

03-02-14

Scripture:

Title: Jesus' Baptism

John the Baptist, the herald, has been making things ready – announcing His arrival

Calling people to repentance

The stage is set

Everything is ready

Anticipation is building, like last week's blizzard ☺

The King has been born, we know He's the king

Then silence.

John the Baptist appears, getting things ready

Encouraging everyone to get ready

Calling them to repent

And then...

The King arrives, in the fullness of time,

**Galatians 4:4**

*4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son,...*

At the right time...

This is it – the King is here!

# Jesus' arrival

**Matthew 3:13**

- *Then...*

While the people were coming out to see John...

Preparing their hearts

Getting ready for the King  
Jesus steps out of obscurity  
And He comes to John

## Jesus' request

Jesus asks John to baptize him  
John's baptism was for repentance, repentance from sin,  
it was an outward sign of inwardly turning  
John's baptism was a baptism for sinners  
Jesus is not a sinner, He never sinned  
Not even once

Jesus has nothing to repent of  
He doesn't need conversion  
Why did He get baptized?  
Even John had a problem with this...

## John's protest

### **Matthew 3:14**

John was emphatically, strongly, intensely trying to  
hinder Jesus from having him do this

Matthew (God) wants us to understand  
Though Jesus desires baptism  
It is not the baptism of repentance  
It is not the baptism of a sinner  
Jesus is not a sinner

## Why baptism?

This baptism has some other purpose

It is right

### **Matthew 3:15**

There is a special reason John, let it be so  
I know it is unusual – let it go this time  
Yield to Me

He doesn't disagree w/ anything John has said

Allow it now

It's unusual but it is necessary

- *...for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*

This is what Jesus is doing here w/ baptism

Baptism is the righteous thing to do, the right thing

Therefore Jesus is doing it

## Jesus' identification

### **Isaiah 53:12**

*And was numbered with the transgressors;*

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

From the very beginning of His ministry

Jesus declares that He has no sin

And Jesus' identification is with sinners

He was born of a sinner

He was baptized like a sinner

In His death He identifies w/ sinners

There were 2 on either side of Him

His identification w/sinners is preparing for Him

To bear the sins of all of us

He bore my sins and your sins

He took them on Himself  
To pay their penalty for us

In order to bring sinners to righteousness

He had to bear sin

He had to identify with sinners

### **Isaiah 53:11**

*...By His knowledge the Righteous One,  
My Servant, will justify the many,  
As He will bear their iniquities.*

Jesus' baptism was an identification with you/me

We are sinners – we need to repent

Jesus is not a sinner – He identified with us

He took our sins on Himself

He died on the cross in our place

*The land of Persia was once ruled by a wise and beloved Shah who cared greatly for his people and desired only what was best for them. One day he disguised himself as a poor man and went to visit the public baths. The water for the baths was heated by a furnace in the cellar, so the Shah made his way to the dark place to sit with the man who tended the fire. The two men shared the coarse food, and the Shah befriended him in his loneliness. Day after day the ruler went to visit the man. The worker became attached to this stranger because "he came where he was". One day the Shah revealed his true identity, and he expected the man to ask him for a GIFT. Instead, he looked long into his leader's face and with*

*love and wonder in his voice said, "You left your palace and your glory to sit with me in this dark place, to eat my coarse food, and to care about what happens to me. On others you may bestow rich GIFTS, but to ME you have given YOURSELF!" There is an even GREATER King - The King of kings - 'who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Philippians 2:6-7). Jesus, the Son of God, left His heavenly palace to come and sit with us, to share OUR human existence, to experience life as WE know it, to show us that He cares, to bear our sins and die in our place.*

He identifies w/ us as sinners, He comes to our world

He "sat" with us, worked w/ us, hungered w/ us...

He came to be our substitute

To die in our place

He paid the price we could not pay

By His identification w/ us He is able to bear our sin

B/c He identified w/ us He can become our propitiation

The sacrifice that atones, that satisfies God's wrath

Jesus' identification with sin makes redemption possible

It makes justification possible,

Perhaps also a preview of His death

Buried under the water

Rising as He came out

**Luke 12:50**

**Mark 10:38**

What is this baptism Jesus is talking about here?  
His death...

Jesus' baptism is a preview of things to come...

He is identifying with us sinners...

He died on the cross bearing the sins of the world

What better beginning than this

Declaring He was sinless

Identifying with us sinners He came to save

### **Matthew 3:16**

- *After being baptized,*

Interesting timing here...

As the people were the most vulnerable

Their hearts were open

They had just seen their sin

Recognized their sinfulness

They had just turned, repented

Acknowledged their need for God

God, Jesus, comes and is baptized

The perfect, spotless, sinless Son of God

Is identifying with His people

He doesn't sin like they do

He is willing to take their sin

To bear their sin

To pay the penalty for sin

To be their sacrifice

He is their/our hope

He is their/our answer to the sin in our lives

*...the heavens were opened*

Imagine being there, seeing heaven opened...

Ezekiel saw heaven opened

Stephen saw heaven opened when he died

The heavens opened and...

## Jesus' anointing

*...he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him*

**John 1:32-34**

Jesus was one w/ the Spirit

He was born of the Spirit

The Spirit came

Anointing Jesus for service

Strengthening Jesus in His humanness

The Spirit came to anoint Him for kingly service

**Isaiah 61:1**

Did Jesus need strength?

Remember – He got tired, hungry, thirsty...

His humanness needed strengthening

Form of a dove – only place in scripture this symbol is used for the Spirit...

Doves were the sacrifice of the poor

The rich offered sheep, cows...

The poor offered doves

Jesus is the sacrifice – He is anointed as our sacrifice

## Jesus' approval

## **Matthew 3:17**

Jesus' baptism showed the Father's approval

Imagine being there that day

John has been proclaiming the King is coming

The King arrives

Asks to be baptized of all things

John actually baptizes Him

When He comes out of the water

The heavens open

The Holy Spirit descends like a dove

And this huge voice from heaven

Proclaims for all to hear

This is my beloved Son

The Trinity is seen here in these verses

The Son – Jesus

The Spirit – the dove descending

The Father – declaring with His voice

All three together, same time, same place

Three distinct, yet one...

My beloved Son – deep rich, profound relationship

## ***Psalms 2:7***

This Psalm was known by all Jews

Known as a Messianic Psalm

They knew this Psalm

Know it is talking about the Messiah

This is what God says here

This is the King, this is the Messiah

Also a quote from **Isaiah 42:1**

*Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;  
My chosen one in whom My soul delights.*

A description of the suffering servant

Culminated in Isaiah 53

I am well-pleased – He is delighted with

This spotless, sinless One

This One who was identifying w/ sinners

This is the promised Messiah - He's here!

The Messiah has come

He has come to identify with our sins

To pay the penalty of our sin

Ultimately, to die in our place...

### ***Conclusion***

We all need to repent – to have open and receptive hearts

We also need to understand that Jesus is the  
Messiah, the King

He, the God of the universe, came to earth

He is spotless, sinless – never sinned

And yet He identified w/ us

He saw our need and paid the price for us

He was willing to become sin for us

That we could be declared righteous

Have our sins forgiven

### ***Benediction:***

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so  
that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Sermon outline

02-23-14

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus' a\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' r\_\_\_\_\_

John's p\_\_\_\_\_

Why b\_\_\_\_\_?

Jesus' i\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' a\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' a\_\_\_\_\_