

## Lesson #3

**PREPARATION FOR LESSON:** Matt. 3:13 - 4:12; 14:3-5; Mk. 1:9-13; 6:17-20; Lk. 3:19-20; 4:1-30; Jn. 1:19 - 4:45 or Harmony of the 4 Gospels, SECTIONS 24-37.

**DEVELOPED OUTLINE** 1st year 28-29 AD (Tiberius became Caesar in 14 AD. Jesus begins in his 15<sup>th</sup> yr. Lk. 3:1)

- A. Nazareth to East Bethany** c. 80 miles Mark 1:9; John 1:28
  - 1. announced by John the Baptist Matt. 3:1-12
  - 2. baptized by John (Both Jesus and John are in their early 30's - about 33-34 yrs. old)
  - 3. empowered by the Spirit and validated by the Father Matt. 3:13-17
- B. East Bethany to the wilderness of Judea** 18 miles Matt. 4:1-11
  - 1. tempted by Satan; cared for by angels
- C. Wilderness to East Bethany** 18 miles
  - 1. announced by John as the Lamb of God John 1:29, 36
  - 2. investigated by 3 disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter, John the fisherman John 1:41-42
- D. East Bethany to Cana** c. 87 miles
  - 1. calls Philip; proves Himself to Nathanael John 1:43-51
  - 2. performs His first miracle in Cana John 2:1-11
- E. Cana to Capernaum** 16 miles John 2:12
- F. Capernaum to Jerusalem** 85 miles
  - 1. celebrates the Passover
  - 2. clears out the Temple John 2:13-22
  - 3. works miracles John 2:23
  - 4. talks with Nicodemus John 3:1-21
- G. Jerusalem to East Bethany** 18 miles John 3:22 - 4:2
  - 1. John and his disciples go further north along the Jordan
  - 2. Jesus and His disciples stay at E. Bethany for 8 months
  - 3. Sanhedrin members try to create jealousy
  - 4. John the Baptist is imprisoned
- H. East Bethany to Sychar** 31 miles John 4:3-42
  - 1. leads the Samaritan woman and the townspeople to belief in Him
- I. Sychar to Cana** 38 miles John 4:43-54
  - 1. heals an official's son
- J. Cana to Nazareth** 7 miles Luke 4:16-30
  - 1. teaches in the synagogue
  - 2. is rejected by the people

## EXPLANATIONS

**Baptism** in the 1<sup>st</sup> century was practiced by Greek and Roman religions, Judaism and the secular philosophies.

It had only one meaning: *identification with a message or belief*.

*John's baptism* of repentance: when Jews were baptized by John, they were identifying with his message, *I am not right with God because of my disobedience. I am repenting. I have made a choice to obey God.*

*Jesus' baptism* has 5 purposes, but none of them are for repentance. He is baptized...

...to be consecrated for public ministry as *the* prophet who was promised in Deuteronomy 18:18.

God's law said a Levite was to anoint a person for ministry with water and oil.

...to fulfill prophecy that said the Messiah would be anointed with the Spirit and announced.

Isaiah 61:1; Isaiah 40:1-5; Malachi 3:1

...so God the Father can validate Him to the believing remnant. Matthew 3:16-17

*You are My Son. Your ministry has My approval.*

...so John can be sure He is the promised Messiah. John 1:33-34

...so the people will identify Him with John and listen to what John says about Him.

Jesus' baptism ends His years of preparation. He is now ready to start His 1<sup>st</sup> year of ministry.



## EXPLANATIONS *continued*

**Greek language:** with “if” sentences, the grammar shows whether the speaker believes:

it is true, it is not true, it is uncertain, or only a wish.

Satan’s statements: **If** (Since) *You are the Son of God and I know You are, turn the stones to bread...*

**If** (Since) *You are the Son of God and I know You are, jump from the temple.*

**If** *You worship me and I do not know whether You will or not...*

### Temptations of Jesus

#### How could they be genuine?

Jesus’ 2 natures, deity and humanity, were always separate; He could only respond from one or the other.

Satan knows he cannot tempt deity because deity *could* not sin; he is only testing the humanity of Jesus.

Jesus, in His humanity, had to make a choice that He *would* not sin.

Jesus resisted by using verses from Deuteronomy which He memorized when He was 5 years old.

He knew which to use for each situation because the Father had instructed Him while growing up.

**Why was He tempted?** To prove Jesus is without sin and therefore is qualified to make payment for our sin

Like Adam, Jesus is uniquely created, has no sin nature and is representative of the human race.

Jesus comes as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam to undo the damage of the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam; Satan wants to prevent that.

So he tries to do to Jesus what he did to the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam - get Him to sin.

**What were the temptations?** To get something legitimate and good, but get it in the wrong way.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> temptation: stones to bread

His humanity is seen in being hungry; His deity in the ability to change stones.

A temptation to get food for Himself when the Father has told Him to wait to be independent of the Father.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> temptation: jump from Temple - a mental picture

A temptation to get acceptance and success thru the sensational.

A temptation to be reckless and expect the Father to provide protection.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation: worship Satan - a mental picture

A temptation to get the crown without the cross; to have glory without the suffering to get worship without rejection; to be King without being Savior.

**Satan** is the prince and god of this world; he has been given the authority and splendor of the world kingdoms.

Lk 4:6; Jn. 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4

Because the world is under the temporary command of Satan, there is chaos, crime, war, hate, tragedies and violence.

God is in ultimate control and will allow Satan to go just so far and for just so long.

Eventually God the Father will remove Satan and put Jesus in charge.

**First followers of Jesus:** Andrew, his brother Peter, John the fisherman, Philip and Nathaniel Bartholemew (son of Tolmai)

**Nathanael** is under a fig tree.

Rabbis said when you reflected on spiritual questions under a *fig* tree, you would get more insight.

Nathaniel is wondering, *how can I have contact with God and how can I be changed?*

He has been thinking about the story of Jacob, who was a liar and deceiver.

In a dream, Jacob saw angels going up and down a ladder.

The ladder was the link for Jacob to have contact with God.

Later, God changed this dishonest man and gave him the name Israel, meaning *prince with God*.

Jesus calls Nathanael a true descendant of *Israel* without dishonesty.

Jesus says He is the ladder; He is the way to have contact with God the Father and He can change his life.

**Nicodemus** - from the Greek grammar and Jewish culture we know he is:

married, in his 50’s, a member of the Sanhedrin (John 7:50) and head of a rabbinical school in Jerusalem.

Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, believed *born of water* meant physical birth. If they were born a Jew, they automatically were part of God’s kingdom. *All Israel has a share in the world to come.* (Quote from the Mishnah)



## APPLICATION

Sometimes when we are making plans or solving problems, God wants us to do the obvious, do what is practical or do what we really want.

Other times God says *no* to our plans and shows us His plans.

If they do not fit with our ideas, we may argue, get mad, become discouraged or talk to everyone else about it.

Or, we can take the advice Mary gave to the servants, *Whatever **He** tells you to do, do it*

To give up our ideas will be hard. It takes a lot of faith and trust to let go of our way.

But in the end, we discover God's way is far better than anything we could have planned.

Never be afraid to follow what God shows you to do!

