

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

2- The Servant's Preparation

Mark 1:9-13

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Jesus went through a time of preparation. Let's look at *The Servant's Preparation* today as we *Learn to Serve*.

I- First Act of Surrender:

Mark 1:9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

Baptism has been referred to as the first act of obedience after we are saved. There is little biblical wiggle room to not submit to baptism shortly after becoming a Christian. May I suggest that after salvation the first step of a servant should be to join a local church, be baptized and get ready to serve?

II- Anointed by the Spirit:

At the baptism of Jesus is the Spirit descends upon Him. *Mark 1:10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:* It is impossible for us to be effective in ministry, whether it is witnessing or serving, without the Holy Spirit dwelling and inhabiting our activity. A servant realizes any power he has comes from the Spirit and not the flesh. A servant cannot please the Father without this anointing. Notice *Mark 1:11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

III- Into the Wilderness:

Mark 1:12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. Have you ever felt you were on the back side of nowhere and that God had forgotten you? I remind us of two great men that spent time in the desert.

First is Moses. *Exodus 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert...*Not only in the desert but on the back side. He was there for 40 years.

Next we find the man Saul who would become Paul the great Apostle. *Galatians 1:15-17 HCSB But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me, so that I could preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. 17 I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.* Arabia was the desert for Paul.

Jesus was driven into the wilderness. While there He was there He was tempted by Satan for 40 days and nights. We are told in *1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* Temptation comes at us in these areas.

Each time Christ responded with the Word of God. To serve beloved we need to learn the Word of God to resist the enemy. *1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. Perhaps you need to make a fresh commitment to learn the Word so you can serve.

IV- Don't Waste a Time of Trouble:

Learning to serve means we learn to learn the lessons from trial. Notice what James said in *James 1:2-4 HCSB Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.*

Is there something that you are going through that you are fighting learning the lesson of now in your life? *Hebrews 5:8 ESV Although he [Christ] was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.*

V- Some Refuse to Grow:

Let's allow the Word of God to dissect our hearts and if we are where we need to be doing what we need to be doing.

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. Hebrews 5:12-14 NASB For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

VI- Serve While You Grow:

I hope you have not gotten the feeling today that God is saying that you have no place of service until you know the Word completely. If you search the Scripture you find that God used men who were willing from the beginning. One thing we all can do is tell someone else what happened to us when we were saved. We can all pray. You can come along side someone to give a word of encouragement. Jesus faced His preparation time and then went full bore into serving. Is it time you stepped up and said, "Here I am God use me?" Teach me what I need to know but God I am willing.