

9 February 2014: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

Topic: **Life of Christ: The Baptism of Christ**

Scripture Text: Mark 1:9-15

1. The Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect life when He was on earth without sin. He started His ministry at 30 years old which was the age for a priest in the Old Testament to serve in the Temple. The purpose of Jesus' ministry on earth was to show to us Immanuel – God with us. Jesus is God incarnate to take on human form so that people will see and know the true and living God in Him.
2. The ministry of the Lord Jesus began with His baptism. The Lord Jesus chose to be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. In Jesus' baptism, we see the approval of His ministry on earth. The Holy Spirit as a Dove descended on Him. God the Father spoke that He is well-pleased with Jesus, His beloved Son. Jesus has the stamp of approval as he began His ministry.
3. Similarly for believers, we must also seek baptism as a public testimony and confession of our faith in Jesus Christ. Then we will have the approval of God in our service for Him. There is no such thing as a secret Christian. We must not be ashamed of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
4. After the baptism of Jesus, He was led in the wilderness for 40 days and nights without food and water. Then He was tempted by Satan with 3 temptations in the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. The Lord Jesus passed all the tests by using the Scriptures. Like Jesus, we must be prepared for the ministry to face testing and temptation. We must be beyond reproach by trusting in the Word of God.
5. After the temptation test, the Lord Jesus fulfilled His ministry by preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and He said the time is at hand. Jesus would fulfill God's plan of salvation as the Lamb of God to be sacrificed for sinners. Similarly as believers, once we have the stamp of God's approval and be prepared for the testing in our ministry, then we can fulfill God's purpose for us in this world.