

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

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PART 21: THE MINDSET OF JESUS

BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY

For the Israelites, the age of 30 was associated with maturity, responsibility, and readiness for leadership and/or service.

- ❖ Levites began their tabernacle service at age thirty. **Numbers 4:3**
- ❖ Josph entered Pharaoh's service at thirty as well. **Genesis 41:46**
- ❖ David became king of Israel at thirty. **2 Samuel 5:4**

Jesus was recognized as the promised Son of David. **Luke 1:32-33**

From the tribe of Judah, He began His public ministry at the same age when King David began his reign.

"And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli." (Luke 3:23)

Jesus validated His calling as the Messiah by seeking out John the Baptist, being baptized by His cousin, with the Holy Spirit descending on Him afterwards and God the Father providing public affirmation.

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?"

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17)

Jesus beginning His earthly ministry at thirty fits this established biblical pattern. Joseph entered Pharaoh's service at thirty, David assumed the throne at thirty, and certain Levites began their assigned tabernacle duties at thirty.

The Bible establishes when Jesus began His ministry, but it does not explicitly state why He began at that particular age. The parallels in the Old Testament illuminate its significance without proving that He was obligated to wait until age thirty.



As Jesus began public ministry in the cities of the Galilee region where He grew up, His family and friends were horrified and did everything they could to bring Him back because they were convinced He was mentally ill.

“And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.” (Mark 3:21-22)

“There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.” (Mark 3:31-35)

WHAT MARY KNEW ABOUT JESUS

Mary was made pregnant by the Holy Spirit, gave birth to the physical body of Jesus, and had several spiritual encounters in her life:

1. Gabriel told her she was going to be pregnant with Jesus. **Luke 1:26-38**
2. The shepherds came to worship the Messiah. **Luke 2:8-19**
3. Approximately two years after Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem, wise men from the East traveled to Jerusalem, where they met with King Herod. Following their meeting, they continued to Bethlehem and found Jesus with Mary and Joseph. The wise men fell down and worshiped the young Jesus, presenting Him with costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Matthew 2:1-12**
4. After Mary completed the 40-day period of purification. **Leviticus 12:1-4**
Joseph accompanied her and Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present their child to the Lord. There they encountered a devout man named Simeon, to whom the Holy Spirit had revealed that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. Simeon recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah and praised God for fulfilling His promise. They also encountered Anna, an elderly prophetess, who gave thanks to God and spoke of Jesus to those who were awaiting redemption in Jerusalem. **Luke 2:22-38**
5. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, warning him to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt to escape King Herod, who intended to kill the child. After Herod's death, the angel appeared to Joseph again and instructed him to return to Israel. Upon learning that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judea, Joseph was warned in another dream and withdrew into Galilee, where the family settled in Nazareth. **Matthew 2:13-23**

6. When Jesus was 12 years old, Mary and Joseph took Him to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. After the feast had ended, Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem without His parents' knowledge. After searching for three days, they found Him in the temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. Everyone who heard Him was astonished at His understanding and answers, revealing extraordinary wisdom at such a young age. **Luke 2:40-50**

Joseph and Mary undoubtedly understood that Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus and that He was the promised Messiah. Both had received angelic revelations concerning His miraculous conception and divine identity, and it is reasonable to conclude that they discussed these extraordinary events together.

The New Testament does not record when Joseph died. However, by the time Jesus began His earthly ministry at 30 years of age, Joseph was no longer mentioned in the accounts of His family. Instead, the Scriptures refer to Mary and Jesus' brothers and sisters, suggesting that Joseph had died sometime before Jesus began His public ministry. **Matthew 13:55-56**

CONCERN FOR JESUS

When Jesus began His earthly ministry, His decision to leave His work as a carpenter in Nazareth, proclaim Himself as the promised Messiah, and call men to abandon their occupations and follow Him created considerable concern among His family. His brothers did not believe in Him, and Mark records that those close to Jesus attempted to restrain Him because they believed He was acting crazy. Mary and His brothers subsequently came looking for Jesus, suggesting that His family was struggling to understand and accept the direction His ministry had taken.

"And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself." (Mark 3:20-21)

"There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother." (Mark 3:31-35)

"For neither did his brethren believe in him." (John 7:5)

This raises an important question concerning Mary. She had personally experienced six extraordinary events during the early years of Jesus' life, beginning with the angel Gabriel's announcement that she would give birth to the Son of God. Yet, despite these revelations, she struggled to reconcile what God had revealed to her with what Jesus

was now doing. It is possible that she feared His public claims and growing following would place His life in danger?

Such fears would not have been unreasonable. Jewish history included men who had gathered followers and challenged the Romans, only to meet violent ends. Gamaliel referred to Theudas and Judas of Galilee, two men whose movements collapsed after their deaths. **Acts 5:34-37**

These examples illustrate the dangers associated with movements that could be perceived as threats to the existing authorities. Mary may have feared that Jesus was following a similar path, placing Himself in danger of arrest and execution by the Roman occupation government.

