

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

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Matthew 3:13-17

1. For thirty years Jesus lived in relative obscurity in Nazareth; known as the eldest son of Joseph and Mary.
2. The time came of His unveiling; for His ministry to begin.
3. John the Baptist had been preparing the way with his message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3:2
4. He clearly declared himself to be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the one who would announce the coming of the Messiah. 3:3
5. His wilderness ministry and message got the attention of the people of Jerusalem and Judea.
6. Jesus' first public act was to present Himself to John to be baptized.

I. The request. 13-14

- A. Jesus traveled from Galilee to where John was baptizing in the Jordan River.
- B. His purpose was specific, to be baptized by John.
- C. John tried to prevent Jesus from being baptized for several valid reasons.
 1. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance—those who were baptized by John were those who recognized that they were sinners and that they needed to repent of their sin in preparation for the coming of the Messiah.
 2. John knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the divine Son of God, who had no sins to confess or repent of.
 3. John recognized the spiritual need in his own life that only Jesus could fulfill.

II. The reason. 15

- A. Jesus asked John to baptize Him because in doing so **they both** would fulfill all righteousness.
 1. It was the Father's will for John to baptize Jesus.
 2. It was the Father's will for Jesus to be baptized by John.
 - B. It was not necessary for John to fully understand what was going on, rather, his responsibility was to obey.
 - C. He accepted Jesus' word on the matter and baptized Him.
 - D. Jesus' baptism was:
 1. An act of obedience.
 2. An act of identification.
 - a. With John and his ministry.
 - b. With sinful mankind.
 - c. With God and His plan and purpose. Luke 12:49-50
"I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! 50
"But I have a baptism to undergo (a death and resurrection to undergo), and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!"
 3. An example.
- NOTE: Jesus began His ministry by being baptized, and it is God's will for every true follower of Jesus Christ to publicly identify with Jesus Christ through believer's baptism.

E. Our baptism involves the same ingredients that Jesus's did, only from a different perspective.

III. The result. 16-17

A. Jesus went up from the water.

B. John saw the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descending as a dove and lighting upon Jesus. John 1:32

John (later) testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him."

C. Jesus was the divine Son of God, but He was also a man, and as a man He needed the anointing and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

D. Here we have God the Father, being manifested in the person of Jesus Christ, descending in the person of the Holy Spirit, declaring, "This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

APPLICATION

1. Jesus commissioned and commanded the church to:

a. Go and make disciples by preaching repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

b. Baptize those who repent and believe on the Lord.

c. Teach the baptized to observe all that Jesus commanded. Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:46-49

2. God has commanded all men everywhere to repent and to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Those who do so are commanded to publicly identify with Jesus Christ and His church through baptism by immersion.

4. All who identify with Jesus Christ are also to identify with a local body of believers under whose authority they will grow and serve.

NOTE: Like Jesus and John "It is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

5. Churches ought to be true to Scripture in that they hold their members accountable to what the Bible teaches related to church membership.

NOTE: I have moved a lot of times in my life since becoming a Christian, but I've found that the easiest thing to move is my church letter.