

I. The beginning of Jesus' ministry

- A. baptism
- B. about thirty years old
- C. genealogy ...
- D. God's son, David's son

II. Temptation in the Desert

- A. background: Israel in the desert (Exodus 16-20,33; Numbers 9-14; esp. 14:32-33; see also Psalm 78:17-33)
 - i. Israel "God's son" (Exodus 4:22)
 - ii. after leaving slavery in Egypt (the "exodus," led by Moses)
 - iii. led by the Spirit of God
 - iv. rebellion and demands ("ten times" Numbers 14:22)
 - v. provision: manna and quail
 - vi. forty years
 - vii. death and failure
 - viii. intended to teach obedience (Deuteronomy 8:3)
 - ix. intended to test their love for Him (Deuteronomy 6:13; song of Moses?)
 - x. intended to teach humility before God (Deuteronomy 6:16; the "creator/creature distinction")
- B. Jesus in the desert
 - i. led by the Spirit of God
 - ii. fasting until near-starvation (spiritual struggle)
 - iii. tempted by the devil (the real power in charge of "the nations")
 - iv. calling into question His loyalty to God
 - v. calling into question His identity
 - vi. three temptations ...
 - a) "make these stones into bread"
 - b) "bow down to me and I will give you all the nations" (vs. Psalm 2:8; the devil's authority is delegated!)
 - c) "cast yourself down" - the Bible says so (see Psalm 91:11,14)

III. Why do we suffer?

- A. to learn obedience to God's word
- B. to learn to serve God only - to look to Him for relief, reward, and triumph - to be faithful
- C. to learn humility before God - to await promises, not demand answers (2 Timothy 1:12; Revelation 21:4; Psalm 98:9)

IV. Jesus the faithful Son

- A. vs. Adam
- B. vs. Israel
- C. vs. all mankind, including you and me
- D. for His people (Acts 10:38; John 6:70; 13:2)