

(1) What does it mean to you when we speak of Jesus as our “role model”? In what ways are we to imitate him? Are there things about his life and ministry that we should not expect to imitate or follow? If so, what would they be, and why?

(2) Read Philippians 2:6-11. What does this tell us about the nature of the incarnation? Is Paul saying that when the Son became a man he ceased to be God? If not, what does it mean when it says he “emptied himself”? How does this truth relate to the way Jesus lived his life and performed his miracles?

(3) Read Luke 4:1, 14-15, 16-21. What do these texts tell us about the nature of our Lord’s earthly life and ministry? How does the way he lived and ministered serve to give us an example of how we should conduct ourselves and minister within the local church?

(4) Read Matthew 12:22-32. By what power did Jesus heal and deliver this young boy? What might this tell us about how we are to minister to the sick and demonized? What significance is there that the sin committed by the religious leaders is called “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit” rather than “blasphemy against the Son”?

(5) Read John 20:22. What does this text tell us about what God expects of us today? How might the truth of what we’ve seen affect the way we pray? Does it change your expectations of what might be accomplished in ministry? If so, how? If not, why not?