

Exploring the Message & Ministry of Jesus
Book 1 – Jesus’ beginning of Ministry

Book 1: Jesus’ Beginning of Ministry

Chapter 1: JESUS BAPTIZED BY JOHN IN THE JORDAN RIVER

– Mt 3:13-17; Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22; Jn 1:31-34

The Baptism of Jesus Read Matthew 3:1-17 [also Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-23; John 1:15-34]

While only God can fully understand Himself, He has revealed Himself to us in the Scriptures to be one God in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **We call this Trinity: one in three, and three in one. These three are distinct, unmixed, and yet one.**

Food for thought:

- 1. How were all three Persons of the Trinity manifest at the baptism of Jesus Christ (vv. 16-17)?*
- 2. The voice of God spoke from heaven and declared His approval of His Son. What did God the Father say?*

Section 1: PURPOSE: TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS –Mt 3:13-15

1. The commandments of God are righteousness –Ps 119:172
2. John’s baptism was from heaven –Mt 21:25
3. To reject John’s baptism was to reject God –Lk 7:30
4. The conclusion is that Jesus was not baptized for repentance, or the remission of sins, but to comply with the will of God.

Section 2: THE GODHEAD – Mt 3:16-17

1. Jesus is in the flesh
 2. The Spirit of God is descending like a dove
 3. The Father can be heard from heaven
 4. This reveals three distinct personalities doing different activities simultaneously.
-

Exploring the Message & Ministry of Jesus

Book 1 – Jesus' beginning of Ministry

Chapter 2. JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS

–Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13

The Temptation of Jesus *Read Matthew 4:1-11 [also Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13]*

Three times the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness. What did Jesus refer to when He responded to the three temptations?

Points to ponder: As you can see from the life of Christ, it is important to know Scripture well, in order to be prepared for daily life. This can be a daunting task without a definite plan! Christians for hundreds of years have found it beneficial to use a yearly Bible reading plan to know God's Word, in addition to preaching and Bible studies.

Food for thought:

1. Are you currently using a yearly Bible reading plan?

2. What Bible version are you using while studying?

The Scripture says,

"...the word of our God shall stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

"How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103).

"...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12).

"...Thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Section 1: OVERALL, LESSON

1. Satan does not surrender us to God once we become a Christian, he still fights against us.

2. What man lost in the Garden of Eden, Jesus won back by resisting the devil

-Lust of the eye, flesh, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16)

3. The devil is subtle; he appears as an angel of light -2Co 11:14

Section 2: STONES INTO BREAD –Mt 4:1-4

1. Jesus was hungry; he felt the legitimate needs of the flesh.

2. He quotes Deut 8:3

a. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness to learn trust in God

Exploring the Message & Ministry of Jesus
Book 1 – Jesus’ beginning of Ministry

b. Jesus’ trust was in God

c. Every word that comes from God we are to trust

Section 3: TEMPTING GOD –Mt 4:5-7

1. Jesus had certain protection from God in that He would not die before His time.
2. This is not meant to live dangerously.
3. Jesus responds by quoting –De 6:16

Section 4: WORSHIP ME –Mt 4:8-10; Lk 4:5-8

1. The devil had been given some control over the various kingdoms of the earth
 - a. “...the ruler of this world will be cast out... -Jn 12:31, 32
 - b. Paul referred to the “god of this age” -2Co 4:4
 - c. Paul again making reference –Ep 2:1-3
2. The devil offers them to Jesus
 - a. Jesus will have all authority in heaven and on earth after suffering upon the cross.
 - b. The devil offers a short-cut to what seems to be the same end.
 - 1) Remember the agony in the garden –Lk 22:39-46
 - 2) Remember the agony on the cross –Mt 27:46
3. Worship and submission are two inseparable concepts. Jesus could not worship the devil without becoming his servant.
4. Jesus rebukes this temptation the strongest – Mt 4:10; Lk 4:8
5. The devil leaves Him for a more opportune time –Lk 4:13
 - a. The crowds try and make Jesus king –Jn 6:15
 - b. Peter tried talking Jesus out of the cross –Mt 16:21-23

