

Christology

Lesson 8

Study Notes

The Public Ministry of Jesus Christ

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Woody

Text: Matthew 4:12-17.

Matthew 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Introduction: Jesus began His public life as a preacher, the prince of preachers He was. Every preacher commissioned by God to proclaim salvation to a lost world, begins his work with preaching the doctrine of _____ . This was the case with all the prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, all the apostles, and all their genuine successors in the Christian ministry.

I. The Baptism of Christ.

Mat 3:13-17 *Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

He had no sins to confess, but He was a child of Abraham, and to submit to John's baptism was something God expected Him to do. It was an act of _____ on the part of the perfect Man that was in complete harmony with the rest of His life. This was the last act of our Lord's _____ life. Emerging from the waters of Jordan, He set out on His public ministry, empowered by the Spirit and assured of His Father's _____.

We see four implications of His baptism.

1. *His identification with the _____ .*

It was the public exhibition of His willingness to assume the burden of the sin of the whole race.

For us baptism is a symbol of dying out to sin and the old nature; but for Jesus He had no sin to repent from.

2. *His introduction into the _____ .*

By administering baptism to Him, the forerunner of the Messiah set Him apart to His mission of redemption, and sanctioned His claims. **Luke 3:16** *John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

3. *His Father's approbation of the _____ .*

Jesus was thus marked out as the One in whom the psalm found its fulfillment: Psalm 2:7.

Psalm 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

4. His anointing for _____.

The incarnate Son stands in the waters of Jordan, identifying Himself with sinful humanity. The Father opens heaven to voice His approval of His Son whom He had selected for this task. The Spirit descends from heaven to empower the Son to fulfill the purpose of the Father. As the Spirit came upon Old Testament prophets for special guidance at the start of their ministries, so now he came upon Jesus Christ _____.

II. The Temptation of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

A. Appetite: the desire to enjoy things. The first was the temptation to satisfy a legitimate appetite by illegitimate means. Appeals to the _____.

B. Ambition: the desire to achieve things. The second was the temptation to produce spiritual results by unspiritual means. Appeals to the _____.

C. Avarice: the desire to obtain things. The third was the temptation to obtain a lawful heritage by unlawful means. Appeals to the _____.

Note: The victory in each aspect of the temptation is related to Jesus' use of the Holy Scriptures; "It is written."

III. The Display of His Holy Character.

A. His zeal to do His _____.

Luke 8:1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

B. His zeal caused some to think _____.

Mark 3:20-21 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. 21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

C. His zeal to _____ the House of the Lord.

Joh 2:13-17 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

Joh 2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: 15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; 16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. 17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

The money-changers made considerable profit in supplying Jewish coins-which alone could be offered in the Temple service-in exchange for _____ and _____ money.

D. His zeal to accomplish His _____.

Luke 12:49-50 *I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? 50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!*

We must conclude that Jesus was in no way lazy or slack in His life here on earth. It is estimated that He traveled on foot about two thousand five hundred miles during the three years upon this earth, and we need not conclude that every journey was recorded.

IV. The Display of His Compassion.

A. His compassion on the multitudes who were _____ less.

Matthew 9:36 *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

Word "compassion" means to feel sympathy, _____.

B. His compassion for the _____ multitudes.

Matthew 14:14 *And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*

C. His compassion on the _____ multitudes.

Matthew 15:32 *Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.*

D. His compassion on a _____.

Luke 7:12-13 *Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.*

E. His compassion on a _____.

Mark 1:40-41 *And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.*

It does not take us long to realize that Jesus _____, but He loves the _____.

V. The Display of His Love.

A. The love for _____.

John 14:31 *But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.*

John 15:10 *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

B. The love for _____.

John 13:34 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

C. The love for an individual disciple.

John 13:23 *Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.*

D. The love for a family.

John 11:5 *Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.*

E. The love for the city of Jerusalem.

Luke 19:41 *And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, 42* *Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.*