

Life of Christ Series- Beginning of Christ Ministry (1)

Introduction:

1. The beginning of the Ministry of Christ, takes place mostly in Judea before He reaches out to other cities.
2. This makes most sense, since the largest population of Jews would have been there and that is also the main hub for the Israelites.

Discussion:

I. Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23)

A. Jesus did it to "fulfill all righteousness"??

1. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, but that is not why Christ did it (Heb. 4:15).
2. First, Christ while on the earth followed the Law of Moses. (This was not a part of the Law but it was something necessary for each Jew to do, Jesus was always the ultimate example).
3. **Here are three possible reasons**
4. *It was to identify the Lord as the Son of God at the beginning of His ministry.*
5. *It was a commencement token of the total dedication of Christ in carrying out Heaven's plan.*
6. *It was a visual precursor to the Savior's ultimate death, burial, and resurrection.*

B. God's testimony of Christ

1. Jesus baptism was a part of God's will so that He could announce Him to those around.
2. The dove came upon Christ, to fulfill what was spoken to John (John 1:32-34)

Transition: Mark 1:12-13

II. Jesus' Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)

A. Jesus succeeded in the wilderness where Israel failed.

1. When Jesus was in the Wilderness he quotes three verses from Deuteronomy, one for each temptation (Deut. 8:3, 6:16, 6:13).
2. He has the answers that Israel should have had in the wilderness.

B. Satan tempts Christ with a threefold temptation, like with Eve.

1. Lust of the flesh- change the stones to bread
2. Lust of the eye- all these things I shall give you
3. Pride of life- he shall give his angels charge concerning Him

C. Interesting notes to consider

1. Satan misquoted scripture like with Eve but Jesus combated with proper quotes of scripture
2. "If You are..." should be translated "Since you are..." In the Greek it is in the indicative case.

Transition: Sometime after the temptation of Christ, He went to Cana for a wedding feast.

III. Jesus' First Miracle (John 2:1-11)

A. Why did Mary ask Jesus to do this?

1. With Jesus, Mary, and some of His disciples all there at the feast suggests, it was a friend or families wedding.
2. Mary may have been involved in the "catering" of feast and therefore asked Jesus
3. Mary knew who Christ was and may have known that His time was coming shortly, hence Jesus statement, my hour has not yet come.
4. Jesus had not yet performed any miracles up until this point, so Mary knew something was coming or that He could, by her asking Him.

B. Main teaching of the Miracle at Cana

1. Manifesting Christ's glory (10). He is God and can do things that only God could have done.
2. It is the beginning of Christ's road to the cross.
3. He gets the belief and faith of His disciples with His first miracle and then begins many more.

Conclusion:

1. We can learn many principles from the beginning of the Ministry of Christ; He obeyed the Fathers will in all things, He fought temptation with scripture, and He waited until it was the right time (patience of our Lord).
2. Jesus did all these things so that we may have eternal life. Our life needs to be a reflection of our gratitude.