Section 5: LESSON FOR US TODAY

1. All that the devil tempts us with is passing away -1Jn 2:15-17
 2. When we resist the devil, he will flee from us –Ja 4:7
 3. We must be constantly on our guard because he will return -1Pe 5:8
 4. When we are faced with temptation, Jesus is on our side –He 2:17-18; 4:14-16
-

Exploring the Message & Ministry of Jesus
Book 1 – Jesus' beginning of Ministry

Chapter 3. JOHN'S TESTIMONY CONCERNING JESUS

–Jn 1:19-34

Section 1: JOHN DENIED BEING THE CHRIST –vs. 19-28

1. The priests and Levites questioned John about his identity –vs. 19
2. He denies that he is the Christ –vs. 20
3. He is not Elijah nor is he the Prophet
 - a. The prophecy of Elijah to come –Malachi 4:4-6
 - b. John was not Elijah, but he came in the spirit of Elijah –Lk 1:17; Mt 17:10-13
 - c. The box below gives a brief description of the Mormon belief on the coming of Elijah.
 - d. The Scriptures teach that John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah and thus fulfilled the prophecy.
4. John stated who he was; he is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy –Is 40:3; Jn 1:23
5. The question is raised, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ..." –Jn 1:25
 - a. John states that he baptizes with water, but One is coming that is far greater
 - b. John states that he is not worthy to loosen His sandal strap; He consistently points to Christ.
6. The place of occurrence is Bethabara or Bethany.
 - a. This is not the same Bethany with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
 - b. The exact location is unknown, but it is a couple of miles from Jerusalem and East of the mountain of Olives

Section 2: JOHN POINTED TO CHRIST –vs. 29-34

1. John sees Jesus and proclaims, "Behold, The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" –vs. 29
 - a. John does not introduce Jesus as the great and mighty who would deliver them from Roman oppression.
 - b. Jesus is the Lamb of God; He takes away the sin of the world

Exploring the Message & Ministry of Jesus

Book 1 – Jesus' beginning of Ministry

- 1) He is our Passover Lamb -1Co 5:7 (Ex 12 –discusses the regulations for the Passover lamb)
 - 2) He is without spot or blemish -1Pe 1:19
 - 3) Phillip taught that Isaiah 53:7-8 referred to Christ as the Lamb of God –Ac 8:32-33
 2. John knew of Jesus, but not that He was the Messiah until it was revealed to him –vs. 31-32
 - a. John and Jesus were cousins
 - b. John saw the Spirit descending on Jesus like a dove –Mt 3:16, Mk1:10, Lk 3:22
 3. John declares that Jesus is not only the Messiah, but also the Son of God –vs. 34
 - a. The Jews were looking for the Messiah
 - b. They did not expect, He would be God's Son
-

Chapter 4. JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES

–Jn 1:35-51

Jesus Calls His First Disciples Read John 1:35-51

5. What was John the Baptist's response to seeing Jesus (v. 36)?
6. a. What was Nathaniel's response when first told that the Messiah had been found?
- b. How did that change after Nathaniel had spoken with Jesus (v. 49)?

Section 1: PETER, ANDREW, AND JOHN –vs. 35-42

1. John the Baptizer point two of his disciples to Jesus (Thus fulfilling his ministry)
 - a. One disciple is Andrew; the other is not named.
 - b. It is believed that the other disciple is John, the writer of the forth gospel
 - c. John never mentions his own name in this gospel
2. The two (John and Andrew) spend about a day with Jesus
 - a. They express the desire to visit with Him –vs. 38
 - b. The tenth hour: Jewish time =4pm; Roman time =10am

Exploring the Message & Ministry of Jesus

Book 1 – Jesus' beginning of Ministry

c. It is believed that John used Roman time. He wrote around AD 80 primarily to the Gentiles.

3. Andrew finds his brother Peter and brings him to Christ

a. Peter is Greek and Cephas is Aramaic. Both names mean "Rock"

b. Jesus knew that Peter would have a "rock-like" character.

