



Word on Wednesday Bible Study

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September 9, 2026

The Beginning of the Good News

A FEW MESSAGES THROUGH MARK'S GOSPEL

Sermon One | Mark 1:1-11

Mark writes the earliest and most urgent of the four Gospels, wasting no words on genealogies or birth narratives. He opens at the Jordan River, where in a few brief verses heaven declares, the Spirit descends, and the Father delights in the Son. This sermon traces that moment in three parts: a declaration from heaven, a descent of the Spirit, and a delight in the Son.

I. THE DECLARATION FROM _____ (vv. 9-11)

"...immediately he saw the heavens being torn open... 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" (vv. 10-11)

- Mark tells us the heavens are torn open, not gently _____.
- "You are my Son" echoes Psalm 2:7; "with you I am well pleased" echoes Isaiah 42:1, and in one breath the Father names Jesus both _____ and _____.
- "Beloved," *agapetos*, means the one and only: a love with no _____, no equal.
- The declaration comes _____ the ministry (Eph. 1:5).

For the believer: *Grace names you before it ever measures you. You do not have to earn a name your Father has already given you.*

II. THE DESCENT OF THE _____ (v. 10)

"...he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove." (v. 10)

- The dove reaches back to Genesis 1 and Genesis 8. Wherever Scripture puts the Spirit and water together, something _____ is about to be born.
- Jesus's identity doesn't change at the Jordan, but His public _____ does not advance until the Spirit descends.
- Calling comes first; _____ comes next (Acts 1:8).

For the believer: *Your calling is not the same thing as your clearance. Wait for the Spirit's power before you walk into the assignment.*

III. THE DELIGHT IN THE _____ (v. 11)

“With you I am well pleased.” (v. 11)

- The Greek verb behind “well pleased” is aorist tense: a _____ pleasure, already true, now simply spoken aloud.
- The enemy always attacks the _____ before he attacks the behavior.
- In Christ, the verdict has already been spoken over you before your _____ ever entered the room.

For the believer: *In Christ, the Father's delight in you was settled before your performance ever entered the room.*

REFLECTION

Where are you still trying to earn a name the Father has already given you?

NOTES