

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 23 – JESUS’ MINISTRY BEGINS

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God’s grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God’s expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: the ministry of John the Baptist, Jesus’ early ministry – his baptism, his temptation, the calling of the disciples, his preaching and his miracles

DIGGING IN

Note About Jesus’ Ministry:

The public ministry of Jesus, when he preached, taught, and performed miracles among the people, began when he was approximately 30 years old. Jesus’ public ministry lasted a little over 3 years from his baptism by John the Baptist to his death, resurrection, and ascension.

- 1) Describe John the Baptist and his ministry. What was God’s purpose for him?
- 2) What purposes did Jesus’ baptism and temptation serve?
- 3) On the bottom of page 322 the editors offer this definition of baptism: “A symbolic action demonstrating that new believers have abandoned their former ways and have embarked on new life.” Evaluate this definition of baptism.

- 4) Jesus' early ministry was marked by a series of miracles. Make a list of the miracles that are recorded in this chapter alone. What was the purpose of these miracles?

- 5) Explain what Jesus meant when he told Nicodemus that for someone to enter the kingdom of God he must be born again. (pg 326)

- 6) What kinds of people often came to Jesus? What kinds of people were opposed to him? Explain the difference.

- 7) What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

Chapter 24: No Ordinary Man

Bible Reference: Matthew 5-7; 9; 14; Mark 4-6; Luke 10; 15; John 6