaneous happening simultaneously with Jesus coming up out of the water, no wait and see. **Not only does the baptism of Jesus reveal His intent it also reveals that His identification would unleash upon mankind the powerful cure to overcome sin, guilt, fear and**

**death**. We can be certain of this as the moment Jesus showed His intent to take our place the Holy Spirit's power was visible. It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to live as God has intended! The Spirit's descending and remaining upon Jesus is very reminiscent of the anointing oil that would be poured out upon the heads of kings and priests committing them to function in the office. Jesus is being anointed by the Father through the Spirit for the purpose He was called to. In only a few weeks from this time Jesus would quote from Isaiah chapter 61 as recorded for us in Luke 4:18-19 about this anointing saying the "*Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.*" This power wasn't just for performing power acts but rather so we can live a beautiful peace-filled life. That's why this POWER is symbolized by a dove which is never associated with fierceness, you don't hear of sports teams being called the "fighting doves". That's the kind of power on display LOVE which is the most powerful force there has ever been.

3. **ACCEPTANCE** Vs. 11 "*Then a voice came from heaven, You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*": This acceptance came with the voice of assurance from the Father. The word "***beloved***" in the Greek ***not only declares affection***, it also carries the meaning of uniqueness as in "***only one***". Those standing around heard the Father say, "***This is My beloved Son***" as Matthew and Luke record but Jesus heard "***You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased***". Humanity needed to know that those previous years of Jesus' life on this

earth was accepted by the Father and just like the Baptist in his protest of Jesus request to be baptized, **they need to hear that there had been not one thing in those 30 years of sin and self-serving.** But when Jesus heard the voice of the Father He heard the assurance that what He had just done in identifying with sinful man would be accepted 3 ½ years later on the cross and remove the curse. This is what the author of Hebrews describes in Hebrews 10:5-7 saying that when Jesus came into the world quoting out of Psalm 40:6-8 Jesus said, “*Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, **but a body You have prepared for Me.** In burnt offerings for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, Behold I have come—**in the volume of the book it is written of Me---to do Your will, O God.**” And because Jesus had that assurance we who have trusted in Him can as well. Each day we need to hear from the Father “*You are my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased.*” That’s not because we are perfect as Jesus is, no it’s because we have placed are trust in Jesus’ perfection not our own!*

Jesus began His ministry with this assurance and saints we must as well, as we will be hearing a 1000 lies and hour telling us otherwise, just as Jesus moved from the voice of the Fathers assurance to the shouts of satan’s lies.