



YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE TEACHER

SPRING QUARTER

MARCH | APRIL | MAY 2023

FOR TEACHERS OF ADULTS AGES 18 THROUGH 25

Young People's Bible Teacher

SPRING QUARTER

March, April, May 2023

Jesus Pleases His Father

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SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

MARK 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

NOTES

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press Division. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and yieldedness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Jesus' Baptism

Lesson Text: Mark 1:4-13

Related Scriptures: Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 3:15-22;
Matthew 17:1-7; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

TIME: A.D. 26

PLACES: wilderness of Judea; Jordan River

GOLDEN TEXT—"There came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11).

Lesson Exposition

With this lesson, we begin an exciting quarter of study that focuses on the works, sacrifice, and teachings of Jesus. The first three lessons focus on the works of Christ. In them, we will learn some of the basics of the life of Christ. In this week's lesson we will see Him appearing at the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist.

Some will view this event as a step of preparation for Jesus to become the Messiah. But Jesus needed no preparation. He was God. He did not need to be trained to be man's Saviour! Preparation was occurring, but it was the world that was being prepared! The foundation was being prepared for the world to know and understand that God had come in human flesh and would give His life for sinful mankind.

THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST—Mark 1:4-6

Leading (Mark 1:4-5). Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elisabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, were relatives (Luke 1:36). We do not know how much contact Jesus and John had throughout the course of their lives.

God had wrought a miracle to deliver John to aged parents. That miracle had a specific purpose beyond providing the blessing of a child to previously childless parents. God would use John to prepare the people of Israel to receive the long-awaited Messiah (vss. 76-77).

The ministry of John was to lead the people to understand their need to repent before they could receive their Messiah whom God was sending. John led them to be baptized in water. That baptism symbolized their repentance and God's willingness to forgive sins.

John's preaching was drawing great crowds of people from the Judean countryside and even from the city of Jerusalem. There were apparently many people who understood their need to repent and draw near to God. John baptized them in the Jordan River, symbolizing the cleansing of their hearts before the Lord.

Living (Mark 1:6). John's message was not compromised by any hypocrisy. He was living what he was teaching. He shunned the trappings of worldly materialism. He wore sim-