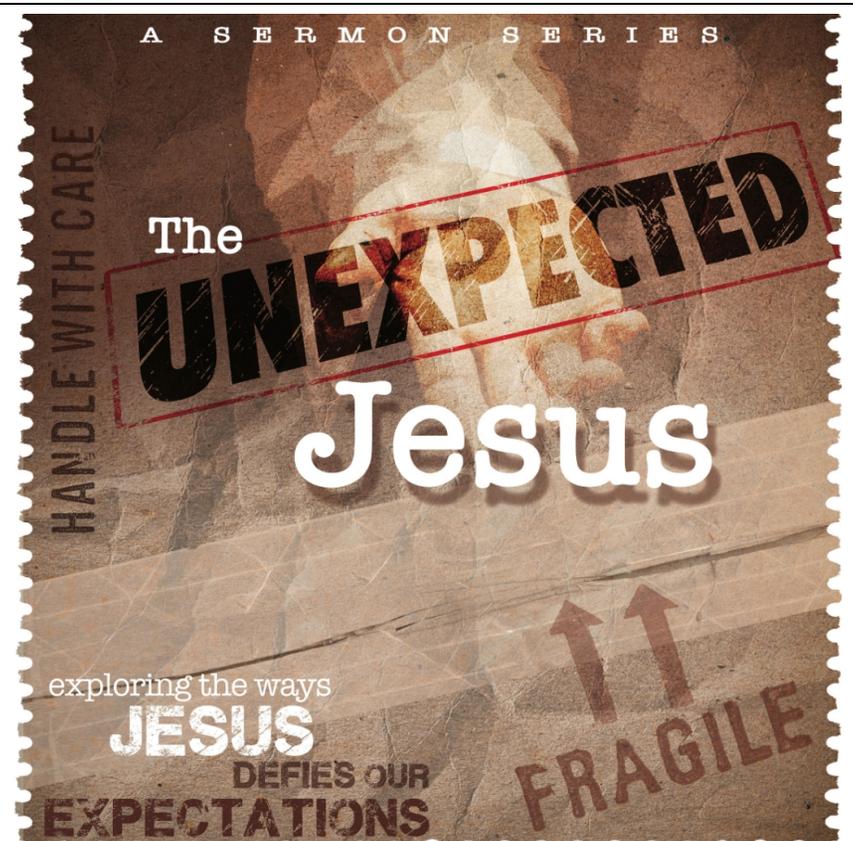


At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

Mark 1:9-11



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“An Unexpected Start”

January 6, 2019

The Problem: We often see what we _____ to see.
What we _____ to see is what we have seen before.
If we are not careful, we will leave _____ wrapped up.

Jesus Baptism: Mark introduced his writing as _____. Mk (1:1)
A _____ is an official proclamation to the people affecting everyone.
A message about something that alters the climate in which people live, changing politics and the possibilities; it transforms the landscape of social life.
– Rowan Williams

Scene 1: The Set Up – A Prophecy Mark 1:2-5

Outside Jerusalem in the desert, people came to _____ their sins and be baptized in the Jordan river.
John promises a _____ baptism to come with the Holy Spirit. (7-8)

Scene 2: The Prophecy Fulfilled and the Hero Identified

Jesus chose a baptism he did not need by a person with _____ power. (9)
After _____ years in Nazareth, Jesus was at the moment of _____.

 *The undecided life is the wasted life, the frustrated life...
the tragic life. - William Barclay*

Jesus did not need to repent of sin; we needed a _____. (10-11)
Beloved/chosen refers to an act of the _____ rather than of feeling.
When the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus, Jesus became _____.

Scene 3: The Testing of the Hero

The same _____ thrusts Jesus out into the wilderness. (12-13)
Temptations are not to make us _____; they are sent to strengthen us.

 *Don't let your **expectations** define Jesus.*
*Let **Jesus** define your expectations. – Rev. Brandon Blacksten*

Scene 4: The Hero's Journey Begins (14)

John's _____ marked that it was time for Jesus' public ministry.
Jesus' words were not only unexpected; they were _____. (15)
The kingdom of God is where what God wants done is _____.
The scene is of a carpentry hand for 30 years calling for _____
(a return to God's way).

Action Steps: _____ 1 chapter of Mark each day for 16 days.
Make a _____ today to be baptized or to reaffirm your faith.

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