

October 3 Answers

- 1) The Spirit **led** Jesus to be baptized (Mark 1:9), and there are several reasons for this: (a) it allowed John to fulfill his role as the Messiah's **herald** (Isa 40:3–5), (b) it allowed Jesus to publicly **identify** with the outward sign of the inward work that He would soon accomplish, (c) it allowed Jesus to **endorse** John's baptism, bearing witness to it, that it was from God, and (d) it provided the setting for God to **announce** the beginning of the Son's ministry as the Suffering Servant (Luke 3:22–23) and for the Spirit to **empower** Jesus to fulfill his Messianic mission (Luke 4:1). Before Jesus began to preach, God **tested** Him and Satan **tempted** Him. If God tested His own Son and allowed Him to be tempted, we can expect no less. Even Jesus "**learned** obedience through what he suffered" (Heb 5:8), for as the God-man, he had a human nature which could resist the leadership of the Spirit (His **body** wanted to eat when the Spirit was leading Him to fast). Jesus' ordeal in the wilderness teaches us several lessons about temptation: (a) it often comes after a time of spiritual **victory** or renewal (Mark 1:11–12), (b) it strikes when we are **weak** and is aimed at our weaknesses (Matt 4:2–3), (c) it offers a **sinful** way to accomplish righteous ends (Matt 4:6), (d) it often contains a grain of **truth** that has been twisted in order to deceive us (Matt 4:6), and (e) it should always be resisted with the **truth** of God's Word (Matt 4:7).