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Key Events in the Life of Christ

If you were going to tell the story of your life, what key events would you choose to include? What if the limit was ten? What ten key events would you identify as those which best represent who you are and what you have done?

Tonight we are going to be tracing the life of Jesus Christ from His birth in Bethlehem to His ascension from the Mt. of Olives. Here are ten key events to understand and appreciate in your study of the life of Christ.

1. Virgin Birth – vv. Matt. 1:16-25

The virgin birth testifies to the uniqueness and sinlessness of Jesus.

What evidences of Mary's virginity do you find in Matt. 1:16-25?

2. Approval at Baptism – vv. Matt. 3:13-17

The baptism of Jesus identified Him with the believing remnant of Jewish people who were looking for the coming of their Messiah King.

3. Proven through Temptation – vv. Matt. 4:1-11

The temptation sets Jesus forth as the perfect Son of God and settles forever the question of His sinlessness.

What encouragement does Christ's temptation provide for you? See Hebrews 4:15.

4. Offer of the Kingdom – vv. Matt. 4:17

Jesus announced, "The prophesied kingdom of God is at hand! Repent of your faulty views and accept Me as your true King!"

What did Isaiah predict about Israel's future kingdom? (See Isa. 2:1-4, 9:7, 11:1-9, 35:5-6.)

5. Rejection by Israel – vv. Matt. 12:22-32

The religious leaders set the whole nation on the course of rejecting Jesus by saying that He was doing His miracles by the power of Satan. Because of the disastrous results that followed for the Jewish people, the Bible calls this sin "unpardonable".

Do you think that the unique circumstances of this sin could be replicated today?

6. Transfiguration – vv. Matt. 17:1-13

The transfiguration of Jesus demonstrated to Peter, James and John that His death would not prevent the establishment of the promised Kingdom.

Who appeared on the mountain with Jesus? Why do you suppose they were the two chosen to be there?

7. Royal Entry into Jerusalem – vv. Matt. 21:1-11

Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey, in the very way prescribed by Zechariah 9:9 and on the very day prophesied by Daniel 9:24-27. (Luke 19:42)

Why was this a “royal” entry rather than a “triumphal” entry? (Revelation 19:11-16)

8. Death for Sin – vv. Matt. 27:45-54

Jesus offered Himself as the perfect Passover Lamb for the sins of the world, satisfying fully God’s wrath on sin.

According to Paul, what happened when Jesus died for us on the cross? (Romans 3:24-26)

9. Resurrection before Witnesses – vv. Matt. 28:1-10

Jesus’ resurrection was the final authentication that He was who He claimed to be--the Son of God and Messiah of Israel.

Who was the first to see the resurrected Jesus? (Jn. 20:11-18)

10. Ascension to Heaven – vv. Acts 1:9-11

At the end of His earthly ministry, God the Father welcomed His Son back into heaven, giving evidence that His holiness was not tarnished during His stay on earth.

Did Jesus retain or lose His humanity when He returned to heaven? (1 Timothy 2:5)

For further study:

What events in the life of Jesus have been omitted that you would want to include in His life story?

What is it about these additional events that make them important?

Recommended readings on Jesus:

J. Dwight Pentecost, The Words and Works of Jesus Christ (Zondervan).

Joseph Ratzinger, Jesus of Nazareth (Doubleday).

N. T. Wright, The Challenge of Jesus (IVP).

Brad Young, Jesus the Jewish Theologian (Hendrickson).