

Identity & Purpose

Mark 1:9-13

Children's Message

There 3 Elements of Jesus' Baptism:

1. John Baptised Jesus with Water
2. The Holy Spirit descends like a dove on Jesus
3. The Voice of the Father saying,
"You are my son. I love you and am pleased with you."

We believe in the trinity.

Identity & Purpose

Mark 1:9-13

Baptism - Identity (Who You Are)

Who are you really? And What are you? Where does your identity come from? Who you think you are and where your roots are affect everything you do.

v.9 Where Jesus was from

Jesus receives the baptism of John as a sign of his allegiance to the Kingdom.

A sense of confidence, humility and acceptance.

Many times our own sense of insecurity causes a rebellion or abrasiveness.

It may cause us to speak more of ourselves simply to puff up.

A humble person has no need to identifiers.

They know who they are.

Theophany - The revelation of God

Jesus comes out of the water and sees heaven being torn open

A sign of connection, a opening, and change in the order of things.

v.10 The Spirit descends on him like a dove.

The dove is a sign of restoration, peace, reconciliation, forgiveness.

It goes back to Noah - a sign of hope.
Jesus is "baptised" by the Holy Spirit.
He is filled with the Spirit.

v.11 Then a voice - "You are my son whom I love. with you I am well pleased."
This is obviously the voice of God the Father.
It identifies Jesus as the Son, as loved but more than that- pleased.

How many of us long to hear those words from our fathers?

You are mine. I Love you. I am proud of you.

Some of us will never hear those words.

We shrug it off and say, that's not my father's personality.

We dull that empty vacuum.

We make ourselves strong, independent.

But the truth is, we need those words.

If not from our earthly Father, from our heavenly one.

Do you hear him?

Faith is not about believing that God exists.

It is believing what he says about us.

Do you know who you are? Do you know Whose you are?

Your identity.

Wilderness - Purpose (What You are Called to Do)

v. 12-13 Then the wilderness.

The Holy Spirit sends Jesus into the wilderness.

Before his preaching or healing ministry this is what he does.

Jesus is sent into a place of solitude or loneliness.

But why? and for what?

He spends his time there for 40 days.

The significance of this is that it rained 40 days for the flood.

Israel wandered the wilderness for 40 days.

The number 40 is a long time.

4 is the number of what is all encompassing

- the 4 direction, the 4 corners of the earth

10 is a number of fullness and completeness.

In each of these cases, the flood & wandering, they served to purge.

to hone the purpose and direction.

the character of a person, of a people.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The person who cannot be alone should beware of being with others."

How are you at being alone?

Do you get lonely?

Can you stand your own company?

Some people can't.

Being alone also reveals what you truly believe about God.

Is he just a figment of your wishful thinking in which case you really are alone or is he very present?

For the one who knows God, God speaks in our solitude.

We learn to sort out his voice from our own.

Moreover, he was tempted by Satan - spiritual danger.

More details are provided in the Gospels of Matthew & Luke.

God is not the only one who speaks in our solitude.

In our loneliness, we also meet the devil.

We meet our inner demons, our addictions, our comfort patterns.

Our compulsions, our ambitions, our expectations, our schemes, our fears, our insecurities, our anxieties.

And the devil knows how to twist these things around us.

The wilderness makes us face the demons we hide or deny.

What are your demons?

He was out there with the wild animals - physical danger.

We don't live with a lot of physical threats in our society.

We are living longer than ever.

We do not often have to think of death.

But what if we did?

What is it like to accept that your life will end?

If you knew you have a year to live what would you do or how would you live?

Everything changes.

What if you only have a month? a week? a day?

Jesus knew his time had come.

In the wilderness he wrestles with his mission, his purpose.

Can we live every day as if it were our last?

But then this note - he was attended by angels.

Where they the spiritual beings created by God?

the word angel, simply means messenger.

more specifically in Biblical context, messengers of God.

I think it means this.

We are never really alone in the wilderness.

You may be experiencing a wilderness right now in your life.

A difficult time of pain, disappointment, fearfulness.

or it could even be complacency and apathy.

Angels may be all around you and you just won't let them help you.

Messengers of God, both divine or human.

Jesus was attended by angels in his wilderness experience

and so are we.

We may also be called upon to be the human kind of angels.

So what about you?

Do you take enough time out in the wilderness to be alone with God?

Examine your life.

If you belong to God you know you also have a purpose.

Have you paid enough attention to why you live?

Or are you treading water?

Our church has a purpose.

I have been listening to God and I've been catching a vibe.

It's not just for me, but it's for us,

about how we are going share what we have.

But we need to pray together for it.