

(SLIDE1) Life Of Christ

Week 2 Notes

(SLIDE 2) Begin with prayer and allow others to pray for any requests

(SLIDE 3 to 10) Short quiz and 2 thought provoking questions.

(SLIDE 11) Introduce discussion today

(SLIDE 12) READ LUKE 3:1-3

John the baptist sets the stage for the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry.

I looked up the word "minister" in the dictionary and liked the simple definition "One who serves" because that is what Jesus is all about and frankly that is what we should be all about.

We are in the area around Judea, the Herods are ruling in Galilee and the Caesars are in power regionally. Pontius Pilate is governor of Judea. This by the way is the guy who is famously known as the judge at Jesus' trial and the man who authorized the crucifixion of Jesus. He really did not find that anything Jesus did deserved death but was under pressure from his people to crucify Jesus. So sin abounds in the area just as it does today. It is a time of paganism and great idolatry...kinda like the world is today on a larger scale.

Verse 3 tells us that John is now a grown man and he comes out of the wilderness to preach about Jesus, preaching and saying "we have a problem and that problem is sin. To deal with that sin we need to repent and that is demonstrated in baptism".

John is preaching all around the region around the Jordan river where he will baptize many including Jesus.

The importance of this verse which sets the stage for "why Jesus" is that in Jesus' day people were sinners and in our day we are also all sinners. In the old testament book of Psalms 51:5, king David (a man who God said was a man after his own heart) declares that he was wicked from his mother's womb, and we like him are by nature sinful, we are all born sinners. We commit acts of sin whether these are sins of commission (doing what we are not supposed to do) or omission (not doing what we are supposed to do).

(SLIDE 13) So our problem and the problem here in Judea is sin. Just being human is a problem because we all sin.

So our sin is the problem and the answer to that is repentance - I acknowledge in light of the holiness and goodness of God that I am a sinner and that he is holy and my sin is

a problem to him. I then want to repent and turn from sin to God by faith, and I do that through Jesus and this is demonstrated by baptism.

John the baptist has some harsh words for us in

(SLIDE 14) READ VERSE 7

“You snakes”, this is echoing the same evil that started in the garden with Adam and Eve when the snake presented us with temptation and we gave in to that temptation. It does not matter that you are Jew or gentile, religious or not or descended from Abraham. Our sins make us all the same in that we have a problem and we need our hearts and minds changed. Some people who came to John were Jews who thought they were righteous by birth and he is even telling those to repent of their religion.

John says we therefore need to live a life of repentance, in other words Jesus needs to be the center of your life, you want to do what pleases God and not what pleases self. You continually grow in grace and Christ-likeness...until Jesus' final kingdom.

So John preaches the good news about Jesus, he rebukes people and tells them to repent and some people are convicted and ask him “what shall we do about our sins” and when is the messiah coming

(SLIDE 15) Luke 3:11-14

John tells them:

- Share your clothes
- Share your food
- Do not cheat others out of money
- Be thankful for what you have

And while John is teaching about this Jesus, Jesus himself comes along and he comes along for at least 2 reasons, 1) to identify with the ministry of John and show that yes what John is preaching about me Jesus is true and 2) to foreshadow his own death burial and resurrection so that repentance will be possible. In other words, all your repentance and the cleansing that you desire and the new life that you are longing for is made possible by Jesus.

After John's powerful ministry, of exposing sin in the region and rebuking even kings like Herod, the king feels he has heard enough of John and throws him into prison. That is when now all eyes are on Jesus. John the baptist baptizes Jesus and is then thrown in jail and the Messiah is here. Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is tempted.

(SLIDE 16) TEMPTATION

DOES THAT SOUND FAMILIAR? HOW MANY OF YOU AFTER BAPTISM DID IT FEEL LIKE SATAN CONCENTRATED ON YOU???

ASK, WHAT FORMS OF TEMPTATION EXIST IN THIS WORLD - It is important for us to know and understand the potential of sin so that we can see sin coming and not give in to it.

(SLIDE 17) LUKE 4:1-2

And Jesus full of the “Holy Spirit” goes to do battle with Satan. Luke tells us of 3 temptations but that does not mean those are the only temptations Satan tried on Jesus. Satan comes to him repeatedly over 40 days. Jesus was tempted. The bible tells us that Jesus never sinned but he was tempted. So temptation itself is not sin. In fact temptation is part of a Christian’s life and all of us are tempted and here we see Jesus also being tempted and showing us how to resist and fight temptation.

Temptation is just bait on a hook. (food, money, security, comfort, sexual sin and all the other things that we idolize as human beings)

(SLIDE 18 Picture of the wilderness) For 40 days Jesus is tempted with all kinds of temptations. He goes through what we go through and goes through more than we go through.

(SLIDE 19, 20) Show map where the wilderness is.

