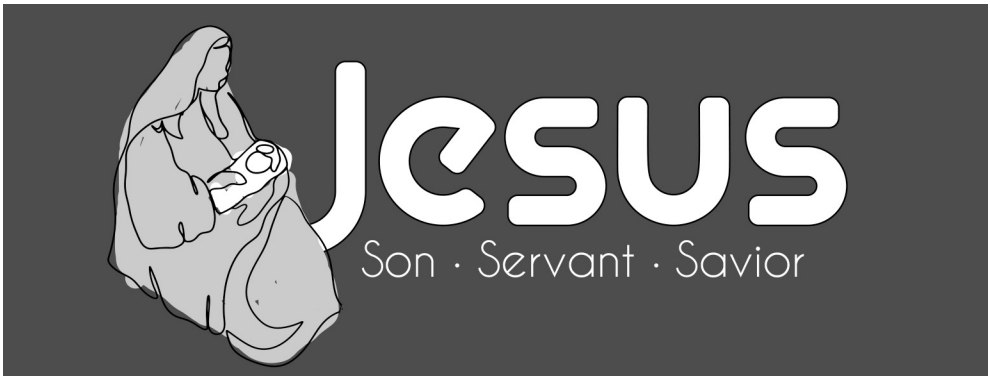

Is He the One? | Mark 1:1-15
Pastor Marty Rietgraf | January 4, 2026

Sermon Notes

Context:

Who is He?

5 spotlights that reveal Jesus as the One!

1) OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES spotlights Jesus as the One! (vs. 2-3)

2) JOHN THE BAPTIST ’ S MINISTRY spotlights Jesus as the One! (vs. 4-8)

3) THE FATHER spotlights Jesus as the One! (vs. 9-11)

4) JESUS ’ TESTING spotlights Jesus as the One! (vs. 12-13).

5) JESUS ’ PREACHING spotlights Jesus as the One! (vs. 14-15)

The Response of faith:

* EMBRACE the truth
* REPENT of your sins
* DECLARE allegiance to Jesus

Going Deeper

Find time this week to read through the whole gospel of Mark. The opening phrase "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (v. 1) immediately tells us about his purpose for writing. Look for ways that Mark gives evidence that Jesus is the One in what he includes in his gospel.

Think about the believers in Rome. What has been the hardest challenge you have gone through as a Christian because of your faith?

If you had just read Mark ’ s gospel and was arrested and about to die because of your faith, which spotlight from this first chapter would strengthen your faith the most?

How does John the Baptist's wilderness lifestyle (v. 3-4) and message of repentance (v. 4) set the stage for Jesus' arrival? What have you seen most effective today in preparing hearts for Jesus?

Why was John's baptism of repentance significant, and how does it differ from the baptism Jesus would later bring? If you have not been baptized, what has stopped you?

What is the significance of the Father's voice and the Spirit descending on Jesus at His baptism (v. 9-11)? Do you think it was more for Jesus or our benefit?

When you are being tempted, what strength can you receive from Jesus ’ temptation?

What evidence is there in your life that shows you have responded to the invasion of the kingdom of God? Is there a sin you need to repent of or an area you need to give Jesus allegiance over?

Upcoming

Hope Wednesdays | January 7 | 6-7:30 | ehope.org/events
Men ’ s Winter Retreat @ Hidden Acres | Jan 14-16 | ehope.org/events
Catholics and Protestants | Jan 25 10:30am or Jan 26 7pm | ehope.org/events