

**"POWER IN GRACE ALONE!"**  
**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – FEBRUARY 21, 2021**  
**GENESIS 9:8-17; 1 PETER 3:18-22; MARK 1:9-15**

**Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.**

**Power. Where do you go to find it? How do you come upon it? What part of your life and spirit need it the most? Power, like other things, is taken for granted until there is a shortage. We may not think too much about where we get power in our life and spirit until we find ourselves in the middle of a crisis, looking desperately for more power before we run out. In Mark's Gospel today, a lot is going on. Jesus is baptized, driven out into the wilderness to beat Satan, the angels wait on him. John is arrested. Jesus announces 'the kingdom of God has come near, repent, believe the good news.' As our Lenten journey continues, let us return to The One who gives us all the power we will ever need, let us trust in the grace of Christ, for we stand, we live, in the power of God's grace alone!**

1. Do you ever feel yourself running out of power? What robs you of power in your spiritual life? What steals power from your spirit?
  - A. How do you trust the power of God's grace alone will beat Satan and the wilderness? Mark 1:12-13
    - i. The wilderness in its many forms is real; it all takes so much energy from who we are and our spirit.
    - ii. Satan is real and can have real power over us as well. Satan works hardest on those who try to make God first.
  - B. How do you trust power in grace alone to repent? Mark 1:15
    - i. Confessing our sins, saying we are sorry, asking for forgiveness takes energy.
    - ii. Repenting, turning away from what we want more than God takes real power.
  - C. How do you trust power in grace alone to believe? Mark 1:14-15
    - i. Believing when believing seems impossible can wear out our spirits. The uncertainties of the world, wear us down. We question how much about God is certain.
    - ii. Do not beat yourself up over this. Some of the greatest believers got tired, too. Noah, Moses, David, Peter.

2. Trust and return to the Lord with all your heart! In God's grace alone, you have power, power in your spiritual life, power in The Spirit!
  - A. The season of Lent can give us power for a new beginning.
  - B. Repentance gives us power to give us more power. As we turn away from what leads us away from Christ, we will have more of Christ, and more power in God's grace alone. Mark 1:15
  - C. Covenants give us power - we do not need to do it ourselves. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Mark 1:12-13
    - i. Receive power in grace alone, in the covenant you have with your God. We have God, each other, the body of Christ.
    - ii. God's covenant is forever. God keeps his half of the covenant, even when we do not, in grace alone. Genesis 9:8-17
  - D. Baptism gives us power. Let us return to the One who comes to us forever in Water and Word. 1 Peter 3:18-21; Mark 1:9-11,13
    - i. Jesus is baptized and then driven out into the wilderness.
    - ii. Where would we be in the wilderness, if not baptized?
3. Mark 1:14-15 - Celebrate and trust your power in God's grace alone! The kingdom of God has come near. Believe the good news. The power God gives in Lent, repentance, the covenant, baptism, the cross, and the tomb are more than enough, in God's grace alone!