

JESUS

4. BAPTIZED AND TEMPTED STUDY AHEAD

The beginning of Jesus' public ministry began with Him identifying with those who recognized their need for forgiveness and desired to repent (change their attitudes and actions). Matthew, Mark, Luke and John record Jesus' baptism. Mark summarized the event most briefly. The other 3 have slightly different details that make it interesting to read the different accounts. The scene of John 'the Baptist' baptizing preceded the accounts of him baptizing Jesus in the 3 gospels. For preparation, read each account.

Matthew- John baptizing (Mt 3:1-12); Jesus baptized (Mt 3:13-17)

Mark- Jesus baptized by John (Mk 1:9-11)

Luke- John baptizing (Lk 3:2-18); Jesus baptized (Lk 3:21-22)

John- John baptizing (Jn 1:23-28); Jesus baptized (Jn 1:29-34)

JESUS BAPTIZED

1. John's description of Jesus to the people

- One more powerful than I (Mt 3:11; Lk 3:16)
- One whom you do not know (Jn 1:26)
- One whose sandals I am not worthy to carry (Mt 3:11; Lk 3:16; Jn 1:27)
- One who will baptize you with the Spirit (Mt 3:11; Lk 3:16; Jn 1:33)
- Jesus will bring judgment on earth (Mt 3:12; Lk 3:17)
- Look! The Lamb of God who takes away sins of the world (Jn 1:29)

2. John's humility and Jesus' response

- John: But I need to be baptized by You! (Mt 3:14)
- Jesus: It is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness (Mt 3:15)

3. Jesus anointed with the Holy Spirit (as a dove)

- The Spirit of God descended (Mt 3:16; Mk 1:10; Lk 3:21; Jn1:32-34)

4. The FATHER commends HIS SON from heaven

- 'This is My Son', 'Whom I love', 'With You I am well pleased' (Mt 3:17; Mk 1:11; Lk 3:22)

Questions to Ponder

1. Jesus was already 'righteous' as the 'Son of God', needing no 'forgiveness for sins' or 'repentance', yet it 'was proper' to be baptized. Hebrews 2:17 says that "He had to be made like His brothers in every way... to make atonement for the sins of the people." Why do you think Jesus' baptism was essential?

2. John resisted baptizing Jesus. Rather, he desired to BE baptized by Jesus because he recognized his own unworthiness. How does Jesus' willingness to be baptized by John impact you?

3. The Father audibly affirmed Jesus as 'His Beloved Son in whom He was well pleased.' Luke's gospel (2:42-43,46-52) recounts that Jesus identified with His Heavenly Father at 12 years of age, yet continued to be obedient to His earthly parents. Luke 3:23 adds that Jesus was 30 years old when He began His ministry. In Luke, how had Jesus pleased His Father? What can you apply in your own relational contexts?

4. How did the Father's affirmation prepare Jesus for His 40 days in the desert being tempted by the devil? Have you ever felt the Father's affirmation? Did it strengthen you in a time of temptation? How?

JESUS TEMPTED

"Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).

Read the 3 gospel accounts of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13).

1. Jesus led (thrust) into the desert by the Holy Spirit

- He was 'full' of the H.S. as He was sent immediately out by the H.S. (Lk 4:1; Mark 1:12)
- 'to be tempted by the devil/Satan' (Mt 4:1; Mk 1:13; Lk 4:2)

2. Jesus fasted and prayed

- For 40 days and nights (Mt 4:2; Mk 1:13; Lk 4:2)
- Experienced hunger (Mt 4:2; Lk 4:2)
- With wild animals (Mk 1:13)
- Angels attended to Him (Mt 4:11; Mk 1:13)

3. Satan knew who Jesus was ('IF' can also be translated 'SINCE')

- If you are the 'Son of God' (Mt 4:3,6; Lk 4:3,9)
- Satan knew how to twist GOD'S WORD to tempt Jesus (Mt 4:6; Lk 4:10,11)

4. Jesus used GOD'S WORD in defense

- Satisfy His hunger: 'Man doesn't live on bread alone...' (Deuteronomy 8:3; Mt 4:4; Lk 4:4)
- Display His glory: 'Do not test the Lord your God...' (Deut 6:16; Mt 4:7; Lk 4:12)
- His dominion taken prematurely: 'Worship the Lord, serve Him only' (Deut 6:13; Mt 4:10; Lk 4:8)

5. Turn these stones into bread--the temptation for Jesus:

- Since you are God's Son, you DESERVE to satisfy your hunger
- Challenge for Jesus: Exercise His SELF WILL
- Jesus modelled to live by His FATHER'S WILL

John 4:34 "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work"

6. Display your Divine glory--the temptation for Jesus:

- Since you are God's Son, display your glory as proof
- Challenge for Jesus: Step out of His servant position and ASSERT HIMSELF
- Jesus modelled a servant who HUMBLED HIMSELF to death (Philippians 2:5-8)

Mt 27:40 "Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God!"

Lk 23:34 "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"

7. Worship Satan to gain early glory--the temptation for Jesus:

- You can gain authority, dominion and honor without the cross
- Challenge for Jesus: Take the easier way--AVOID HARDSHIP
- Jesus modelled struggle, anguish and utter dependence on the Father, receiving ALL GLORY, HONOR and AUTHORITY Afterwards.

Hebrews 12:2 "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, who endured the cross, despising the shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"

Matthew 28:18 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth..."

Questions to Ponder

1. Temptations can seem small (like being rude or uncaring) or big (like taking matters into your own hands, cheating or stealing). How do Jesus' prayers, fasting, knowing scripture & dependence on the Holy Spirit challenge you?

2. Which temptations do you most relate to? What do you need to do?