

Christology

Bible Institute at Gulf Coast Baptist Church Spring 2021

Christ's Preparation for Ministry

Having submitted himself to His earthly parents for the first thirty years of His life in a human body, Jesus Christ began the preparation for His 3 ½ years of ministry. Christ's baptism was a unique experience, which ceremonially prepared Him for His priestly duty and sacrifice. Great confusion occurs when the believer in Christ does not understand the basis for His baptism. Christ's temptation in the wilderness was intended by Satan to cause Him to fail, while God allowed it so Christ could demonstrate His impeccable character, and that He was truly worthy of being the Son of God.

Christ's Baptism

1. Baptism - "immerse, dip"
2. 4 Types of Baptism in Scripture
 - a. OT Jewish baptisms – Ex. 29:4; 30:17-21; Lev. 14:8-9; 15:5-8
 - b. John the Baptist – Matthew 3
 - i. Ritual cleansing – outward expression of repentance ("change of mind")
 - ii. Change of mind about what? – "Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens is at hand!"
 1. Millennial kingdom – Daniel 12:2
 - a. Jewish expectation was of a future resurrection prior to the ushering in of the Millennial kingdom
 2. At the time of Christ, most Jews were not anticipating the coming of the Kingdom –
 - a. Anna and Simeon – believing Jews were awaiting a King, not the Lamb of God
 - b. Parable of wicked servants – Mat. 24:45-51
 - iii. John's baptism was an outward display of the change of mind these OT Jews had had about the coming of the kingdom of the heavens – this repentance led to change of behavior
 - c. NT Baptism
 - i. Different than the baptism of John – Acts 19:1-5
 - ii. Baptism in the character of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – Mat. 28:19
 - iii. Demonstrates the believer's credited participation in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ – 1 Cor. 12:13; Ro. 6:3,4; Gal. 2:20
 - d. Christ's Baptism
 - i. Jesus stated to John that He needed to be baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" – Mat. 3:15
 1. The Law was Israel's Righteousness – Dt. 6:25
 2. Christ had to become a priest to provide an efficacious sacrifice for sins – Heb. 3:1; 9:14

3. Mosaic Law required ceremonial baptisms for the initiation into the priesthood – Ex. 29:4-7; Nu. 4:3, 23, 30, 35, 43, 47
- ii. Christ’s baptism was necessary to fulfill the righteous demands that the Law presented to the nation of Israel

Christ’s Temptation

“His temptation was designed to prove that become in man had not altered His righteousness in any way. His temptation proved that He would, indeed, perform just as God had planned and He would not disappoint!” – T. H.

1. Christ’s temptations were used to demonstrate that He was uniquely qualified to be the perfect Lamb of God – 1 Pe. 1:19-20
2. Satan’s temptations were directed at the Son’s human nature – James 1:13
3. Christ’s temptations were a part of the Father’s will – Mk. 1:12
4. Christ relied upon the Holy Spirit to overcome Satan’s temptations – Mk. 1:12
5. Temptation
 - a. Definition - “First a lust is presented, and then the lust is considered (Ja. 1:12-15). A man is tempted when he is drawn out and lured by his own lust. The word “own” means that the lust is personal. Regardless of whether the lust originated from within a person or from without, the individual has considered it, thus personalizing it. He has made the lust his own. In one way or another he has said, ‘I could do that. That is a possibility.’” – T.H.
 - i. In his humanity, Christ considered the possibility of each of Satan’s temptations
 - ii. It was not possible for Christ to have sinned – He was able to be tempted in His humanity but the determination comes down to the person connected to His divine nature
 - iii. Christ’s temptations arose from both Satan and the world system but not the sin nature – Heb. 4:15
 - b. Stones into Bread***
 - i. Satan’s tempted Christ to operate independently from God the Father by turning the stones into bread by His own power
 - ii. Christ responded that “man shall not live by bread alone...” – recognizing his dependence upon the Father
 - c. Kingdoms of the world***
 - i. Satan had the authority to give the keys of the kingdoms of the world to whomever he chose
 - ii. Offered the kingdom’s (which rightfully belong to Christ) to Jesus if only He would bow to Satan
 - iii. Tempted him to short cut the Father’s plan for His life
 - iv. In his human nature, Christ recognized the Father’s authority
 - d. God’s promise of protection***
 - i. Satan tempted Christ to demonstrate God’s care by needlessly putting himself in danger
 - ii. Christ responded that it was foolish to test God’s care by operating outside of His will

Christ's Miracles

Christ's said something about Him and His character. They pointed to the fact that He is God and the long awaited Messiah of the Jewish people. The vast majority of those Christ ministered too were more interested in the miracle than the Miracle worker. Their focus was on the temporal and not the spiritual truth they were meant to convey.

