

The Place to Begin

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Mark 1:1-8.
- B. The Gospel of Mark may be the very first New Testament writing.
- C. Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabus but left one of the journeys causing Paul to refuse him on another.
- D. Mark became a close companion of Peter's.
- E. It is possible that Mark shows up in his Gospel when Jesus was seized during the Garden scene—soldiers attempted to seize this person, but they only got a hold of his robe and the unnamed person fled.

II. Jesus is both human and the Son of God in Mark's Gospel.

- A. Jesus is the servant who rules. (Mark 1:1-8:26)
- B. Jesus is the ruler who serves. (Mark 8:27-16)

III. The beginning of the Gospel is the ministry of John the Baptist.

- A. There is no reason why men would come to the dessert to hear about sin and repentance.
- B. However, John spoke to a universal need—a “sin-drome.”
 - 1. Sin, which is self-centeredness.
 - 2. Fear.
 - 3. Guilt.

IV. The promise John announced.

- A. It was anticipated by the prophets. (Malachi)
- B. It was to be presented in the wilderness by John according to the promise.
- C. It was the way to God.
 - 1. The way to God came through the forgiveness of sins.
 - 2. It must begin with the one offended.
 - 3. The offender must admit wrong—repentance is the place where God meets man.

D. It was assured to be true by the symbol of baptism.

V. John's attire and diet.

A. His attire represents his simple ministry.

B. John said his ministry was incomplete—the answer beyond repentance must come from Jesus.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to acknowledge the problems of sin, fear and guilt in order to begin a right relationship with God? Explain.

2. How does the foretelling of John the Baptist's ministries by the Old Testament prophets help to validate his message?

3. What does it mean to repent?
