

Christology Week 7

The ministry of Jesus

Ministry – diakonia – to attend to things as a servant. Root word for modern “deacon.”

The ministry of Jesus consisted primarily of teaching and performing miracles. The miracles (including the resurrection) validate the teaching.

Teaching --

Matthew 28:18-20 -- And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Evidence –

John 7:30-31 -- So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, “When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?”

His teaching was supported by the OT, demonstrating that He was the fulfillment of the OT prophecies concerning Messiah. However, as He fulfilled the Old Covenant law, He also established the New Covenant in His blood (Matt. 5:17).

Matt. 5:17 -- "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."

He is the new lawgiver, of whom Moses spoke (Deut. 18:15, Acts 3:22).

His teaching and miracles divided people. They either loved and accepted Him or rejected Him utterly. But He knew that and it was consistent with His purpose.

Read John 15:12-27

Christ acted as our **substitute**. His suffering and His righteous accomplishments were made for our sake.

As our Captain and substitute, He confronted Satan and was tempted by Him

Mark only says, “Immediately the Spirit impelled Him *to go* out into the wilderness. And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.” (Mark 1:12-13)

It is also recounted in Matthew 4. But, read Luke 4:1-13.

God cannot be tempted with evil, according to James 1:13.

He also suffered rejection, hatred, and death. (John 1:11-12) He was tempted all way like we are (Heb. 4:15)

But the end result of the temptation in the wilderness is Christ’s victory over sin. We cannot overcome sin in our fallen state and sinful flesh, so our substitute accomplished what we could not. His righteousness is then applied to us.

The persecution of Jesus

Jesus was persecuted because:

- He was sinless. His presence in the sinful world served to judge them (John 1:5)
- He was persecuted by the Jews for interacting with sinners (Luke 15:2).
- He was hated and judged by the Pharisees and Jewish leaders because He held them guilty (Matt. 23:13-36).

- He physically suffered at the hands of Roman soldiers because He undermined the concept of Caesar worship. (Matt. 22:15-22, John 19:15)

But, this was all according to God's plan and it served to fulfill the Scriptures that prophesied His suffering (such as Isaiah 53)

Heb. 5:8 - Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

The Humiliation of Jesus Christ

Christ's "humiliation" is the process by which he (though divine) came to earth as a baby, eventually to die on the cross.