**100 Days with Jesus**

**Study No. 2 Mark 1:2-11**

**Introduction**

Jesus has gone from baby to boy to man and is about to launch out on his great mission. John the Baptist was Jesus’ cousin. As with Jesus, his birth was announced by angels, made a huge impact on his parents Elizabeth and Zechariah (Luke 1:5), and was commemorated by a great early Christian hymn (Luke 1:67).

The supply-line of prophets in Israel had dried up years ago. Suddenly there was a new one, and a great one too. He was a young man in his mid to late 20s, living an austere life-style, a righteous, non-compromising man. Calling a spade a spade and a sin a sin, John travelled around the towns and villages of Judah, which was in the south. With great passionate eloquence he called people out to be baptised in the River Jordan and out they came by the truckload. There was something in all of this of a return to the great days of Moses and the escape from Egypt. There was to be a new purified people of God, a new Exodus, Israel would be a newly cleansed promised land and his baptism and ‘soaking’ was the new crossing of the Red Sea.

**Questions**

1. How was John preparing the way for Jesus?
2. Why do you think so many people were attracted to such a demanding message?
3. If you were responding to John’s message, would you have much to repent of?
4. What response do you think John would receive today?
5. How would you compare and contrast the ministries of John and Jesus?
6. 1:9 – Why do you think Jesus, the one without sin, should be baptised?
7. 1:10 – What is the significance of the Spirit descending like a dove?

**Key question to finish: Who is God and how do we respond?**

**Prayer**

Dear Lord Jesus

Your light exposes my darkness

Your purity highlights my sinfulness

Your love contrasts with my selfishness

So may your truth point to my failing, call me to repentance, and wash me in forgiveness

May I emerge from the water
Newer, Cleaner, Better for you

Amen.

**Leaders Notes**

6. This is a difficult question. Most people think it is Jesus wanting to affirm the ministry of John and our need for repentance.