



The Story Chapter 23 - Jesus: The Ministry Begins

1. God's surprise promise – Jesus

Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? John 6:42 NIV

Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary...? Matthew 13:55 NIV

2. Jesus' surprise act - Baptism

- i. His baptism was an act of submission to His Father...
- ii. It was a way to model behavior for His disciples and followers...
- iii. And it was the pivot point when Jesus transitioned from a private life into a public life of ministry.

What is Baptism?

Baptism represents the act of death and rebirth.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke 3:16 NIV

3. Jesus' surprise start – The Desert

...led by the Spirit into the desert where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and at the end of them He was hungry. Luke 4:1-2 NIV

Jesus' Temptation becomes the Foundation for Jesus' Public Ministry

- i. **Everyone experiences temptation.**
- ii. **The temptation was as real for Jesus as it is for you and I!**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin! Hebrews 4:15 NIV

Satan is both masterful and relentless in his deceit.

4. Satan lies and deceives:

- a. He dangles a lure – “wouldn't you like some bread?”
- b. He exploits natural longings – “of course you are hungry!”
- c. He presents the means – “just turn these stones into bread!”
- d. He sounds a tempting invitation. – “you will be satisfied!”

5. Jesus relies on two powerful tools to resist the lure of the enemy.

1. He anchors Himself in God's word, and when tempted, used it to protect Himself.
2. He embraces His relationship with God, who He trusts to empower him and protect him.

6. Satan Accuses

Let us then approach the throne of grace with CONFIDENCE so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16 NIV

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline 2 Timothy 1:7 NIV

