



- What prepares a person for effective ministry?
- Preparation must take place on the inside; a preparation of the soul.

### I. Preparation Through Obedience

- Scriptures on the sinlessness of Christ:  
 John 8:45-46; 2 Corinthians 5:21;  
 Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5.

### Why Jesus Submitted to John's Baptism

- It was an act of obedience.
- It was an act of self-identification with Israel.
- It was an act of self-dedication to His Messianic mission.

## I. Preparation Through Obedience

- Jesus walked into the wilderness of our lives, becoming one with us, accepting the restrictions of life in human form, accepting our punishment, and suffering our pain.

## What Made Jesus' Baptism Unique

- The Heavens opened – Heaven was coming down and touching Earth.
- The Spirit descended – Christ was anointed for the ministry that lay ahead.
- A voice from Heaven – The Father shared His unqualified approval of Jesus and His mission.

## I. Preparation Through Obedience

- Jesus' baptism showed the far-reaching significance of His acceptance of His Messianic vocation as the suffering Servant of the Lord as well as the Davidic Messiah.

## II. Preparation Through Opposition

- The Spirit led Jesus to take the offensive against temptation and evil instead of avoiding them.
- God allowed Satan to tempt Jesus to show that He would not draw away from the Father's will, and to demonstrate His qualification for His mission.

## II. Preparation Through Opposition

- Jesus encountered the prince of evil personally before confronting his forces.
- Mark's Gospel is the record of Jesus confronting Satan and his forces, which climaxed at the Cross. At the very beginning Jesus established His personal authority over Satan.

- Set your heart before the Lord and commit yourself to His ways, He will guide and teach you.
  - “Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust Him, and He will help you.” – Psalm 37:4-5

- If you are in the wilderness this morning, don't lose heart.
  - “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” – James 1:2-4