Here is the first temptation:

(SLIDE 21) Luke 4:3-4 - Can Jesus turn stones into loafs of bread? Is it sin to eat bread? Jesus could easily turn the stones to bread but what is the big deal here? After all he made water into wine. The bible tells us that he was hungry. Part of the temptation here is whether Jesus would obey Satan. Satan is the one commanding him to do this and not God. Satan is calling him to meet a physical desire or urge and that is many of our temptations. Bodily appetites in themselves are not evil (food, rest, intimacy etc) are gifts if appropriated Godly. But they can lead us into temptation and can turn turn into gluttony, alcoholism and addictions. Jesus counters and quotes Deut 8:3

The other temptation here is that Jesus identity is being attacked. Satan’s line is “If you are the son of God”. Satan is saying are you really the son of God? Who you think you are determines how you live. If you think you are a victim, you live like a victim. Your life comes out of your identity. God says Jesus is God and Satan says “are you sure”

In Christ you have a new identity. You are a new creation, God is your new father, Your church is your new family, heaven is your new eternity, the spirit of God in you is your new power. Satan comes to you and says, are you really forgiven? Remember those horrible things that you did? Are you sure God loves you? Are you sure God adopted

you into his family? You are broke, you are homeless, you are hungry, you are lonely, your mother in law doesn't like you. Your christian friends do not look like they are helpful at all. You would not have these problems if God loves you would you. That is the situation Christ was in.

Satan will question your identity as a child of God as he questioned the identity of the son of God because he knows that in God we get a new identity. That identity then gives us a new life in Him and we cannot forget that because Satan will destroy us if our identity is not in God.

ANYONE LIKE TO SHARE AN EXPERIENCE

Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus was tempted in every way and how does Jesus respond. Luke tells us that Satan kept coming to Jesus with other temptations and how does Jesus resist him and respond to Satan? He quotes scripture, in this case Deuteronomy 8:3 and says "The scriptures say"... in other words, "The bible says"

When Satan comes, we need to know our bibles. If we don't, we have no spiritual authority. As Satan comes, and the battle of temptation rages in your life, and your flesh is being tempted, know your bible.

Jesus was ready. He is baptized, he begins his ministry and goes out into the wilderness to do battle. When Satan comes, he does not say:

- wait I need to watch some tv first
- i need to go shopping
- let me finish my hobbies first
- i need to sleep

No, Jesus is ready because earlier in Luke 2:52 we are told that he grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with men and God. He was ready to do battle because he had been preparing with study, fasting, prayer and spending time with God and that should be our business and that is what the lesson is here.

Jesus passes other temptations and emerges from the wilderness to begin his ministry but notice

(SLIDE 21) Luke 4:13

The battle is never over...at least in our human life. That is why we need the Holy Spirit. That is why we need to be continually repenting, continually fasting, studying and growing that relationship through him.

JESUS EARLY MINISTRY

(SLIDE 23,24,25) His ministry began very **simple and very humble**. He did not begin his ministry in the big city of Jerusalem but in the small town of Galilee. He began his

public work with small crowds and not large crowds, not in stadiums but in synagogues scattered in the Galilean small towns ministering to humble people.

(SLIDE 26) Luke 4:14-15 - So Jesus begins his teaching and preaching. God had a son and he was a preacher. Jesus' ministry began by the preaching and teaching of the bible and that is why scriptures matter to us. Jesus goes to many of the synagogues around the sea of Galilee and historically to have a synagogue you had to have at least 10 people. So these were small gatherings but he is slowly becoming popular in the area. **People are excited to come and see this young fiery bible preacher and he has great support at this time.**

He goes to his hometown of Nazareth where he would later get rejected. He is officially a Rabi and that was a high honor. Nazareth was a small town then. There was excitement because people felt like he was one of their own. We know that Nazareth was nothing much (rural town because the scripture says the question would later be asked "can anything good come out of Nazareth")

Let's pick up the story in Luke 4:16

(SLIDE 27) Luke 4:16 - 20

Jesus regularly attended church as was his custom. So people ask, why come to church. Well, you are a Christian and you want to be like Jesus. He attended church every sabbath as was his custom (verse 16)

Jesus stands in authority as the preacher and reads from the prophet Isaiah (books were hand copied and they were long long documents **SHOW SCROLL (SLIDE 28)**).

(SLIDE 29) He reads from **Isaiah 58** and **Isaiah 61** and he speaks of the poor. Luke highlights Jesus' ministry to the poor. Jesus himself was poor. Jesus' mother and father were poor and his hometown was poor. This is not to say he was against the rich. The poor were important to Jesus and that is why even today the poor are important to the church.

He was saying the poor also have complete equality in the site of God. He speaks of;

- those who are prisoners of war
- those who are slaves to sin
- the blind will see
- the oppressed will be set free
- the Lord's favor has come

And he tops it off by saying Him being here **today "this day"** is the fulfillment of that scripture. so right at that moment this scripture was coming to life. Today in this little town of Nazareth with these poor simple people in Him, he was and is what they have been waiting for.

In him he is our freedom, He is our sight and He is our liberator.

