

First Things First

[Mar 1:9-15 ESV] 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

I. Intro

- A. Christ is our savior and our example
- B. It is never promised to be an easy life, but we are promised His presence.
- C. The First things come first, order is important
 1. Step out in faith
 2. Learn to trust God in life
 3. You don't have to get everything together first, step into Christ and start growing.
 4. [Luk 5:31-32 ESV] 31 And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

II. Text

- A. Baptism
 1. Jesus's baptism was an announcement
 2. The time had come for the messiah to be introduced to the world
 3. In the baptism of Christ you see the different persons of the Godhead all present
 4. God the father spoke, God the Spirit descended like a dove
 5. God the Son presented himself to the world
- B. Temptation
 1. Jesus went to the wilderness alone for 40 days
 2. Tempted by Satan to: (Matthew 4:1-11)
 - a) Turn stones to bread
 - b) Throw himself from a high point to test the father's protection
 - c) Bow and worship Satan to become ruler over all the land
 3. I do not believe Satan fully understood who he was dealing with, the temptations would have been enticing other than the stone to bread, but even that was misunderstanding of Jesus's physical needs.
 - a) Jesus responded with scripture, declaring BREAD was not worth it
 - b) Obedience overruled His physical needs.
- C. Proclamation
 1. The Declaration: The Time is fulfilled
 2. The Revelation: The Kingdom of God is at hand
 3. The Proclamation: Repent and believe in the gospel

III. Points

- A. Step 1: Announcement
 1. The announcement of Christ's earthly ministry was beautiful
 2. He was baptized in the Jordan River with a hosts of witnesses
 3. He did not "Need" to be baptized for the remission of sin, but as was common in the law of the MIKVEH, He submitted Himself to baptism as a statement
 - a) A ceremonial statement by obedience to the law
 - b) A statement of the next phase of the sovereign plan of God

- c) Jews would celebrate MEKVEH before the holy feasts, that all pointed to Christ, and Christ announced things to be different from this point forward.
 - 4. Jesus:
 - a) Was not baptized for the forgiveness of sin
 - b) Was baptized as a statement and an example.
 - c) He also declared what was to come through His baptism: buried with Christ, raised to walk
 - 5. Why do we get baptized?:
 - a) We identify with Christ and the church
 - b) We declare our earthly ministry, because we have one once we become a believer
 - c) We follow Christ's example, and go and baptize likewise.
 - 6. We need to give proper attention to the elements of the pattern we see here:
 - a) Step into Faith
 - b) Step into Ministry/trial/challenge
 - c) Grow in faith and trusting only in God
 - 7. Jesus's baptism was not a baptism of repentance, but one that was a game changing example, and a reminder of Him fulfilling Old Testament prophecy.
- B. Step 2: Trial
1. Everyone wants Justification, not everyone wants sanctification, and you will never find them separated in scripture.
 2. A pattern seen since The Exodus:
 - a) Israel passed through the waters of the Red Sea on dry ground
 - b) They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years
 - c) They entered the promised land
 3. The pattern in moving into the promised land:
 - a) Joshua led the people across the Jordan
 - b) They immediately were confronted with Jericho
 - c) They had to trust God's plan for victory
 4. The pattern in Jesus Ministry
 - a) Baptism announcing the earthly ministry begins
 - b) Immediate attack and challenge from Satan (preparation, actually)
 - c) Growth and Strength to accomplish the next steps.
 5. Jesus was already sinless and perfect, but still went through the difficulty of the temptation.
 6. Sanctification is about learning and growing for us
 7. Jesus experienced the difficulty of isolation, hunger, and temptation, yet did not sin.
 8. Our example in Christ is clear: start your ministry years, expect challenges
 9. This is probably not explained enough in our world of easy beliefism
 - a) We you become a follower of Christ, you are not promised to have no problems, in fact, the problems usually increase.
 - b) You are not promised ease of life, you will find challenges that are bigger than you can handle yourself
 - c) You will awaken the attack of the enemy, and the attack may seem like too much.
 10. What you will learn in the trial:
 - a) Christ is sufficient
 - b) His peace overwhelms the darkness
 - c) His power overcomes evil
 - d) You will learn not to depend on your own strength, but to depend on Christ.
 11. [Pro 3:5-6 ESV] 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

12. [Jhn 16:31-33 ESV] 31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

C. Step 3: Proclamation

1. [Mar 1:15 ESV] 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
2. The Time is fulfilled: this was the God ordained point in history that Jesus was to arrive on the scene and bring salvation.
3. The Kingdom of God is at hand:
 - a) The kingdom:
 - (1) everything that is under the rule of the king
 - (2) But also a statement in scripture about the rule of Christ on display
 - b) It is now!
4. Message: Repent and Believe in the gospel
 - a) The gospel was proclaimed by God himself at the fall:
 - (1) An animal died and the skins were used as coverings for Adam and Eve's nakedness: first death, first shedding of blood
 - (2) God proclaimed messiah would then come and crush the serpents head
 - (3) The prophets all proclaimed the coming messiah
 - (4) AND NOW HE IS HERE!
 - b) So, repent of your sin
 - c) AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL
5. Repentance is not enough for salvation, and it never was
6. We also need the message of good news of Christ's sacrificial death, and His resurrected life.
7. Now, you are proclaiming the gospel as you live for Him
 - a) You are proclaiming the gospel to the world that needs a reminder every day
 - b) You are proclaiming the gospel to yourself as you walk in His power
 - c) And you are confronted with the fact that you cannot save yourself.

IV. Close