

**Mark 1:1-7**

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## **SERMON NOTES & QUOTES**

Key Question: What kind of revolution is actually going to CHANGE THINGS?

### **The Scope of the Revolution (vv. 1-3)**

TERM: εὐθύς -ας, ἡ; (euthys), ADJ., ADV.

Immediately; at once.

Mark isn't just saying, "This is where my book starts." No – he's saying that everything he's about to write

- every healing
- every parable and lesson
- every confrontation with a demon or a pharisee
- every miracle
- every step toward the cross – is just the beginning of the good news.

It's the opening movement of a symphony that will echo through the ages.

### **The Herald of the Revolution (vv. 4-6)**

The LOCATION where John was baptizing.

Mark 1. The Preparation of John (1:1–8)

The locale of his ministry was the "desert," more specifically the uninhabited, barren gorge of "the Jordan River". The "desert" is a major theme in the introduction. In the Bible it is more than a geographical place; it is the place where God meets, reveals himself to, tests, and saves his people.

The APPEARANCE that John was resurrecting.

Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains 4.30 κάμηλος, ου

In referring to the camel's hair garment worn by John the Baptist, there are two problems. In the first place, it is important to translate the phrase 'garment of camel's hair' in such a way as to indicate that the garment was made of cloth woven out of camel's hair and did not consist of the entire skin nor of camel's hair stuck onto John the Baptist's body. In the second place, it is important to indicate that this camel's hair garment was a kind of rough garment, since in a number of languages an expression such as 'camel's hair coat' would refer to an expensive, luxury garment.

# SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

Zechariah 13:4 ESV

4 “On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies. He will not put on a hairy cloak in order to deceive,

Elijah was the great prophet of the northern kingdom of Israel, and he was known not just for his fire-from-heaven ministry, but also for his distinctive appearance. In 2 Kings 1:8, Elijah is described as “a man with a garment of hair and a belt of leather around his waist.” That’s almost word-for-word what Mark says about John.

## **The Message of the Revolution (v. 4, 7)**

Repentance - metanoia – a compound word meaning to “change one’s mind.”

But it’s more than just an intellectual shift. The underlying picture is a complete reorientation of life – a decisive turn. You were walking one direction, and then your mind was changed, your heart was pierced, and you turned around and walked in the opposite direction.

Repentance: gift and work of God that causes people turn away from sin and toward God.

- It’s not just feeling sorry – that’s regret.
- It’s not just cleaning yourself up – that’s moralism.

It is recognizing that your life was headed toward rebellion and ruin, and by God’s grace you turn and throw yourself on His mercy in a desire to live differently.

## **Ceremonial Washing**

Now, there were several types of ceremonial washings and dunking of oneself into water that were common among the Jewish people - this had to do with laws related to being ceremonially clean for worship or after childbirth or illness or things of that nature. It was always done to oneself.

But Mark doesn’t not go into those because, again, his main audience is not Jews, but Gentile Romans.

## **Proselyte Baptism**

During this time period, there was ONE kind of baptism that was common among the Jewish people in which one person dunked the other person under the water. This happened when someone who was a gentile (non-Jew) decided that they wanted to believe in Yahweh and become a member of God’s covenant people, a few things had to happen. One of those things was that you had to be baptized.

It was a way of saying, ‘My old life is gone, I’m starting over as one of God’s covenant people.’

Ezekiel 36:24–27 ESV

Real repentance isn’t something we can manufacture. It’s a gift of God. That means a few things for me and you.

1. We need to ask God to show us where to repent. Where are the crooked paths in your life? Where are you walking in your own way instead of His?
2. We need to ask God to give us the power to change. Repentance isn’t just willpower; it’s God’s Spirit turning our hearts back to Him and enabling us to walk in new obedience.