

Thursday School  
October 22, 2020

### The Baptism of Christ



**"When He was Baptized"**  
**Matthew 3:16**

#### **I. The Importance of His Baptism**

- A. John, he who had baptized so many upon repenting of their sin, was suddenly overwhelmed with an acute sense of his own sin and personal unworthiness.**
- B. Jesus replied to John in words that assured him of the appropriateness of His submitting to this ordinance. Matthew 3:15**
  - 1. You see His humility from His birth, through His life, through His death, all the way through the gospels you see the humbling of Christ.**
  - 2. The fact that Jesus had done nothing needing repentance did not relieve Him of the obligation to do this act of righteous obedience.**
  - 3. It was an act of submission on the part of the Perfect Man which was in complete harmony with the rest of His life.**
    - a. We see along with His humility, His obedience.**
    - b. Christ perfectly fulfilled the whole law of God→ Has anyone ever done that?**
- C. How well did John previously knew Jesus is not easy to ascertain.**

#### **II. The Impact of His Baptism**

- A. WHY→ did Jesus seek baptism at the hands of John?**
- B. He had no need of repentance.**
  - 1. It signified His entrance upon the new era of which he Himself was to be the Author**

2. For His baptism was a "sacramental recognition of Him as Messiah."

### **III. The Implication of His Baptism**

#### **A. His identification with the world's sin**

1. By His baptism He identified Himself with the race He had come to save.
2. It signified His complete dedication of Himself to be the world's sin-bearer, yielding Himself without reserve to His Father's will which culminated in the Cross.

#### **B. His introduction into the messianic office**

1. It is only fitting that a public ministry should be ushered in by some public ceremony as would mark the watershed of His private and public life.
2. With His knowledge of the Scriptures, it is impossible that Jesus did not realize the implications of the symbolism of this rite, foreshadowing as it did His own death and resurrection.

#### **C. His Father's approval of the silent years** → Luke 3:21

1. Provides an additional insight not found recorded elsewhere.
2. It says, "When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened."
  - a. Jesus is in communion with His Father. He is praying.
  - b. Intimacy with God comes as we use the means of grace God has made available to us.
3. It has been asked, "Who can measure what the rending of the heavens meant to the Lord at this special time?"
4. What encouragement were His Father's words falling on Him as they broke the silence of eternity: "You are My beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."
5. Jesus is the One in whom the Psalm found its fulfillment: "The Lord has said unto me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you." Psalm 2:7

#### **D. His anointing for service**

1. Luke 3:22 → "The Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form, as a dove, upon Him."
2. By it He was endued with power and the gifts necessary for His public ministry.
  - a. Doubtless this event marked a distinct stage in His history as the Son of Man.
  - b. While in His case there was no need of cleansing, there was the necessity to "learn obedience by the things that He suffered."
3. Note that there is a clear revelation of the co-operation of the Trinity in preparing the way for the Lord's work.
  - a. The *incarnate Son* stands in the waters of Jordan, identifying Himself with sinful humanity.
  - b. *The Father* opens heaven to voice His approval of His son whom He selected for this task.
  - c. *The Spirit* descends from heaven to empower the Son to fulfill the purpose of the Father.