



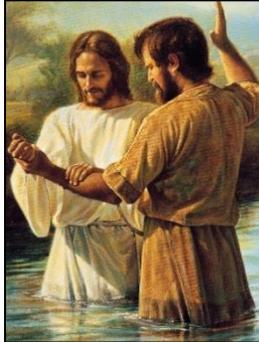
# THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

Mike Taylor

[www.TaylorNotes.info/monday](http://www.TaylorNotes.info/monday)



## PART 2: KING JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY



### Central Question: Why was Jesus baptized?

At first glance, it seems that Jesus' baptism has no purpose. John's baptism was the baptism of repentance (Matthew 3:11), but Jesus was sinless and had no need of repentance. Even John was taken aback by Jesus' coming to him. So why was Jesus baptized?

## MATTHEW 3:1-4:25 (NIV)

### A. John the Baptist prepares the way (3:1-12)

"In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" <sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

## **B. The baptism of Jesus (3:13-17)**

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. <sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

## **C. The temptation of Jesus (4:1-11)**

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him."

## **D. Jesus begins his ministry (4:12-17)**

"When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali-- <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-- <sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." <sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'"

## **E. Jesus calls his first disciples (4:18-22)**

"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him."

## F. Jesus ministers to great crowds (4:23-25)

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.”

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What does the word “repent” mean and why do you suppose it was one of the first things John the Baptist proclaimed (3:2)? Hint: See <https://www.christianity.com/jesus/following-jesus/repentance-faith-and-salvation/what-does-it-mean-to-repent.html>



---

---

---

---

- 2) What do you suppose John meant when he said the “kingdom of heaven has come near”(3:2)?

---

---

---

---

- 3) What kind of a response was there to John the Baptist's preaching (3:5-8)?

---

---

---

---

- 4) Why was Jesus baptized (3:6, 13-17) since he never sinned? What was the significance of this act? (Hint: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-baptized.html>).



---

---

---

---

5) In addition to Jesus himself, in what ways were God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit involved in his baptism (3:16-17)?

---

---

---

---

6) In each of these three temptations how did Jesus resist Satan? How does this relate to Christians today (4:1-11)?

---

---

---

---

7) There will be times when you as a Christian will be weak when tempted. What does Hebrews 4:15-16 tell you about those times? What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 tell you?

---

---

---

---

8) What was Satan's response to Jesus in Matthew 4:10-11? What does James 4:7 instruct you to do when Satan tempts you?

---

---

---

---

9) Optional discussion leader question(s).

## APPLICATION

When facing temptations, we are to...

R\_\_\_\_\_ the devil's tactics (exploits our natural desires).

R\_\_\_\_\_ like Jesus did (use scripture).

R\_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus, especially in times of weakness.

R\_\_\_\_\_ that we are most vulnerable when we are hungry, angry, lonely, or tired (H.A.L.T).