

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 4-7-24
Christianity 102 – Message 34 Part 1
“Jesus begins His public ministry.”

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

1) In this battle for the mind, we know that the things fighting for the control of your mind include:

- a) Thoughts of the past –
- b) Thoughts of the present –
- c) Thoughts of the future –

2) There were many things we looked at together regarding this battle for the mind –

b. Taking a look ahead:

1) We're ready to take another step in our chronological study.

a) What happens to something new over time? It becomes old!

2) Do you think believers get tired of Christianity?

a) Has Jesus grown old to you? Has His Word –

b) Jesus hasn't changed since the day you repented of your sin and confessed faith in Him.

3) Jesus comes on the scene to begin His public ministry and He is –

2. John's race is coming to a close: Mark 1:14-15

a. Moving On:

1) We move from the wilderness to the next step in the life and ministry of Jesus.

a) We read that John is in prison.

b. The enemy did not like him:

1) John was the faithful forerunner of Jesus.

a) He taught God's message to prepare the Jews to trust in the Deliverer.

b) Sadly the Pharisees and Sadducees continued to trust in themselves.

2) Application –

c. King Herod did not like him – Matthew 14:1-12

1) John spoke the truth to Herod about his sin and knew the risk with speaking the truth.

a) I think John knew the potential outcome for speaking against the King.

d. Jesus called him and loved him.

1) Let me draw a parallel of encouragement should you find yourself in a similar situation as John. II Corinthians 4:15-18

a) John knew and we know that - Jesus would die for John and his sin.

2) It is possible that John was thinking much like what Paul wrote:

a) For all [these] things are [taking place] for your sake, so that the more grace extends to more and more people *and* multiplies through the many, the more thanksgiving may increase [and redound] to the glory of God. ¹⁶ Therefore we do not become discouraged. Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying *and* wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day.¹⁷ For our light, momentary affliction is ever more and more abundantly preparing *and* producing *and* achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!], ¹⁸ Since we consider *and* look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the

things that are visible are temporal, but the things that are invisible are deathless *and* everlasting.” Amplified.

3) Application – Perspective is key, isn’t it?

a) Eternal versus the temporal.

b) I think there is a connection between love and a person’s life – the direction and decisions they make.

4) You can see love for Jesus in John’s life, can that love be seen in our life?

a) John 14:15 – “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

b) John 14:21 - “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”

3. Jesus began to teach truth: Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:15; Luke 4:14-30

a. What a privilege we have:

1) The time had come for Jesus to begin to teach truth to the people.

b. Consider what Jesus said here:

1) Mark 1:15 – “And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

c. “the time is fulfilled” -

1) The day so many thought would never happen has now been made real.

2) Jesus came to the nation of Israel to present Himself as the promised Messiah and to offer that nation the covenanted kingdom in which He would rule as Savior and Lord in peace and righteousness.

d. “repent ye” –

1) “repent” – to change one’s mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins.

2) Part of the purpose for which we gather –

3) II Corinthians 7:5-16

a) Verse 5-7 Paul’s heart had been heavy.

b) Verse 8 – Paul wrote a letter.

c) Verse 9 – Paul rejoices that God’s truth accomplished its purpose.

d) Verse 10 – “godly sorrow” –

e) Verse 11 – Look what happened when they repented.

4) What do you think is meant by, “but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” Verse 10

4. Today’s Take Away:

a. Do you think believers get tired of Christianity?

b. We know there is a connection between love and a person’s life – the direction and decisions they make.

c. Repentance – Have you repented of your sin and turned to Jesus asking for His forgiveness and new life?