

The Coming of the Kingdom - 3

The Messiah had been born. We know very little about the early years of Jesus' life, except that it was a time of preparation. Matthew records two important events that launched Him into His ministry. The first was His baptism at the River Jordan, and the second was the temptations He experienced.

2. PREPARATION OF THE LIFE OF THE KING 3:13 - 4:17

Let's look at the first important event.

Discuss

Read the story of Jesus' baptism together from Matthew 3:13-17. What do you think was the significance of Jesus' baptism? Also see John 1:32-34

A. THE BAPTISM OF JESUS 3:13-17

Often we use the story of Jesus' baptism as an example that we too should be baptized, and that is true, but His baptism has far greater significance than this.

i. Obedience to His Father

As Jesus grew up He was always obedient to His Heavenly Father. The Father now required another step of obedience, and that was for Jesus to identify with sinful man and be baptized. John was reluctant to baptize Him as he knew Jesus was unlike other men, but Jesus replied,

_____.

No man has ever been able to fully obey the law of God. Jesus alone was able to do that. Later He could say, "I have come to fulfil the law." Jesus obeyed all that God required in the law. This proved that He truly was the Son of God. This will also be a mark of every true son of God. We may believe in Jesus and have been baptized, but the evidence God requires is that we continue to _____ Him.

ii. Consecration to His Ministry

This was also the time when Jesus consecrated Himself to His ministry. Before this Jesus lived with His family in Nazareth and worked as a carpenter. Now the time had come for Him to begin to fulfil His purpose for coming into the world.

In the Old Testament the prophets, priests and Kings were anointed for ministry with _____. Oil is a symbol for the Holy Spirit. When Jesus consecrated Himself for the ministry God the Father poured His Spirit upon Jesus and gave His approval by speaking from Heaven. Each one of us needs to be empowered with the Holy Spirit before we can fulfil the ministry God has for us.

iii. Announcement of His Arrival as Messiah

Another reason why Jesus' baptism was so important is that this event announced His arrival as the Messiah. John the Baptist had been saying the Messiah would come. But how would he know who Jesus would be? God had given him a sign. That sign is in John 1:33.

_____.



John had seen the Holy Spirit come like a dove on Jesus and knew He was the Messiah. Although John spoke boldly and told the Jews who Jesus was, few really understood. But a day will come when the Messiah will return and everyone will see Him and know who He is.

B. THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS 4:1-11

As soon as Jesus had made a public consecration, the devil came to tempt Him. When we obey the Lord, the enemy will be quick to come and tempt us! The word 'tempt' also means, 'to test'. God allowed this time of testing. The first man Adam had failed. When the devil tempted Adam he disobeyed God, and through this one mans' disobedience sin _____.

Jesus is also called 'the second Adam'. He too went through a time of testing, but praise the Lord He never failed. And through this one mans' obedience, _____ is possible for all men. Romans 5:19. Notice how many days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. It was 40 days. This is the number for _____.

- ❖ The flood covered the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. Genesis 7:4
- ❖ Moses spent 40 days and nights on the mountain. This was a time of testing for the Children of Israel. Exodus 20:20, 24:18
- ❖ The Children of Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness. Numbers 14:34
- ❖ Goliath stood against Israel for 40 days. 1 Samuel 17:16

These were certainly not the only temptations that Jesus faced in His life. The Bible says He was tempted in _____ way like us. Hebrews 4:15. But let us look at the temptations in Matthew 4.

Temptation 1 _____ v3

Temptation 2 _____ v6

Temptation 3 _____ v9

i. The Three Temptations



Discuss

In what ways do we face temptations similar to those Jesus faced?

There are so many things we can learn from this story, but probably the greatest significance of these temptations has to do with Jesus being the Messiah. Jesus had just consecrated Himself to begin His ministry and His baptism was the announcement of His arrival. And now the devil comes to try and persuade Him to prove it. What phrase does the devil use two times? See v3, 6 _____

The devil is saying, "If you are really the Messiah, the One the people are expecting, and if you are really the Son of God, then prove it." First of all he tempted Jesus to use His power for _____. V3 After 40 days Jesus was certainly hungry. However Jesus never used the power God had given Him to meet His own needs. Nor should we.

Secondly, he was tempting Jesus to use His power to _____. V6 Once again Jesus never did this. Often His miracles were performed quietly. We need to be

careful not to want to use God's power to prove who we are. What was the devil offering Jesus in the third temptation? V8-9 _____.

When God created man He gave him authority to rule over all creation. The devil wanted this and so tempted the first man to submit to him. Sadly Adam fell and all the Kingdoms of this world came under Satan's rule. They were his, and now he was offering them to Jesus if He _____.

God had promised these Kingdoms to Jesus, but He knew this would mean facing the cross to receive them. The devil was offering them to Jesus without pain, if only He would bow down to him. Jesus knew that if He did Satan would become His master and mankind would be lost.

The devil is constantly tempting God's sons and daughters to bow down to him. He is offering us the riches of this world. Yes they are his, and we need to be careful not to be enticed by them.

ii. **The Three Victory Answers**

What words are repeated in each answer Jesus gave to the devil? V4, 7, 10 _____.

Jesus defeated the devil by using the Word of God. Each answer He gave is taken from the book of _____. See chapters 8:3, 6:16, 6:13

Jesus knew the Scriptures and if we are going to have victory over the enemy we too need to know the Word of God. The Word of God is called the sword of the Spirit, and Jesus used it in the power of the Spirit. We cannot overcome the enemy in our own strength, but as we depend on the Holy Spirit and speak the word that God puts in our hearts, the enemy will be defeated.

Jesus overcame! He was the Messiah, and in the near future, He will return to rule the Kingdoms of this world. They are His! Hallelujah.