

Mark 1:9-22 – The Gospel Established and Exhibited

TSK, GreekLexicon, Alexander, Geneva, Poole, JFB, Robertson, Trapp, Reinecker, Henry, Gill,
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus was the source and substance of the Gospel. The prophets all proclaimed that same Gospel in the OT and John proclaimed that same Gospel in the NT. This one Gospel destroyed dispensationalism. Today you will hear how the Gospel was confirmed by the Father and the Spirit, and how Jesus, the Son, then began to preach that Gospel in his own life.

Our headings are:

The Gospel Enabled by the Spirit

The Gospel Established by the Father

The Gospel Exclaimed by the Son

Our goals are: That you will appreciate in the depths of your soul the privilege (特权) to get the Gospel, that you will let the Gospel influence your life, and that you will support the spread of the Gospel.

The Gospel Enabled by the Spirit

9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and **was baptized** by John in the Jordan.

1. Jesus had to be humanly qualified to live and teach the Gospel. To be humanly qualified, he had to be subjected to human law. One of those laws was being subject to a symbolic washing – or baptism(洗礼). **Jesus had to identify (与...认同) as you.** Baptism is evidence of your incorporation (unity) in the covenant 圣约 community **because you are united with Christ.** It was as if you were baptized. John didn't think that he should baptize Jesus, seeing the superiority of Jesus over him, but the Lord required that he do it.

Matthew 3:14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" **15** But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, **for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then he allowed Him.

10 And immediately, **coming up from the water,** He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him **like a dove.**

2. As Jesus was baptized, God's Holy Spirit came upon him.

a. How? The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus as a dove-like creature. The dove was a symbol of peace.

Genesis 8:11 Then the **dove came to him in the evening,** and behold, a **freshly plucked olive leaf** was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

The dove brought the message of hope to Noah that God was no longer angry with the people of the earth. As in the days of Noah, the Holy Spirit showed that there was peace between God and man through Jesus.

Song of Solomon 2:10 My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away. **11** For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. **12** The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, **And the voice of the turtledove 斑鸠** is heard in our land.

b. Why did Jesus need the Holy Spirit? Jesus was 100% man and needed the help of the Holy Spirit. As the Son of God, he did not need the Holy Spirit. He was all-powerful by himself. But Jesus had a reasonable human body and a reasonable human soul that needed the Holy Spirit. Because of the Holy Spirit was on Jesus he was eminently (非常) qualified to face the challenges of life and die for you. God made sure that those around saw the Holy Spirit's coming so they could note it.

3. Lessons:

a. Baptism symbolizes your unity with Christ-that you are part of the covenant community. This means you must live in a way that reflects that truth. This text does not speak of immersion (浸礼). "Coming out of the water" doesn't mean immersion. Imagine the difficulty of bring water out one by one! Wouldn't it have been more convenient to step in the water to baptize thousands? Doctrines must never be developed by circumstantial evidence. "We put on Christ in baptism" doesn't speak of sprinkling 洒水礼. Baptism of the Holy Spirit with tongues on fire on the head doesn't mean sprinkling. And on the other side, "buried with Christ" doesn't mean immersion. The mode of baptism must be learned from the Scriptures – **which multiple times speak of sprinkling or pouring.** And since there is the same Gospel...if there is a change in the sign...surely God would have said something.

b. You too need the Holy Spirit. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work sanctification 成圣 in your hearts. You don't become Pentecostal 灵恩派 if you are "filled with the Holy Spirit." Rather, you will bear fruits worthy of the Spirit.

The Gospel Established by The Father

11 Then a voice came from heaven, "You are **My beloved Son**, in whom **I am well pleased**."

1. After the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus he was perfectly qualified to die for the sins of the world – to be that Gospel to a dying world, but there was more. The Father announced that the Son would please him as well. This was double confirmation that established truth. Adam and Eve and their descendants did not please God, but his Son did. Jesus would be the fit sacrifice for sins. This was a fatherly confirmation King David's words.

Psalm 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, **'You are My Son**, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

But this was not bland confirmation. This had substantive implications (含义). Jesus would save many – those the Lord had given him (election 拣选) and he would condemn those who would reject him (damnation 咒诅).

Psalm 2: 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; **You shall dash them to pieces...**

12 Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. 13 And He was there in the **wilderness forty days**, tempted by Satan, and **was with the wild beasts**; and the angels ministered to Him.

2. Then the Holy Spirit drove the Son into the desert to fulfill what the Father had ordained (任命, 命令) for him to do: endure and suffer in man's nature. This was consistent with the 3 persons at the Mount of Transfiguration

Exodus 24:18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the **mountain forty days and forty nights**.

1Kings 19:8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food **forty days and forty nights** as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

Both Moses and Elijah went into the Sinai desert and endured much temptation (试探) in preparation for the coming of the law and for the coming of reformation. Now Jesus had to endure **starvation (饥饿)** in his body and **temptation** in his soul in preparation as part of his **active** and **passive** obedience(主动顺服与被动顺服) – so you would receive the credit. Jesus' ministry was similar to Moses and Elijah, but his was superior.

