

Tuesday, January 19

Objectives:

- 1.The finding in the Temple
- 2.The teaching of John the Baptist
- 3.The baptism of Jesus
- 4.The temptation in the wilderness

Reading for Wednesday:

John 2:1-11

The Finding in the Temple

This is the *only* story we have of the childhood of Jesus, and He's not really a child in it, since Jewish boys became men at age 13 (bar mitzvah). (This isn't in the Bible, but it seems to be pretty well established that it was the practice at the time of Jesus.)

Joseph, Mary and Jesus were in the habit of going to Jerusalem every year for the Passover (something Jews tried to do if they could).

People went in large extended-family groups, so it's not hard to understand how Mary and Joseph might have lost track of Him. It takes them a day to discover He's missing.

It takes them three days to find Him.

QUESTION

What other important event in the New Testament lasts for three days?

Jesus is in the tomb—"lost"—for three days.

Mary: Son, why have you treated us so? Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.

Jesus: Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? [or: that I must be about my Father's business]

QUESTION

Why would Jesus do this?

Preparing Mary for "losing" Him later?

The preaching of John the Baptist

REPENT! For the Kingdom of Heaven is
at hand!

repent | ri'pent |

verb [intrans.]

feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin

Implies (1) that you know you've sinned; (2) you're sorry for having done it; (3) you want to be different

Metanoia: Literally, a change of mind/heart

And now, the moment you've all been waiting for!

The name of today's lucky contestant will be drawn, and answer some simple questions!

1. What happened?
2. How does John the Baptist respond when Jesus appears?
3. What does Jesus tell him?
4. What happens after Jesus is baptized?

QUESTION

So why did Jesus get baptized?

For thus it is fitting for us to satisfy all righteousness

1. God the Father wills it
2. Jesus makes the waters of baptism holy so that the sacrament of baptism can make us holy

And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

1. Prefigures the sacrament of Confirmation
2. Visible evidence that Jesus is "anointed" with the Spirit (and therefore Christ = Messiah = anointed one)

GOD IS PLEASED WITH YOU WHEN YOU ARE BAPTIZED!

Never, ever forget this. If you start thinking that God doesn't love you or doesn't care, look back to your baptism! He cared enough to make it possible for you to be like Jesus!

The Temptation of Jesus

The Synoptic Gospels all have this as the very next thing that happens after the Baptism. The Spirit leads Jesus (Mark says "drove," as in "chased") into the wilderness, where He fasts for forty days.

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

Don Claude Leaute, a Benedictin monk of the congregation of St. Maur, in 1731, when he was about fifty-one years of age, had fasted eleven years, without taking any food the whole forty days, except what he daily took at mass; and what added to the wonder is, that during Lent he did not properly sleep, but only dozed. He could not bear the open air; and towards the end of Lent he was excessively pale and wasted. This fact is attested by his brethren and superiors, in a relation printed at Sens, in 1731.

And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give his angels charge of you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! for it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

QUESTION

Since Jesus is God, how can
He be tempted?

There are two kinds of temptations: Internal and external. We are internally tempted because Original Sin makes us want things we shouldn't, or want good things in the wrong way. Jesus was not subject to internal temptation; neither was Mary (nor were Adam and Eve).

External temptation is where someone else tempts you to go against God (which is what happened to Adam and Eve). It is real temptation!