

## Hebrews 12:1-3

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,<sup>[a]</sup> and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of<sup>[b]</sup> the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**3** Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners,<sup>[c]</sup> so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

## Mark 1:1-15

The beginning of the good news<sup>[a]</sup> of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>[b]</sup>

**2** As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,<sup>[c]</sup>

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,<sup>[d]</sup>  
who will prepare your way;

**3** the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight",

**4** John the baptizer appeared<sup>[e]</sup> in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with<sup>[f]</sup> water; but he will baptize you with<sup>[g]</sup> the Holy Spirit.'

**9** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[h]</sup> with you I am well pleased.'

**12** And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

**14** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news<sup>u</sup> of God,<sup>u</sup> **15** and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;<sup>u</sup> repent, and believe in the good news.'