

The Life, and Mission of Jesus Christ on Earth

Lesson Four -Luke 3:1 -22 {Mk, 1:1-11; Mt 3:1-17; Jn, 1:6-8,15,19-36}

Summary of Lesson

In this lesson we shall study the mission of John the baptizer as recorded in the four accounts of the gospel. Luke begins by dating the time of John's work, and then, as do also Matthew and Mark, shows that John's work (mission) is the fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy. All of the accounts then tell us of the content and nature of John's preaching and its results. As John was questioned concerning his identity, he confessed that he was not the Messiah, and then testified concerning Jesus, the Messiah who was to come after him. Following this, Jesus came to John to be baptized of him "to fulfill all righteousness." Then, John records for us John the baptizer's second testimony concerning the Christ (John 1:29-36), and tells us of John pointing out Jesus to two men, one of whom (at least) later became an apostle of Jesus. To all of this, Luke adds information about John's imprisonment and the reason for it.

Luke 3:1-22

{1} Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, {2} Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. {3} And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; {4} As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. {5} Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; {6} And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. {7} Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? {8} Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. {9} And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {10} And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? {11} He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. {12} Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him. Master, what shall we do? {13} And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. {14} And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. {15} And as the people

were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; {16} John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: {17} Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable. {18} And many other things in his exhortation preached he good tidings unto the people. (19) But Herod the tetrarch, being reproved by him for Herodias his brothers wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done. (20) Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison. {21} Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, {22} And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Mark 1:1-11

{1} The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; {2} As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. {3} The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. {4} John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. {5} And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. {6} And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; {7} And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. {8} I indeed have baptized you with water; but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. {9} And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. {10} And straightway coming up out of

the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: {11} And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:1-17

{1} In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, {2} And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. {3} For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. {4} And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. {5} Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, {6} And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins, {7} But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? {8} Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: {9} And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. {10} And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {11} I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: {12} Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. {13} Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. {14} But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? {15} And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. {16} And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: {17} And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

John 1:6-8,15,19-36

{6} There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. {7} The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. {8} He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

{15} John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

{19} And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? {20} And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ {21} And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. {22} Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? {23} He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. {24} And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. {25} And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? {26} John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; {27} He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. {28} These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing. {29} The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. {30} This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. {31} And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. {32} And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him, {33} And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. {34} And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. {35} Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; {36} And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

Questions On Lesson Four

1. Where did John baptize?
2. What Old Testament prophet foretold the mission of John the baptizer?
3. What of the trees that do not bear fruit?
4. What was the testimony of the voice heard at the baptism of Jesus?
5. Over what areas of Palestine did Philip the tetrarch reign?
6. Who was responsible for John's imprisonment?
7. Whom did the people seem to think that John was? (3 answers)
8. What was the theme of John's preaching?
9. From where did Jesus come to be baptized by John?
10. What was the purpose of John's baptism?
11. Who served as high priests when John was preaching?
12. Whom did the Jews send to John to inquire of his identity?
13. What did John call the Pharisees and Sadducees?
14. What reason did Jesus give for His need to be baptized?
15. What instructions did John give to the publicans?
16. "Behold, the _____ of _____, which _____ away the _____ of the _____."
17. John said he was not worthy to do what?
18. With what did John say Jesus would baptize?
19. Who was governor of Judea during John's missionary work?
20. With what did John say the soldiers should be content?
21. Who did John say he was?
22. What did John tell the Pharisees and Sadducees to bring forth?
23. What did John see descending from heaven?
24. Did Jesus get in the water when He was baptized?
25. In what year of Tiberias' reign did John preach?
26. Describe John's clothing and food?
27. Where did John the baptizer preach?