

Jesus Came

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Mark 1:9-15.
- B. “Jesus came” is always a formula for radical change.
- C. Repentance is the place to begin with God always.
- D. Jesus needed to be baptized and tempted to be prepared for ministry.

II. Jesus was baptized.

- A. John would only baptize those who genuinely acknowledge their need before God.
- B. John told Jesus that He did not need to be baptized, but Jesus insisted for the fulfillment of righteousness.
- C. Mark suggests that Jesus should have been baptized for three reasons.
 - 1. Jesus was identifying with our sin in the first step that prepared Him for His work on the cross.
 - 2. It was an empowering moment.
 - a. Only by the Holy Spirit can a man live as he wants to live.
 - b. The most elementary need of man is the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. This was not the first time that Jesus had the Spirit.
 - d. This was merely a new manifestation of the Spirit for power.
 - e. All that happened to Jesus must happen to us. Jesus said that believers would receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
 - f. The Spirit gives us the power to live like a dove—we should seek humility first. Humility gives us power. Pride makes us God’s enemy.
 - 3. It was a moment of assurance.
 - a. God’s voice from heaven confirms that Jesus was God’s Son.
 - b. This testified to the purity of the years prior to Jesus’ ministry.
 - c. Jesus received assurance and security from this just as a man would.

III. Jesus was tempted.

A. Part of the preparation that was necessary was testing.

B. Mark recorded...

1. That Jesus felt a strong inner compulsion to face the tempter on his own ground.
2. That Jesus was tempted for forty days. Satan gets at us by threatening our security.
3. That the devil suggested there was a way to get what Jesus desired through a shortcut. The Lord met every temptation the same way we can—through reliance upon God's Word.

IV. Jesus' ministry.

A. He came preaching the gospel of God—revealing reality.

B. His message was that the kingdom of God was at hand.

Application questions:

1. What was Jesus response to temptation? Does this work today? Explain.

2. What was the character of Jesus ministry? Why was preaching so crucial?

3. How can you identify with Jesus in His struggles? Why is so important to follow in His pattern?
