

The Crises of the Christ

Chapter 6

Audio Lesson: New Testament 6



Objective: To introduce the ministry of John the Baptist and explore some of the major events in Jesus' life.



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 lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

—Matthew 3:16-17

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

—Matthew 4:10

John the Baptist is described very briefly in the four gospels, but he is one of the most significant people in the Bible. He was not only the greatest of the prophets; he was the last of the prophets before Jesus. The Old Testament prophets preached the Good News that the Messiah was coming, but John actually got to see Him. He was the one who literally introduced the people of God to their Messiah saying, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

There are several important events in the life of Jesus Christ that are described in the early chapters of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. One of those events was His baptism, which was His inauguration that marked the beginning of His public ministry. Another was His temptation, which came immediately after His baptism. In Matthew 4, the Spirit of God led Jesus into the wilderness where He had a confrontation with Satan and was tempted three times. Jesus resisted temptation by knowing and quoting Scripture and by keeping God first in His life. Unlike Adam long ago, Jesus did not sin when He was tempted. He proved that He was the Son of God who overcomes sin.



1. True or false? John the Baptist was not a very significant character in the Bible.
2. True or false? John the Baptist thought that all the prophets pointed to himself as the Messiah.
3. True or false? John the Baptist was a great prophet and a great preacher.
4. True or false? Many people heard John preach because he lived and preached in the largest cities.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What was the purpose of John the Baptist's ministry?
 - a. To introduce Jesus as the Messiah
 - b. To make people angry by preaching hard messages
 - c. To be an example of how all Christians should live
 - d. To establish a new religion
6. What did baptism by John represent?
 - a. Repentance
 - b. Initiation as a monk or priest
 - c. Giving up all possessions
 - d. Becoming a Christian
7. What happened when Jesus came to be baptized by John?
 - a. Jesus baptized John instead.
 - b. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus.
 - c. Everyone left Jesus to follow John
 - d. The religious leaders came out to arrest Jesus.

8. Why was Jesus baptized?
 - a. So His sins would be forgiven
 - b. To demonstrate that John was more important
 - c. So He could become God's Son
 - d. To mark the beginning of His public ministry

9. How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptation?
 - a. The same way Adam responded in Genesis—He was deceived.
 - b. He resisted by quoting Scripture.
 - c. He fled into the wilderness to escape.
 - d. He destroyed Satan immediately.

10. In how many ways did Satan tempt Jesus in the wilderness?
 - a. One
 - b. Three
 - c. Ten
 - d. Twenty-four

11. What should always be first in our life – our highest priority?
 - a. Our family
 - b. Our church
 - c. Our work
 - d. God

*“And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one”*
—Matthew 6:13

12. What does Jesus' victory over temptation mean for us?
 - a. We will never be tempted.
 - b. We will never give in to temptation.
 - c. He can keep us from falling into temptation because He lives in us.
 - d. We can sin as much as we want because He defeated Satan.



Life is too short and too precious to spend it on anything less than God's best. What is your highest priority in life? Is anything or anyone more important to you than God? If so, what must you do to adjust your priorities to put God first?



Thank God that Jesus overcame temptation and defeated Satan. Thank Him that He is able to keep you from falling. Ask Him to help you resist your temptations by the power of His Spirit within you. Ask God to help you always to place Him first in your life.



Going Deeper

1. What was the significance of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist in the wilderness?

2. In what ways was His baptism different from the baptism He made a part of His Great Commission to preach the Gospel and make disciples, baptizing all those disciples? _____

3. What was the significance of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness? _____

4. When you study the three ways Jesus was tempted, do they have any personal application for you and me today? How? _____

5. What is the personal application of the temptation to turn stones into bread after a 40-day fast? _____

6. How are we to apply the temptation to put God to the test? _____

7. Explain how the temptation to worship the god of this world relates to you and me, especially the way Jesus responded with *Worship God and Him only.*” In addition to quoting Scripture, observe and apply the way Jesus responded to each of these temptations. _____
