

Lesson 4

Christ Begins His Earthly Ministry

For the most part, the years in the life of Christ between His birth and His ministry were private ones.

As we learned last week, He worked hard and was a typical child. Now we come to the peak of His ministry when He is thirty years of age.

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,
22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

HE WAS _____.

His baptism was pleasing to God. Luke 3:22c, notice the words, “Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

The Father was saying, “This is My Son, the beloved; I delight that He has been baptized.” It is well-pleasing to God when one is baptized, if that one has already been saved. It is not pleasing when the saved person has not been baptized.

Jesus never performed a _____ or did an _____ work until after He was baptized.

He is now thirty years of age, and yet there is no record of His ever having performed a miracle or having done an outstanding work for God. Why He waited until He was thirty, only Heaven will reveal.

Matthew 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.

Jesus intended for us to get _____. Notice in Matthew 3:15 that “...it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.” Notice the word “us.” About whom is He talking? He is talking about all of His people; His entire body of believers should get baptized.

Baptism is _____.

Baptism is, in fact, the most Christlike thing that one can do. There is no way in the world that we can be exactly like Jesus except in baptism.

Philippians 2:5 says that we are to have a mind like Christ, but we fail in this, no matter how hard we try.

THE _____ OF JESUS.

Luke 4:1-13. Immediately upon His baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness and was tempted. When one obeys God, then he may expect temptation.

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

JESUS _____ HIS MINISTRY AT HOME.

He is now going to preach His first sermon. He is going to present Himself as the Son of God and as the Messiah.

JESUS _____ FOR HIS OWN FIRST.

Simon Peter is to be the greatest of the disciples, He is to become the spokesman; hence, Jesus begins His ministry by healing Peter's mother-in-law. He cares for those closest to Him.

The Lord is telling us that we should win our loved ones first. We should care first for those whom we love the most.

We should win our neighbors and care for them first. Jesus begins His earthly ministry by reaching His own.