

Covid-19 and The Son of God

Mark 1:9-13

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Digital Sermon Summary

We have certainly entered a brave new world. Pastor Andrew (yes, he could easily slip into the role of a television presenter) said, quoting Hebrews 10:25, “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching”.

Yet, regulations permitting, we must continue worshiping even though it may be at a distance. [And today’s streaming is certainly something new and exciting. It felt strange being ‘isolated’ yet knowing there were many in similar thoughts also watching the team at work. P] The messages Andrew and others will bring throughout these next several months of isolation will be talks pertinent to the crisis and to our faith walk.

Read Mark 1:9-13. This is the passage where Jesus comes into Mark’s narrative. [John the Baptist began his preaching in (probably) AD26. Jesus began his ministry around AD 30. Thus, it would appear John the Baptist was preaching and prophesying Christ’s coming for, at the maximum, 3 years prior to Jesus’ baptism. If he began in AD29, then he would have been in the desert for just 1 year prior to the baptism. P.]

Why is it necessary for Jesus to be baptized before starting his ministry? He knows he must humbly become a human so that he can identify with them. As others are baptized, so he also will be. He is not being baptized to remove any sinfulness since he has none. But, he does not want to stand aloof from humanity (see Hebrews 4:15).

Verse 10 describes Jesus’ coming up out of the water and seeing heaven being torn asunder and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. What an extraordinary and supernatural event that must have been. In like manner, at the very instant of Jesus’ death on the cross, “The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” (Mathew 27:51).

I wonder what the words, “You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11) sounded like to others watching? This is the point in time when the Trinity empowers Jesus to do his work.

Immediately – not a few days later – the Spirit sends Jesus out into the desert for 40 days. He is pitched into a hostile environment where he meets his adversary. Jesus wins; Satan loses! Jesus “was with the wild animals, and angels attended him” (Mark 1:13).

In his baptism and testing, Jesus has been authenticated by the Father, anointed and led by the Holy Spirit, and will now go on to achieve the purpose for which he the Son was sent.

Jesus was not afraid of anything he confronted in life. If Jesus is in us, then technically we too should not be afraid of the storms of life – including Covid-19. As we are told in Hebrews 6:19-20, “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf”.

Here are some questions to ponder and discuss:

1. Why does knowing Jesus as the son of God help us during the plague of Covid-19?
2. How can we draw on the infinite power of Jesus every day?
3. What selfish methods are currently being showed by humans?
4. What can we do to display our Christian faith and love to our neighbours?

The King is alive. He is the only hope we have and the only one we will need.

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27).