3. In the desert Jesus was harassed for many days by evil spirits, but God sent his angels to assist him through those trying times.

4. Lessons:

a. God the Father confirmed his involvement in your salvation through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works in your hearts so that you know you are God's child.

b. Do you see what Christ endured for you... the extent of his physical suffering and then his spiritual torture? Mel Gibson in the *Passion of the Christ* had no idea!

c. Are you willing to suffer for him now so others might be saved and sanctified?

The Gospel Exclaimed by the Son

14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, **preaching the gospel** of the kingdom of God,

1. After the approbation(认可) of the Spirit and the Father, the Son then began to preach the Gospel – his Gospel. Some attempt to prove that there is contradiction in the Bible as John's account says that Jesus started to preach in the south – in Judea, as oppose to Matthew, Mark, and Luke who seemed to say that he started preaching in Galilee in the north. But the Synoptic Gospels 对观福音 (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) did not say that he started in the north. They simply say that after John the Baptist was put in prison Jesus preached in the north. And that makes perfect sense. When John was gone, then Jesus came in.

15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"

2. The preaching of the Gospel was joined with a command to repent and believe it. The hearers had to believe in Jesus, for he was the Gospel. They must believe that he would live and die for them. (And surely they were saved before he died, by looking to him – like the OT saints.) **Their faith had an object-Jesus.** Being sorry for wrongs was not sufficient. They needed someone as a substitute for their sins. And through the Gospel God's kingdom would come! **Keep in mind that this type of preaching was contrary to what the Jews expected.** They expected the kingdom would come physically by military intervention (介入). This was one of the reasons they hated Jesus.

16 And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 Then Jesus said to them, "**Follow Me, and I will make**

you become fishers of men." 18 They **immediately left their nets** and followed Him. 19 When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. 20 And **immediately He called them**, and they left their father Zebedee in the **boat** with the hired servants, and went after Him.

3. Knowing that he would only be preaching for a few years, Jesus recruited others to continue preaching after. He recruited Simon and his brother Andrew, and John and his brother James. These 4 men immediately left their work for the greater work. Mark does not go into details about some of the struggles of these men, for that was not his point. (Read John if you want to know more.) But don't think for a minute that these men abandoned their families – their wives or their fathers. (Going to school puts you physically away from your parents, but it doesn't mean that you abandon your parents.) They didn't abandon their families. It would have been wrong to do so. Their first calling was to their families. And by the way, this special calling was not their conversion (转变, 皈依). This was their call to ministry (事工). They were surely already followers of Jesus.

21 Then they went into Capernaum, and **immediately on the Sabbath** He entered the synagogue and taught.

4. With those 4 new disciples following, Jesus then continued the work in the north, in Capernaum. It is notable that Jesus continued to obey the Sabbath law (安息日律法). The Sabbath was a creation ordinance – predating the fall – made for all mankind, and could never be abolished. This is why Moses wrote: "Remember!" (If the Sabbath were abolished, then marriage and the requirement to have children must also be abolished.)

Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*;

22 And they **were astonished at His teaching**, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (文士).

5. Christ's preaching was profound to his hearers, even though they had to overcome his accent and his coming from a backward place in Israel. Christ had deeper insights into truth. He explained the intention of the laws. He applied the law to their lives. And he showed the need for the cross. Look how he is described.

Psalm 45:2 You are fairer than the sons of men; **Grace is poured upon Your lips**; Therefore God has blessed You forever.

The scribes, on the other hand, were the main source of controversy to the Lord.

6. Lessons:

a. Preaching the full Gospel is pre-requisite (前提条件) for salvation. There is no other way – regardless how sincere one might be. Those who preach imitation (贗品的, 仿制的) Christianity rob the hearers of true salvation...and rob Christ of true service.

b. How much are you willing to give up for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How much time will you take to learn the Gospel so you can teach your wife and children? How much money are you willing to spend to buy books to learn? Would you willing to give up the opportunity to meet your favorite singer if it were on the Lord's Day? Are you willing to run when you are called, as the Apostle Paul in Galatians 1?

c. Don't support those by your time, tithes 什一奉獻, or prayers who do not preach the full Gospel.

Conclusion:

The Gospel was Enabled by the Spirit. He worked in Jesus. The Gospel was Established by the Father. He spoke from heaven confirming this. The Gospel was Exclaimed by the Son with authority. He then trained others to help.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Do you realize the importance of the Gospel in your life? You were saved through this Gospel. No Gospel, no salvation.

2. Do you then live like the Gospel is vital to your life? Do you let it guide your thoughts, words, and actions?

3. Are you willing to tell the world...or make sure that the world hears this Gospel? Like the Jews, there are many who think that salvation can come by other ways...like in passing good laws. But only the Gospel has the message of life.

Finally, if you don't believe the Gospel, with all the accompanying proofs, then you will die in your sins and go to hell. But if you receive the truth of the Gospel – that Christ came to save sinners by his life and death – then you will be saved, given a new name, and brought into Christ's kingdom – which is here today.