

Name: Osigbemhe kelvin

1. Narrate the story of John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus

Answer

- John the Baptist was an ascetic Jewish prophet who lived in the wilderness and preached a baptism of repentance.
- He was considered the forerunner of Jesus Christ, and his ministry prepared the way for Jesus' coming.
- John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, and he declared Jesus to be the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
- John was eventually imprisoned and beheaded by Herod Antipas, but his legacy continues to be celebrated by Christians around the world.

Here are some key points to remember about John the Baptist:

- He was a radical figure who called for radical change.
- He was a faithful follower of God who obeyed God's will, even when it was difficult.
- He was a humble servant who pointed people to Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist is a reminder that we should all be prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ. We should also be willing to make changes in our lives so that we can be more like Jesus.

2. What is the significance of baptism in Christianity today?

Answer

Baptism remains a significant and multifaceted practice in Christianity today, holding deep meaning for both individual believers and the wider Christian community. Here are some key ways baptism continues to be relevant:

1. Symbol of Spiritual Transformation:

- **Death and Resurrection:** Baptism symbolizes the death of an old life and the resurrection to a new life in Christ. Being immersed in water represents the washing away of sin and the cleansing of the soul. Emerging from the water signifies rising to a new life dedicated to following Jesus.

2. Public Declaration of Faith:

- Baptism serves as a public declaration of a person's faith in Jesus Christ and their commitment to follow his teachings. It's a visible expression of an internal belief, often marking a significant milestone in a Christian's journey.

3. Entry into the Christian Community:

- Baptism is seen as a doorway into the Christian community, welcoming individuals into the body of Christ. It signifies acceptance and belonging within the church family, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose among believers.

4. Ongoing Commitment and Renewal:

- Baptism is not simply a one-time event but a reminder of the ongoing commitment to Christian life. It serves as a call to live according to Christ's teachings, to embrace love, forgiveness, and service to others.

5. Diverse Denominational Practices:

- While the core meaning of baptism remains consistent, different Christian denominations have varying practices and interpretations. Some denominations baptize infants, while others believe in baptism upon profession of faith. The mode of baptism (sprinkling, pouring, immersion) also varies.

6. Ecumenical Significance:

- Despite these differences, baptism holds a unifying power across Christian denominations. It serves as a common ground for recognizing each other as part of the wider Christian family, fostering dialogue and understanding.

7. Personal and Communal Impact:

- Baptism can have a profound impact on individuals, strengthening their faith, offering a sense of belonging, and inspiring a commitment to Christian living. It also contributes to the vitality of the Christian community, fostering unity, fellowship, and a shared sense of purpose.

In conclusion, baptism remains a powerful and meaningful practice in Christianity today, offering a symbol of spiritual transformation, a public declaration of faith, and a doorway into the Christian community. Its significance continues to resonate for individuals and the wider church, reminding us of the ongoing commitment to follow Christ's teachings and live a life of love, service, and hope.

3. Using the order of St Matthew's presentation, describe the temptation of Jesus and explain how he overcame each of them

Answer

The Temptations of Jesus: A St. Matthew's Account

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus faces three distinct temptations after fasting for 40 days and nights in the wilderness. The devil, seeking to divert Jesus from his divine mission, presents each temptation as a potential shortcut to success and glory. Let's explore how Jesus responded and overcame each challenge:

1. Temptation of Hunger (Matthew 4:3-4):

- The Temptation: The devil dares Jesus, if he truly is the Son of God, to turn stones into bread and satisfy his hunger. This appeals to Jesus' primal need for survival and suggests using his divine power for personal gain.

- Jesus' Response: Jesus counters with scripture, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." He prioritizes spiritual sustenance over temporary physical satisfaction.

2. Temptation of Power (Matthew 4:5-7):

- The Temptation: The devil takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and offers him dominion over all earthly kingdoms. This exploits Jesus' potential ambition and offers a path to worldly power without suffering or sacrifice.
- Jesus' Response: Jesus counters again with scripture, citing Deuteronomy 6:16: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." He refuses to use God's power for self-aggrandizement or tempt God by demanding a sign.

3. Temptation of Glory (Matthew 4:8-11):

- The Temptation: The devil presents a twisted interpretation of Psalm 91:11-12, promising angels to protect Jesus if he throws himself from the temple peak. This appeals to Jesus' desire to fulfill prophecy and achieve immediate recognition.
- Jesus' Response: Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16 once more, firmly stating: "You shall not worship the Lord your God by jumping off the temple pinnacle." He refuses to manipulate scripture or risk himself for self-glorification.

Jesus' Victory: In each temptation, Jesus refuses to surrender his integrity or deviate from his mission. He relies on scripture as his weapon, demonstrating complete trust in God's plan and purpose. By resisting these temptations, Jesus proves his worthiness as the Son of God and prepares himself for the challenges ahead.

Significance: The Temptations of Jesus offer valuable lessons for all believers.

They highlight the constant presence of temptation, the importance of relying on God's word in times of trial, and the need to prioritize spiritual goals over worldly desires. Jesus' example provides us with the strength and guidance to face our own temptations and navigate the complexities of our faith.

I hope this explanation is helpful! If you have any further questions or would like me to delve deeper into any specific aspect of the temptations, please let me know.