

Destin Church of Christ

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Chapter 23: Jesus' Ministry Begins Matthew 3 – 4; 11; Mark 1 – 3; Luke 8; John 1 – 4

Introduction:

Religion is always about “What.” What am I supposed to do? What should I stop doing? By chapter 23 of *The Story* the people of Israel had compiled a massive list of “What’s” in an attempt to please God and show that they were worthy of his love and acceptance.

The solution to the problem, way back in the first century, was not a “What” but a “Who.” It was all about Jesus. Now, two thousand years later, it is exactly the same. Before we begin thinking about the “What,” we need to meet the “Who.” He is still Jesus!

Lesson Breakdown:

- John and Jesus (Matthew 3, John 1-2)
- Tempted (Matthew 4)
- The Inside Story (John 3-4)
- Power (Matthew 4; Mark 1-3)
- Disciples (Matthew 11; Mark 3; Luke 8)

Plot Points:

- Jesus' ministry was announced and endorsed by John the Baptist, one of the most significant figures in Judea at that time.
- The four evangelists emphasized not only Jesus' message, miracles, and atoning death, but how he lived his life in full accordance with God's will, the life we were meant to live.
- Jesus' message was authenticated with miracles.
- The primary opposition to Jesus' ministry (and that of John before him) came from the religious leaders of the day.

As you watch the video for Session 23, notice some of the main points:

- ✓ John is going to tell us that the solution is not a “what” but a “who.”
- ✓ “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
- ✓ Jesus is the “who” we have been waiting for.
- ✓ “I, the one speaking to you — I am he.”
- ✓ The God of the Upper Story entered into the Lower Story to provide the final solution to our grandest problem. His name is Jesus.

UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

➤ Matthew 3:

John the Baptist preaches a message of repentance in Judea and baptizes in Jordan. (321-322) [Matthew 3:1-2, 5-6]

John foretold by Isaiah – *“the voice of one crying in the wilderness.”*
(NIB) [Matthew 3:3]

John baptizes Jesus, the Spirit descends like a dove, and a voice from heaven says, *‘This is my son, in whom I am well pleased.’* (322) [Matthew 3:13-17]
(NIB) [Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23]

➤ Matthew 4:

Jesus fasts and is tempted in the wilderness. (322-323) [Matthew 4:1-11]
(NIB) [Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13]

Jesus’ temptations follow three patterns that are common to all men.
Lust of the eye. Lust of the flesh. Pride of life.

The temptations are:

- a. Turn stones to bread (v 3).
- b. Throw himself off the temple (vv 5-6).
- c. Worship Satan in return for all the kingdoms that Jesus is shown from the top of a mountain (vv 8-9).

➤ John 1:

I. The testimony of John the Baptist.

- a. Religious leaders from Jerusalem question John the Baptist. (323) [John 1:19-22]
- b. John explains his identity to the religious leaders. (323) [John 1:23-28]
- c. John the Baptist’s testimony: Jesus is the Lamb of God. (323) [John 1:29]
- d. John the Baptist’s testimony: Jesus is the Son of God. (324) [John 1:30-34]

II. The testimony of the first disciples.

- a. Two of John’s disciples begin to follow Jesus. (324) [John 1:35-39]
- b. Andrew brings his brother, Simon Peter to Jesus. (324) [John 1:40-42]
- c. Jesus calls Philip to follow Him. (324) [John 1:43-44]
- d. Nathaniel overcomes prejudice to follow Jesus. (324-325) [John 1:45-51]

➤ John 2:

Jesus, His mother, and His disciples were at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. The wine runs out and His mother tells Him, “*They have no wine.*” He tells His mother that his “... *hour has not yet come.*” (325) [John 2:1-4]

Jesus tells the servants to fill six waterpots of stone with water. He changes the water into wine. (325) [John 2:6-10]

This was the beginning of the many signs (miracles) Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. (326) [John 2:11]

➤ John 3:

Jesus tells the Pharisee Nicodemus that unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (326) [John 3:1-3]

1. What was Nicodemus’s role in the Jewish leadership? (326) [John 3:1]
2. Why did he come to meet with Jesus in the night?

