

**September 20, 2009**  
**Mark 1:2-14**

*The Good News: A Sermon Series through the Gospel of Mark*  
**The Good News of Being Washed Clean**

There's Good News for the world . . .



. . . Jesus has made it possible for us to be washed clean and have access to the power of God. Both give us freedom from all we struggle with.

Struggles due to circumstances/external forces:

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Internal struggles due to my sin:

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*I baptize you with water but, he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

Mark 1:8

Last week you were asked to choose one characteristic of the kingdom of God that you would watch for and help create around you during week. How did this go? What did you notice? What did you help create?

**READ** Mark 1:2-8

Who played the role of John the Baptist in your life by preparing the way for Jesus? How do you play this role in the lives of others?

**READ** Mark 1:9-14

**The Journey of Jesus**

1. vs. 9 – Jesus lowers himself
2. vs. 10-11 – God claims Jesus and lifts him up
3. vs. 12-13 – God sends Jesus out and he goes into a time of temptation
4. vs. 14 – Jesus chooses to proclaim the Good News of God

**Our Journey Mirroring the Journey of Jesus**

Which best describes where you are on the journey: Feeling lifted up by God, Empowered, Struggling against temptations, Excited to share the Good News of God

What practices do you have that intentionally put you in a place of submitting (lowering yourself for the sake of others)?

Take a few minutes to write down (to the left) what you are struggling with today.

How do you try to cover up the stink in your life?

Examples: Working for greater security, Hovering over children or grandchildren, Buying things

Describe your baptism. What helps you remember to continually reclaim your baptism – the being washed clean and the being empowered by the Holy Spirit? How can your group help you reclaim your baptism in dealing with your current struggles?

**PRAY TOGETHER!**

Release your struggles. Confess your sins.

Ask to be washed clean. Claim the power of Christ.