



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: God's Beloved

Speaker: Sherin Swift - Pastor of Connections & Equipping

Scriptures: Mark 1:9-13

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, **13** and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted[a] by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Sermon Summary:

We continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark with the story of Jesus' baptism, a moment where His true identity is revealed more clearly. As we see who Jesus is, we begin to see ourselves differently. What does it mean for your life that Jesus is called the Beloved, and how might His identity reshape your own?

Sermon Questions:

1. What did you notice about Jesus' baptism and its significance?

Mark is letting us know that Jesus is uniquely able and authorized to be the Messiah. Jesus' primary identity is beloved son.

2. Before Jesus moves into ministry, mission or accomplished anything at all- he is declared deeply loved. As followers of Jesus, God claims us and calls us beloved before we accomplish anything. Do you believe that God feels that way about you? What do you think are obstacles to you really believing you're beloved?
3. What in your life would change if you really understood how much God loves you?
4. Jesus was sent by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness after his baptism. Have you experienced struggling with a wilderness season and/or temptation after a time of spiritual high and encouragement?

Sometimes following the Spirit of God means we will be sent into challenge, testing and adversity. Jesus went into the wilderness anchored in his identity as the beloved.

5. Even Jesus himself was not left to endure alone- angels were sent to attend to him. He was strengthened going in and cared for coming out. In what area of your life do you need to know that you are being strengthened and cared for?