

Introduction:

Today we will look at *the middle period of Jesus' Galilean ministry.*

Things we will look at in this lesson:

The Middle Period

The Middle Period:

01. What event marks the transition to this period?

02. What event concludes the middle period?

03. What question does John the Baptist send two of his disciples to ask Jesus?

04. When Matthew and Luke's Gospels come together what happens?

Article 1)

Key Points in Christ's Second Year of Ministry:

We are now in the second full year of Christ's ministry, which is marked by a growing controversy. While the people still marvel at His miracles, doubts and unbelief begin to arise as He explains His mission and shares the parables of the Kingdom with them. The questions of John the Baptist (Matthew 11:2–19; Luke 7:18–35) and Christ's condemnation of the Galilean cities (Matthew 11:20–24) indicate this.

We begin to see a gradual shift in attitude toward Christ and His ministry, expressing itself initially in His hometown, Nazareth (Matthew 13:54–58; Mark 6:1–6). Yet we see the clearest evidence of this change when many of Christ's followers reject His ultimate purpose (John 6:22–71). Another incident that sheds light on the change in people's outlook is the beheading of John the Baptist, which apparently occurred during this period. This act is an indirect rejection of the ministry of Christ, for John's purpose was to serve as the forerunner of Christ.

Article 2)

Scripture passages from the Synoptics that fall within the middle period of Christ's Galilean ministry:

NOTE: some material contained here likely belongs to an earlier period.

Matthew 11:2–14:21

Within this scriptural framework, 12:1–21 records incidents that probably occurred in the first period of Christ's greater Galilean ministry.

Passages 8:18, 23–34 and 9:18–34, although recorded earlier in Matthew, probably belong to this period.

Mark 3:20–6:44

Within this scriptural portion, the calling of the Twelve in 6:6–13 belongs to the early period of Christ's greater Galilean ministry.

Luke 7:18–9:17

The events noted in 9:1–6, as we stated earlier, occurred during the early period of Christ's greater Galilean ministry.

