



(Matt. 3:13). (See John 1:28 for the location of John's baptismal services.) Why was Jesus baptized? In attempting to answer this question, consider the following:

1. John's reticence (Matt. 3:14) *see attachment*
2. Jesus' answer (Matt. 3:15)
3. Jesus had no sins to repent of, though John's preaching and baptism concerned repentance (Matt. 3:11).
4. John's ministry as forerunner and herald of Jesus was now coming to a close; and Jesus' public ministry was about to commence.

Some see Jesus' baptism a symbolic identification of the Saviour with men, foretelling His substitutionary work. A more likely explanation seems to be that here is a symbolic inaugural rite signifying the end of the old dispensation and the initiation of the new. The new was to replace the old, and the Person who was to fulfill God's righteousness was now coming on the scene. Reflect on the following formal introduction to the world: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). *see attachment*

### I. Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)

The gospels record three temptations that were hurled at Jesus by Satan in the wilderness of Judah. (Matthew's order is perhaps the chronological one.) There were other temptations during these forty days, just as Jesus was tempted throughout His earthly life. (Cf. Luke 4:13.) But never did He sin by yielding to any temptation.

Read the story, and then compare the three temptations, recording your observations on Chart I.

1. The temptations that Satan puts to a believer are always related to the circumstances and experiences of the believer at that time. How relevant was the first temptation to Jesus' physical experience?

*Very for Jesus' hungered but He trusted God more than need*

Considering the material and political nature of the kingdom that the Jews were seeking at this time, how relevant were all the temptations to One who would now claim to be the Messiah?

*Very cause this is what was in the hearts of the Jews but Jesus chose rightly*

### TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS

Matthew's Order	The "It's"
1. Stones	Son of God
2. Pinnacle	Son of God
3. Kingdoms	Fall Down and Worship

2. What spiritual this account?

*That God and Father*

### III. SUMMARY

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#### Page 38 Why was Jesus baptized?

While John's baptism was a baptism of repentance it is seen clearly seen that this baptism first obedience on both Jesus and John's part. Matt 3:15 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. KJV Second this was a baptism of the Spirit as John speaks of it in John 1:32-33 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.<sup>33</sup> And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizes with the Holy Ghost. KJV Third Jesus fulfilling the law and submitting to the washing. The reason John was reluctant was that Jesus was preferred over him and John knew in part who he was baptizing.

#### Page 38

Matt 3:17 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. KJV That if man wants to please the Lord he can please God by being like His Son.

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**TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS**

Chart L

Matthew's Order	The "It's"	The Actual Temptation	Realm of the Temptation	Jesus Answers by Scripture
1. Stones	Son of God	Stones to Bread	What really sustains Man	(Deut. 8:3)
2. Pinnacle	Son of God	Trust thyself down	Reveal yourself Different	(Ps. 91:11-12, Deut. 6:16)
3. Kingdoms	Full down and worship Me	Kingdoms of the World	Authority and Power	(Deut. 6:13)

2. What spiritual lessons for Christian living are to be learned from this account?  
That God's word sustains, humbles and false worship

**III. SUMMARY**

The thirty preparation years of Christ's life anticipated the day and hour when the Son of God would come out into the arena of the populace and fulfill the ministry that His Father sent Him to do. Never was He behind the divine schedule, or ahead.

The gospels record more actions and words of the people than they do of Jesus in this preparation period. And yet, Jesus is the central character of the story. This is seen when we summarize the contents of the narrative thus:

1. announcements	ABOUT	Jesus
2. worship directed	TO	Jesus the Child
3. care	OF	Jesus the Lad
4. words spoken	TO	Jesus

For a review exercise, pursue this point further, noting that the few recorded words spoken by Jesus were really brought on by questions asked by teachers, His parents, and John, and by challenges hurled by Satan.

