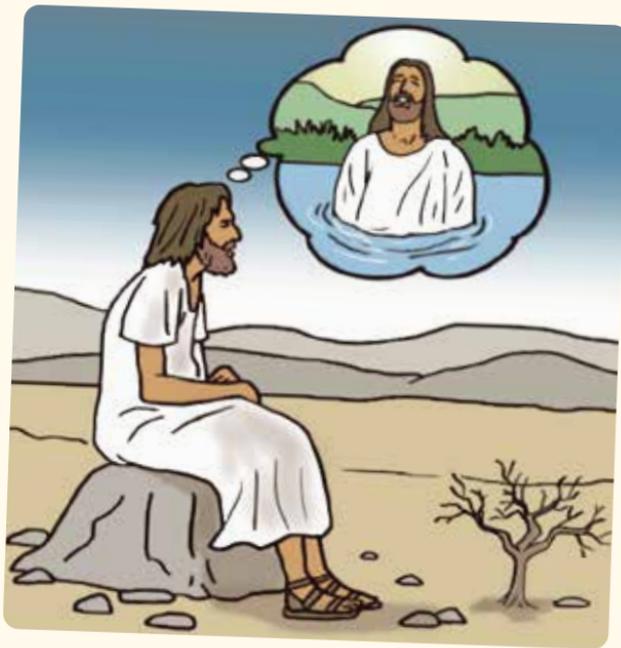


They had heard what John the Baptist had been saying, the people gathered by the river. He kept telling them: someone else is coming; someone more powerful; someone who will baptize with the Holy Spirit, not just with water. And then they saw him for themselves. Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, * and was baptized by John in the River Jordan, along with them. And just as he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; I am very pleased with you.’

And immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness. * He was alone, absolutely alone, in the wilderness, and Satan tempted him for 40 days. There was no one else there, just the wild beasts and the angels. The angels waited on him.

When Jesus came out of the wilderness, he discovered that John had been arrested and put in prison. It wouldn't be easy, but Jesus knew what he had to do. So he began to proclaim the good news of God in Galilee.

‘The time has come,’ said Jesus. ‘The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the good news.’ **Mark 1.9-15**



* See *Share the Word*.