John 20:30-31 – John stated there was no way he could include all of Christ's works but that the ones he was inspired to write about were intended for the readers to believe in Christ and continue believing in Christ

Turning Water into Wine – Jo. 2:1-11

1. Jesus is God the Creator – Jo. 1:3
2. Jesus was referring to Mary from His Divine Nature – v. 3
 - a. Can't dictate his schedule – v. 4
 - b. Miracle was unexpected – v. 11
3. Jesus created "good" wine – v. 10
4. First time Jesus revealed the Divine Nature and the glory of it in this way – Jo. 1:14

The Nobleman's Son – Jo. 4:46-54

1. Illustrated the difference between faith and sight – believed Christ could heal without visible proof
 - a. Simply trusted what Jesus said
 - b. Jewish people dependent upon signs to believe (Gideon, Moses, etc.)
 - c. Faith taking on a different character in the NT – Jo. 20:29; Heb. 11:1
2. The NT believer operates by faith in the unseen promises of God

The Healing of the Lame Man – Jo. 5:1-9

1. Grace – Def. – "God's attitude by which he provides some good or benefit without considering whether we deserve it or not" – T.H.
2. The Lame man did not deserve to be healed
 - a. Physical condition appears to have be the result of sin – v. 5, 14
 - b. Christ chose him rather than others
 - c. Demonstrating institution of a new kind of relationship – Jo. 1:17
 - i. Previously operated by Law – obey = blessing; disobey = curse
3. Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath – v. 10
 - a. Man under law was required to rest
 - b. Christ was not bound by the need to rest, the Sabbath was created for man not God

The Feeding of the 5,000 – Jo. 6:1-14, v. 35-48

1. His followers were due to miracles – v. 2, 26
2. Man inherently wants to "do" something to earn God's favor – v. 28
3. These followers demanded further signs to believe in Christ – v. 30
4. Jesus stated that He was the Bread from Heaven – v. 35
 - a. Manna was temporary, needed more everyday

- b. Jesus was the source of spiritual fulfillment – v. 64, 66, 69

Walking on the Water – Jo. 6:16-25

1. The disciples had come to the end of their ability
2. The disciples were fearful – “I Am! Don’t fear!”
3. Jesus had commanded the disciples to go to the other side – Mk. 6:45
4. Jesus desired to pass by the boat – Mk. 6:48
5. Christ was providing the disciples an opportunity to trust that He would accomplish what He had commanded them to do
 - a. There was no need to fear in the midst of the storm when He had commanded them
 - b. Believe what He had told them (promised) – Jo. 14:1

Healing of the Blind Man – Jo. 9:1-12

1. The blind man’s suffering was an opportunity for God to demonstrate His power
2. Jesus is the Light of the world – v. 5; 8:12
 - a. He is the one who shines a light on what God is like
 - i. Revealed God’s character
 - ii. Healed the man’s physical and spiritual sight

Raising Lazarus from the Dead – Jo. 11:1-46

1. Lazarus’ death was an opportunity for God to demonstrate His power
 - a. His glory would be revealed – v. 4
 - b. Christ wanted his disciples to believe – v. 15
 - i. Think of the emotional pain experienced by his friends. Was Jesus callous? No, but their faith in Him was more important.
 - c. Martha believed that Lazarus would rise again at the last day – v. 23-34
 - i. Jewish expectation – resurrection leading to entrance into the Millennial kingdom
2. Christ is the Resurrection and the Life – He is the one who has power over death
 - a. Christ provided a glimpse of what He would do for Himself in just a few weeks time