

Lesson 11 – The Life of Christ

Text – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts 1

Main Characters – Jesus, his apostles and John the Baptist

Theme Verses

- Matthew 1:18 – Mary conceives Jesus via the Holy Spirit as a virgin
- Luke 2:41-52 – Jesus at age 12: knew God's will, and submitted to Mary and Joseph. He increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man
- Luke 3:23 – Jesus was about 30 when he began his ministry
- Mark 8:31 – Jesus knew and taught his disciples that he would be killed and rise again.
- Luke 24:1-8 – Jesus is raised from the dead on the 3rd day
- Acts 1:1-11 – Jesus ascends into heaven 40 days after his resurrection

Lists

Jesus' 12 apostles

Peter, Andrew, James, John, Phillip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Simon, Thaddeus and Judas

Transition from Years of Silence to Life of Christ

The Old Testament closes with God promising through the prophet Malachi that He would send Elijah the prophet to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers (Malachi 4:5-6). The New Testament begins with the promise of John the Baptist's birth (Luke 1:8-17) saying that he would fulfill this role (Luke 1: 16-17). John the Baptist was to prepare the way for the Christ.

Main Storyline

Jesus is the fulfillment of the blessing promise made by God to Abraham all the way back in Genesis 12:3.

Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary and her betrothed, Joseph. A short time before Jesus was born, John the Baptist was born. John is the one who prepared the people for Jesus. His role was critical in getting the crowds to follow Jesus. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but raised in Nazareth (which is in Galilee). He was from the tribe of Judah and of the family of King David. Even as a child, he was submissive to his parents. As he grew older, He grew both physically and spiritually.

Jesus began his ministry when he was about 30 years old. He taught for about 3½ years, with His 12 apostles close at his side, before being crucified by the Jews and Romans. He rose from the dead on the 3rd day and remained on the earth 40 more days before ascending to heaven to sit at the right hand of God.

Jesus spent most of His ministry teaching in Galilee. Often he would teach using parables that were sometimes hard for the people to understand. Also, He used miracles to confirm that His teachings were from God. During Jesus' ministry, he taught that he would be killed to give his life a ransom for many, yet he would be raised from the dead on the 3rd day. It was no accident that Jesus was killed. It was all part of God's plan (Acts 2:23).

Transition to the Early Church:

In Luke 24:25-29, Jesus tell his apostles after his resurrection that they will preach forgiveness of sins in His name first in Jerusalem. They will be witnesses of his resurrection and will receive power from God. This all happens on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 when the church is started.