

**The Story**  
**JESUS RADICALLY CHANGES THINGS**  
**Selected**  
**March 23, 2014**

**INTRODUCTION**

- a. In the Story today we come to an impossible task – To consider Jesus’ ministry in one 30 minute message.
- b. Last week we looked at His birth and what it meant for him to be Emmanuel, God with us.
- c. After his birth the gospel writers seem to fast forward to his ministry and today we are going to consider just that, what he did (his ministry).
- d. **His ministry lasted only three years and yet in that time He made a profound impact on the world.** More than any individual that had lived before him or any that have come after him. Jesus stands alone in history. One man described him this way
  - 1. **Show video of One Solitary Life**
- e. Let’s take a quick look at how Jesus challenged traditions and radically changed things

**I. HIS MINISTRY BEGINS**

- a. **Jesus’ ministry has its start at his baptism**
- b. Baptism was used to show a person’s new faith commitment and identity.
  - 1. John the Baptist was baptizing sinners into a baptism of repentance and pointing people to the One who would come after him.
- c. **When John sees Jesus he declares for all to hear, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”**
- d. You remember the story, Jesus then asks John to baptize him.
  - 1. John is reluctant – why would Jesus need to be baptized especially by him. Baptism is for sinners and Jesus was not a sinner
  - 2. Jesus demonstrates that he is one of us and shows us what obedience to God is all about. It is an example we are to follow
- e. **After he is baptized his real identity is revealed to all who were there.**
  - 1. **The voice from heaven**, “This is My Son in whom I am well pleased.”
  - 2. **The Holy Spirit** descending like a dove and settling on Jesus
  - 3. **Here we have all three persons of the trinity in one place at the same time**
- f. **Immediately after his baptism Jesus is led into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days and was tempted by the devil.**
  - 1. Adam and Eve were tempted and failed but here Jesus answers each temptation by quoting scripture and He succeeds.
  - 2. The second Adam resists temptation and then begins his radical ministry with the people.
- g. **A quick lesson here about temptation**
  - 1. The devil will come at you at your weakest and most vulnerable point.
  - 2. For Jesus it was food, God’s protection and his mission
  - 3. You will also be tempted when you are most vulnerable so just be aware
  - 4. Jesus used scripture to resist the temptation and so should we. H. That is why I encourage you to spend some time in God’s Word each day. You just never know when you are going to need it.

**II. HIS MINISTRY CONTINUES**

- a. Today we will look at some of what Jesus did in his ministry and next week we will look at what he taught.
- b. **Jesus first called the disciples to follow him.** These men were be with Jesus as he began his ministry.

1. They were to observe, listen and then Jesus would send them out to do ministry on their own

c. **Jesus' ministry could almost be described as a "miracle waiting to happen"** or as Dave sang this morning "Here Comes A Miracle"

1. Those miracles came in multiple ways and situations many of which challenged the traditions and norms of the day.

2. **Jesus really was different and changed things forever**

d. **The Jews were an excluding people.** They had many rules and traditions that forbid contact or even conversation with certain type of people. Let's look at some of the things he did and how Jesus challenged the religious exclusions of the day

1. **Lepers** were required to shout, "unclean, unclean" so that people could walk around them without coming in contact with them. **They were outcasts and not allowed in the temple.**

a. On more than one occasion Jesus not only came in contact with a leper but also healed them. He would then send them to the priest to be declared clean so they could enter the temple.

b. The most memorable occasion was when Jesus was met by ten lepers – he healed them but only one came back to thank him.

c. Jesus broke down the barrier and welcomed the leper

2. **Women were considered second class citizens** at best and most often simply as property of their father until they were married and then they belonged to their husbands. They were to walk behind their husbands and to obey their every command. They were not allowed in certain parts of the temple.

a. **Jesus though lifted the role and place of women**

1. He held fidelity in high regard and challenged the cavalier attitude toward divorce of the Jewish men

2. He continually pointed to the help the women who travelled with the disciples offered them

b. **Jesus offered a new life to the Samaritan woman at the well** (no good Rabbi would even be seen with a Samaritan much less talk with them). Interestingly when the woman told her story of meeting Jesus many came to believe

c. **Jesus offered forgiveness to the woman caught in adultery.** Where others were ready to stone her Jesus offered forgiveness and new life. He did not condone her sin but loved her and forgave her and sent her on her way with the admonition to "Go and sin no more"

d. **On another occasion a woman with continual bleeding pushed her way through the crowd just to touch his robe to be healed.** That touch would make Jesus unclean and yet he welcomed it because it revealed her faith.

3. **The demon possessed were outcasts and yet Jesus went to them and set them free.**

a. **Let's read Luke 8:26-32**

b. The demon possessed were shunned and attempts were made to restrain them. Jesus though wants to set them free.

c. Jesus shows that he has authority over the demons

d. He commands them to leave the man and they enter a herd of pigs. The pigs then run down a steep hill into a lake and drown – First use of term "hog tide"

4. **Jesus raises the dead**

a. On one occasion it was the military leader's daughter. He was hated in Israel and yet Jesus honors his faith and heals his daughter.

b. His friend Lazarus and Jairus' daughter all to the amazement of the people.

### III. RADICAL CHANGE

a. **The Jews were looking for a Messiah that would come, drive out the Romans, set up a kingdom that put them in charge** and set in place all their religious laws.

**b. Jesus was not what they were expecting in fact they rejected Jesus and ultimately crucified him.**

**c. Jesus challenged us to love God first and to love others like we love ourselves.**

**1. Trouble is that like the Jews we put up artificial barriers that allow us in our self-righteousness to exclude people that God would have us invite into His presence**

2. Jesus challenges our prejudices and demands they be put aside.

a. I have told you about my friend Paul who has a ministry with hard core bikers. His question to me was, "Would your church welcome these people in their leathers and all inked up or would you rather they not come?"

**3. What prejudices do you need to put away**

d. In Matthew 25 Jesus gives us these priorities for ministry

**1. Read Matthew 25:31-46**

**e. As we close let me ask you:**

1. Who are today's lepers?

2. Who are the sick and crippled?

3. Who are our demon possessed?

4. Who are we excluding by our prejudices?

**f. Jesus invited all into a life transforming relationship with himself**

1. He pointed people to a life of faith

2. He called people out of their sin and never condoned or endorsed it

3. He always offered transformation to a new life

g. Jesus calls each of his followers into ministry and it is to be done like He did it. We are to follow His example

h. Jesus radically changed things because he challenged the norms and traditions of the day and showed that the Kingdom of God was for everyone not just a select few.

i. He also made clear that his kingdom was not political but spiritual. The Jews were looking for a political leader and Jesus came to address their spiritual needs.

1. The sad news is that they rejected Jesus because he wasn't what they expected and He challenged their prejudices.

**Jesus' ministry clearly shows that the kingdom of God is for everyone and that includes you and me.**

**Forgiveness of sin, new life and eternal life is offered to all not just a select few.**

**Jesus' ministry included you. God wants you to be called his child through faith in His Son, Jesus**

Here come a miracle or as George Beverly Shea sang:

*My Father is omnipotent,*

*And that you can't deny;*

*A God of might and miracles-*

*'Tis written in the sky.*

*It took a miracle to put the stars in place,*

*It took a miracle to hang the world in space;*

*But when He saved my soul,*

*Cleansed and made me whole,*

*It took a miracle of love and grace!*

**Will you experience a miracle today?**

BOW WITH ME IN PRAYER

8:30 #504 "HE TOUCHED ME"

11:00 "JESUS, SON OF GOD"