Nicodemus questioned how a man could enter his mother’s womb and be born a second time. (326) [John 3:4]

Jesus tells him one must be born of water and the Spirit. (326) [John 3:5-8]

Nicodemus asked, “How can these things be?” (327) [John 3:9]

Jesus rebukes Nicodemus for not being aware of the need and the promise of the new birth, because these were plainly laid out in the Old Testament. Jesus explains that the serpent of Numbers 21:4-9 was a picture of the Messiah and His work. (327) [John 3:10-15]

The Son was sent to save those who don’t believe, but there are consequences for those who don’t. (327) [John 3:16-18]

➤ John 4:

Jesus travels to Galilee via Samaria. Jesus, being wearied from His journey, sat down at Jacob’s well. He asks a Samaritan woman for a drink. (327) [John 4:5-8]

The Samaritan woman is surprised, as Samaritans have no dealings with Jews. (328) [John 4:9]

Jesus interests the woman in living water, describing the effect of the living water He offers. (328) [John 4:10-15]

Jesus discreetly and decently changes the conversation. (328) [John 4:16-18]

The Samaritan woman and Jesus discuss worship. (328) [John 4:20-24]

3. According to Jesus' words to the woman at the well, how will true worshipers worship? (328) [John 4:23]

The woman tells Jesus, "*I know that Messiah is coming.*" Jesus tells the woman that he is the Messiah. (328-329) [John 4:25-26]

The woman tells her neighbors and spreads the news. (329) [John 4:28-30]

Many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the Samaritan woman. They urged Him to stay with them, which He did for two days. (329) [John 4:39-42]

Jesus leaves and goes to Galilee. (329) [John 4:43]

➤ Mark 1:

Jesus teaches in the synagogue and drives out a demon from a possessed man. (329) [Mark 1:21-27]

Immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee. (329) [Mark 1:28]

They leave the synagogue and go to Simon and Andrew's house. Peter's mother-in-law has a fever and Jesus heals her. She went right back to work, serving the family (cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, etc.). (329-330) [Mark 1:29-31]

Jesus heals many who were sick, not allowing the demons to speak, because they knew him. (330) [Mark 1:32-34]

The next morning, before daylight, Jesus and the others leave. Jesus tours throughout Galilee preaching in the synagogues and casting out demons. (330) [Mark 1:35-39]

Jesus heals a leper and asks him to say nothing to anyone about it. (330) [Mark 1:40-44]

4. What did the healed man do? (330) [Mark 1:45]

➤ Mark 2:

In Capernaum, Jesus' teaching is interrupted by four men carrying a paralytic. The men tear a hole in the roof and lower the man down to Jesus. (330-331) [Mark 2:1-4]

Jesus tells the man his sins are forgiven. (331) [Mark 2:5]

The scribes object and call it blasphemy. Jesus confronts them and heals the paralytic. (331) [Mark 2:6-12]

Jesus calls Levi (Matthew), the tax collector, to follow Him, and he does. (331) [Mark 2:13]

Jesus dines at the home of Matthew, along with other tax collectors and sinners. Jesus is criticized by the scribes but tells them he did not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners. (331) [Mark 2:16-17]

➤ Mark 3:

Jesus goes to the synagogue again and heals a man who had a withered hand. Since it was the Sabbath, the Pharisees went out and plotted with the Herodians how they might destroy Him. (332) [Mark 3:1-6]

➤ Matthew 4:

Jesus went throughout Galilee preaching and healing. (332) [Matthew 4:23-25]

➤ Mark 3:

Jesus heals multitudes and he commands them not to tell anyone what he has done. (332) [Mark 3:9-12]

Jesus chooses the twelve disciples, changing some of their names. He wanted them later to be able to preach, have the power to heal sicknesses, and cast out demons. (333) [Mark 3:13-19]

➤ Luke 8:

Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve disciples were with him, along with some women who were helping to support them out of their own means. (333) [Luke 8:1-3]

➤ Matthew 11:

John the Baptist's disciples ask a question on behalf of John to Jesus: are you really the Messiah? (334) [Matthew 11:2-3]

Jesus told the people to go tell John: the blind see; the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed; the deaf hear; the dead are raised up; and the gospel is preached to the poor. (334) [Matthew 11:4-6]

Jesus also tells them that John is the messenger prophesied in Isaiah 40. (334) [Matthew 11:10]

Jesus continues by saying that from the age of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. (334) [Matthew 11:12]

Jesus says that if his hearers are prepared to accept it, John is the Elijah who has come. (334) [Matthew 11:14]

John the Baptist tells us that the solution to our problem is not a "What" but a "Who." We have to understand who he is before we can understand what he came to do.

Next week we'll look at the stories of Jesus' growing public ministry as he encounters larger and larger crowds. Take time before our next class to read chapter 24 of *The Story*, "No Ordinary Man".

Matthew 5 – 7; 9; 14; Mark 4 – 6; Luke 10; 15; John 6