Section 2: PHILIP AND NATHANAEL –vs. 43-51

1. Jesus is on His way to Galilee for a wedding feast –Jn 1:43; 2:1-ff

2. Nathanael:

a. Nathanael is only mentioned in the gospel of John.

b. Bartholomew is not mentioned in John, but is mentioned in all the synoptic gospels.

c. Bartholomew is not a name, but denotes a relationship. "Son of Tolmai"

d. It is therefore concluded that Bartholomew and Nathanael are one in the same person.

3. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" –vs. 46

a. This shows the skepticism of anyone great coming from an unimportant place

b. Philip does not argue the point, but says, "Come and see"

4. Jesus knew the character of Nathanael –vs. 47 (Jesus knew what was in man –Jn 2:25)

5. Nathanael quickly believes and confesses that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God – vs. 49

6. Jesus gives a reference to Jacob's ladder –vs. 51 (Ge 28:10-ff)

7. The greater things refer to:

a. The miracles Jesus would do

b. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus

Exploring the Message & Ministry of Jesus

Book 1 – Jesus' beginning of Ministry

Chapter 5. THE BEGINNING OF SIGNS –Jn 2:1-12

The First Miracle of Jesus

After His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus returned north into the region of Galilee. There, He and His disciples were invited to a wedding feast at Cana. Jesus Himself was a miracle. He was born of a virgin, and Mary knew it. But here is the first miracle *done* by our Lord. The miracles of our Lord were designed to confirm His person and His doctrine; Jesus Christ did not perform a miracle until he began to preach His doctrine. Notice what Jesus said to the unbelieving Jews about His miraculous works: "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him" (John 10:37-38).

Food for thought:

What did the Lord Jesus Christ manifest and what did His disciples do when He did this miracle?

The public ministry of Jesus Christ was about three and one-half years long. He revealed Himself as the Christ, healing people and teaching them about the Kingdom of God.

Section 1: THE WEDDING –vs. 1-2

1. Cana of Galilee was a two-day journey from where John was preaching
2. Weddings did not have honeymoons in this time period, but rather a week-long celebration
3. The couple (unknown), but perhaps friends of the family. Mary, Jesus, and His disciples were there by invitation.

Section 2: THE WINE RUNS OUT –vs. 3-5

1. Running out of wine in was a major catastrophe according to the custom of the day.
2. Jesus refers to His mother as "woman".
 - a. This is not a rebuke or a sign of disrespect as our language would seem to indicate.
 - b. In this culture, the term "woman" was a respectful as our term "lady" today.
3. His hour had not yet come. This is John's way of referring to His death upon the cross.

Exploring the Message & Ministry of Jesus

Book 1 – Jesus' beginning of Ministry

4. Mary had confidence that Jesus could take care of the problem. There is no indication how

she knew this for this was His first miracle or sign –Jn 2:11

Section 3: THE INSTRUCTIONS OF JESUS –vs. 6-8

1. The waterpots contained 20-30 gallons of water. This would be plenty to finish out the feast.

2. They filled them up to the brim showing that nothing else could be added.

3. They took some to the master of the feast

a. The master of the feast was not the bridegroom.

b. He was in charge of the arrangements and the food of the feast.

Section 4: THE RESULTS –vs. 9-11

1. The master of the feast was unaware of the miracle that had transpired.

2. He was surprised by the quality of the wine served later in the service –vs. 10

3. Was the wine intoxicating?

a. The Greek word “oinos” translated wine in the NT, does not indicate that it was alcoholic

b. There was a distinction that was made between good wine and inferior.

c. The fact the master of the feast could make a distinction reveals sobriety.

4. John records that this was the beginning of signs that Jesus did.

5. The signs manifested His glory and stimulated faith in Him.

Section 5: BACK TO CAPERNAUM –vs. 12

1. Capernaum was a few miles from Cana.

2. They stayed there for a short while before going to Passover in Jerusalem.

3. His brothers are mentioned, but not named. Their names are found in –Mt 13:55, Mk 6:3

4. “He went down to Capernaum...” -The word down is very small but significant. It reveals the geographic accuracy of the Scriptures and further reveals it as the Word of God. A mere forger would have left such details out, or would have been mistaken