There is a sense of urgency here. He is saying I am the Lord and today;

- You can give your sins to Jesus
- You can commit to church today
- You can commit to reading the scriptures today
- You can confess and repent today
- You can hear his voice and not harden your heart today

There is a sense of urgency. It is not after work or after a nap or after my soccer game but it is today that we need to respond to Christ. Some are amazed at what he is saying and others are furious and they try to kill him but he escapes because it was not time for him to die yet. So he is rejected in his home town of Nazareth.

Jesus does not waste time and he gets to work with miracles and healing because that day that he just read about is here.

MIRACLES AND HEALING

(SLIDE 30) READ Luke 4:33 - 37 Here is Jesus preaching again in the synagogue and yes there is a demonized man in the congregation. We do not hear much about demons nowadays but they are active in our world. Just as Christ did we will encounter demons..just as a gardener encounters weeds in his garden we will encounter demons in some form. We need to just be aware that Satan exists. We do not blame him for everything but he exists. Jesus talks about demons many times in the bible.

(SLIDE 31) You will find the word demon 24 times in the book of Luke. This is not to scare us or to say we should dwell in the fear of demons but Jesus devoted a significant amount of preaching and healing and miracles to casting out demons. So yes we emphasize Jesus and we are aware of demons. As a servant of Christ, you will encounter demons as a gardener would encounter weeds as he tends his garden.

(SLIDE 32) BACK TO LUKE 4:33-37

As the kingdom of God comes, there is opposition from the kingdom of darkness, and there is this battle raging throughout the totality of the Gospel of Luke until the crucifixion of Jesus. So Jesus wants us to become familiar with Satan and demons. There are demonized people in church as this scripture shows, Jesus had one in one of his disciples (Judas Iscariot) and some are out in the world but they cannot win against Jesus. In fact they know Jesus and they are under his authority even as they try to cause conflict, division and strife. So we just need to know our enemy and be able to identify our enemy.

[Back to the story](#), somehow a demon has some access to someone in the congregation. Jesus shows up preaching and teaching and all of a sudden there is conflict right there

among God's people. Jesus rebukes the demon and says "be quiet and come out of the man"

People are amazed that even demons can listen to and obey Jesus. As I read these stories of demon possessed people in the bible my question is how do they become demon possessed in the first place?

Consider the human body to be a house and Jesus is commanding the demon to come out of the house. So, my life and my body are a house and I live in it. What happens to my house if I live the windows and the doors wide open? Well, people come in, sometimes the wrong people come in and things come in. There is no order and soon the house is trashed and in chaos. Sin takes over and all of a sudden you are in different religions, witchcraft, drunkenness, and sexuality.

Sometimes it does not seem that extreme, you are depressed, unhappy about everything and feeling like you have no purpose in life. You feel like watching tv all day and everything is just blahhhhhh.

If you are a Christian does Satan own your proverbial house, yes or no? No he does not. But you can open yourself up to all kinds of torment and influence and you can invite people and things that should not be in your life. We do not know whether the examples of demon possessed people in Luke were believers or not, but we know Jesus talks about them, performs miracles on them and teaches us to guard our houses.

(SLIDE 33) Some examples of how we keep our windows and doors open

ANY OTHER EXAMPLES OR COMMENTS?

We can be demonically influenced and we need to guard ourselves. Just as you have a house and control who comes in and out we have to also guard our soul and that comes with a relationship with Jesus.

We also need to be aware of the extraordinary demons, this man who was healed and other demonic examples in look include experiences where the body was thrown to the ground. I am sure you have encountered or heard of people who say they hear voices, they hear voices telling them that they;

- they are failures
- they are losers
- they cannot be forgiven
- you should kill yourself
- negative self talk
- low self esteem

Some demons cause death because Satan is a murderer. So love Jesus and seek Jesus and do not quench the Holy Spirit but let it lead you to a life in Christ. You will

also have authority over demons like Christ does. Yes indeed his miracles were not all about demons.

Jesus becomes even more popular. Crowds follow him because he heals for free with no co-pay necessary. He does not care that you are not under Obama care or Romney care so everyone wants to spend time with him.

The scene shifts from the Synagogue to Peter's house where he heals Peter's mother in law.

(SLIDE 34) Jesus then goes to Peter's house and heals Peter's mother in law.

(SLIDE 35, 36, 37) - Show Simon Peter's house

(SLIDE 38) READ LUKE 4:40-41- Also rebukes more demons out of other people and in verse 41 he rebukes the demons and does not allow them to speak about Christ. **Why?** John the Baptist was proclaiming who Jesus is, Jesus was proclaiming who Jesus is and he does not need the devil also doing the same thing. We proclaim the Lord in a sound mind. We do see that Jesus heals with a purpose. It is just not so that we are well but so that we can glorify him and continue serving others.

Other miracles continue including curing a leper in verse 12. Jesus touches those who are unclean, and reaches out to those rejected by society. This leper was untouchable and the religious leader then had said if you touch anyone who is unclean you will be ceremonially unclean. So this man had been alone for years and he touches him.

(SLIDE 39) HEALINGS AND OTHER MIRACLES

(SLIDE 40) Let us not lose site of why the preaching, why the miracles and why the healing?

Luke 4:42-44 - the gospel needs to be preached THROUGHOUT THE WORLD