DIVINE IDENTITY AND MISSION

From the moment Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, He had taken on human flesh and entered an earthly existence that would ultimately culminate in the death of His physical body. According to the divine plan, it was necessary that He patiently pass through the years of childhood and adulthood until the appointed time to begin His public ministry. That stage came when He was approximately 30 years old, an age associated in Israel with maturity, strength, and the assumption of significant religious responsibilities.

Jesus never lost sight of the fact that He was the Son of God as He viewed the world. He knew that God the Father had given Him a significant bodyguard – more than 12 legions (72,000 angels) – to safeguard Him from humans and Satan and his minions.

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:53)

God is triune, being composed of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are three and one simultaneously.

No one really knows how it works. How is the Godhead connected and separate at the same time? When the triune image carries over to humanity with the body, soul, and spirit, how are these three components bound together? The answer is the same again. We simply do not know.

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” (1 John 5:7)

The Holy Spirit revealed to the apostle Paul that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God; He existed before the creation of the universe. God the Father brought all things into existence through His Son, who created everything in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible. Nothing in the created universe came into existence apart from Jesus Christ, and everything was created for Him. Furthermore, He continues to sustain all creation by His divine power. When Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, He was not coming into existence for the first time. The eternal Creator was taking on human flesh to accomplish the redemption of humanity.

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” (Colossians 1:12-17)

GOD THE FATHER’S AUTHORITY

Paul explains that just as death entered the human race through Adam, resurrection and eternal life come through Jesus Christ. Christ was the first to rise from the dead, and those who belong to Him will be resurrected at His return. He will reign until every enemy has been defeated, with death being the last enemy destroyed. Once all things have been brought under His authority, Jesus Christ will deliver the kingdom to God the Father and subject Himself to the Father's authority, so that God may be all in all.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Then cometh the end, when he [Jesus] shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he [Jesus] shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he [Jesus] must reign, till he [Jesus] hath put all enemies under his [Jesus] feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

For he [God the Father] hath put all things under his [Jesus] feet. But when he [God the Father] saith all things are put under him [Jesus], it is manifest that he [God the Father] is excepted, which did put all things under him [Jesus].

And when all things shall be subdued unto him [Jesus], then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him [God the Father] that put all things under him [Jesus], that God may be all in all.” (1 Corinthians 15:22-28)

When Jesus started ministering to people, He made sure that they understood He could only do what God the Father had commissioned Him to do.

“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and

sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.” (John 5:19-20)

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.”
(John 5:25-27)*

JESUS’ RESPONSE TO HIS FAMILY

Mary had received extraordinary revelations concerning Jesus' identity as the Son of God, yet His public ministry unfolded in ways she had not anticipated. As Jesus attracted large crowds, confronted the religious authorities, and gathered disciples to follow Him, Mary became increasingly concerned about His safety and the consequences of His actions.

Those that were close to Jesus attempted to restrain Him because they believed He was acting strangely. When Mary and His brothers subsequently came looking for Him, their appearance reveals that Mary shared their concerns and wanted to intervene.

Jesus understood that He was the Son of God incarnate, sent by God the Father to accomplish His redemptive mission. Regardless of His family's concerns, He would not allow their intervention to divert Him from the work He had been given. His seemingly cold response to Mary and His brothers emphasized that obedience to the will of God took precedence over earthly family relationships.

“There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.

*And he answered them, saying, **Who is my mother, or my brethren?** And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! **For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.**” (Mark 3:31-35)*

Jesus had foreknowledge that the eyes of His mother and siblings would eventually be opened and they would choose to become part of the church that would emerge after His death and resurrection.

SUMMARY

Jesus Christ did not begin His existence when He was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit. He is the eternal Son of God, who existed with God the Father before the creation of the universe. All things in heaven and on earth were created by Him and for Him, and He continues to sustain His creation by His divine power.

“God, who at sundry [many] times and in divers [different] manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Hebrews 1:1-3)

Through the incarnation, the Creator entered His own creation, taking upon Himself a human body and passing through childhood and adulthood until the appointed time for public ministry. It was not necessary to educate Him about God *because He was God*. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist at age thirty, and God the Father publicly affirmed Him as His beloved Son in whom He was well pleased.

Mary witnessed extraordinary events surrounding the birth and childhood of Jesus, yet His public ministry must have unfolded differently from what she expected. His brothers did not believe in Him and those close to Him attempted to restrain Him because they believed He was acting crazy. Nevertheless, Jesus did not allow the concerns of His family or the opposition of others to interfere with His mission.

Jesus knew His identity as the Son of God and understood that He had been sent by God the Father to accomplish the redemption of humanity. He did not act independently of the Father, but carried out the work entrusted to Him. His ministry would ultimately lead to His sacrificial death, resurrection, and victory over Satan, sin, and death.

The mission of Jesus Christ extends far beyond His earthly ministry. He will return one day, resurrect those who belong to Him, and reign until every enemy has been defeated. Death is the final enemy which will be destroyed. When all things have been brought under His authority, Jesus will deliver the kingdom to God the Father and subject Himself to the Father, so that God may be all in all. **1 Corinthians 15:22-28**

We see the mindset of Jesus being one of unwavering commitment to the will of God the Father. He knew who He was, understood the purpose of His incarnation, and refused to allow the expectations of others to divert Him from the mission He had come to fulfill.