

"The Ministry of Jesus Begins"

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (January 19, 2014)

Introduction: One time I heard an announcer for a college basketball game commenting that one of the players on the field was "scary good!" When Jesus Christ came into public ministry, people made these kinds of statements: "Who is this? How can he have such wisdom? How can he do that?!" Jesus Christ was, indeed, scary good. His miracles literally compelled people to fear God and His goodness was beyond compare. There are four main events that launch Jesus into ministry. Let's study together....

Discussion:

- I. *The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22)***
 - A. The people are willing to change
 - B. The Spirit descended like a dove
 - C. The Father acknowledged the Son

- II. *The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13)***
 - A. Jesus re-enacts the temptation in the Garden of Eden
 - B. Jesus re-enforces his faithfulness with Scripture
 - C. Jesus wins the re-match with Satan

- III. *The Authority of Jesus (Matthew 4:12-25, Mark 1:14-20, Luke 5:1-11, John 1:29-2:25)***
 - A. The calling of the apostles
 - B. The first miracle in Cana
 - C. The cleansing of the temple

- IV. *The Rejection of Jesus (Matthew 13:53-58, Luke 4:14-30, 6:6-11, John 3:1-21)***
 - A. The jealousy of the religious leaders
 - B. The frustration of the religious leaders
 - C. The ignorance of the people

Conclusion: C. S. Lewis wrote an amazing series entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* the children ask Mr. and Mrs. Beaver if Aslan the lion is safe. The Beavers reply by saying, "No, Aslan is not safe, but he is good." Like Aslan, our Lord is scary good. He has enough power to cause you to fear, but enough goodness to cause us to love Him. Listen to the way Jesus puts it in John's gospel (**John 3:13-21**). If you're aligned with the devil, Jesus is not safe; he's scary. If you desire to be born again, Jesus is very, very good. Will you receive Jesus today? Are you ready to become a new creature? Today is the day to start over!