19/33 – **Set Apart for Service**

*01/17/15* – Jesus’ Baptism and Temptation

Key thought: At His baptism, Jesus is set apart by God for His public Messianic ministry and for a life which involves the continual test of His obedient Sonship, right until the moment of His death.

*The time came for Jesus to be introduced to the people of Israel as the one whom God had sent. When He was about 30 years old, Jesus left Nazareth and went to the river Jordan where John was attracting great crowds who came to hear him preach and to be baptized. When John baptized Jesus, God publicly anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit as* ***the Christ*** *who had come to be the Savior. The Father declared that Jesus was His own Son, and gave Him power to do His work.*

*Before He began His public ministry, Jesus went through a* ***time of testing****. For 40 days He was in the desert, tempted by Satan. Adam and Eve had fallen into temptation, Israel had failed the test in the wilderness, but Jesus overcame the power of Satan for all people. By being baptized, and by enduring the devil’s temptations, Jesus showed that He had come to be one with sinners and to help them in their trouble. He was the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world and conquer the devil.*

*In the power of the Spirit, Jesus now began His work of preaching and teaching. On one occasion, He returns to Nazareth, and in the synagogue declared Himself to be the servant of the Lord prophesied by Isaiah.*

1. The Gospels are not biographies in the normal sense. What are they?

2. Why should Jesus, the sinless Son of God, have to be baptized?

3. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke each tell the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. What is emphasized by each?

* Matthew
* Luke
* Mark

4. Why doesn't Jesus prove to the devil that He is God’s Son and show His power?

5. What does Jesus announce in His first recorded sermon?

Main takeaways:

* At Jesus’ baptism, God publicly anointed Him as the Christ who had come to be the Savior. The Father declared Jesus was His own Son, and gave Him power to do His work.
* By being baptized, Jesus showed that He had come to be one with sinners and to help them in their trouble. He was the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.
* Before He began His ministry, Jesus went through a time of testing. Adam and Eve had fallen into temptation, but Jesus overcame the power of Satan for all people.
* In the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus began to preach and teach as God's servant.

For reflection: Read Romans 12: 1, 2. As God’s people we are called to holy service. Reflect on what being set apart for God’s service means for you personally.

19/33 – **Set Apart for Service** – **Bible Study**

Bible search

1. Matthew 3:13–17: Jesus was baptized by John, and anointed as the Messiah whom God had sent to be the Savior.

*Why did Jesus insist that John baptize Him? Talk about the significance of Jesus’ baptism and anointing with the Spirit.*

2. John 1:29–34: John saw the Spirit of God descend on Jesus, and proclaimed Him to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

*Why did John call Jesus the “Lamb of God?” How does this relate to Old Testament worship and hopes of salvation? How did John view his own ministry in relation to the Messiah?*

3. Matthew 4:1–11: Jesus showed that he was God’s obedient Son by using the Word of God to defeat the devil's temptations.

*Why was Jesus’ temptation important in God’s saving plan? Discuss the significance of each temptation.*

4. Deuteronomy 8:1–6: The Israelites fell into sin when tempted in the desert, and needed the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.

*How is the temptation of Jesus related to the experiences of Israel in the desert wanderings?*

5. Luke 4:16–30: Long ago, the prophets had spoken of the work which the special servant of God would do. God sent Jesus to do that work.

*What was the work for which Jesus was set apart? Why did Jesus’ work lead to trouble and suffering?*

For discussion

1. Read Hebrews 4:14–16. If Jesus is our high priest, how can He be the “Lamb of God?” Why did He have to suffer and be tempted just as we are?

2. As God’s people we are “set apart for service.” How can we show that we are dedicated to God?

3. Is Jesus baptism in any way related to our baptism?

For reflection

Read Romans 12: 1, 2. As God’s people we are called to holy service. Reflect on what being set apart for God’s service means for you personally.