

Sermon Sunday Jan 8-2023

The Baptism of Jesus

Matt 3: 13-17

Jesus came into our lives as he came on the riverbank that day from Galilee. Not since the second chapter of Luke did we know of, or were aware of, the life of Jesus the teenager and young adult.

This gap in time has always been a bit of a mystery to me. What was his life like as God the man at that young age?

So, Christ traveled well over 15 miles as he came up from Galilee to be baptized by John. They most likely knew each other as cousins.

Matt 3:13

*“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.”*

You can also see ahead of John’s teachings before Jesus comes on the scene with his message to repent and his Baptism of all that want to willingly repent and to be submerged into the Jordan.

Matt 2: 11-12

*I baptize you with<sup>[a]</sup> water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

John confirms with his witness that "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

John at first did not want to Baptize Jesus for John knew he needed to be baptized, not Jesus.

Matt 3: 14-15

*14 "But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"*

*15 "Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented."*

John was right to refuse to Baptize the Pharisees and the Sadducees because they failed to repent of their sins of self-righteous.

Now John was face to face with Jesus, witnessing for himself the sinless perfect nature of Jesus Christ.

John was being honest and knew his own failings, just as every one of us are sinners and are unworthy to save ourselves from our sins. We also recognize our own need for repentance and we come to Jesus with nothing but our sins and ask for his repentance.

Christ committed no sin, yet came to John in obedience to the Holy Spirit to fulfill his own witness to the world.

Through this cleansing act, Jesus sanctified the waters of our own Baptism by Jesus showing himself as meek and lowly in heart throughout the three years of his ministry on earth as the meek sacrificial lamb of God.

This new year will bring both good and bad changes to our everyday. The problems that carry over from last year are still with us, but Jesus is in the middle of them all with us! His healing waters of Baptism live on within our hearts and minds if we let them wash over us this morning.

John 4: 14

*4 "but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

Rev 21: 6

*"He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."*

Jesus puts himself humbly before the world to see and record this Baptism for into it the Father declares for all time the trinity Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

But also his beloved son in Matt 3:

*"And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

Why did Jesus seek to be Baptized? From Jerome:

1. He was born a man to serve all justice and humility of the law.
2. That by his baptism he might confirm John's baptism.
3. That the sanctifying of the waters of the Jordon through the descent of the dove, he might show the Holy Spirit's advent in the baptism of believers.

Jesus starts his three years as the most important three years in all of history! He came to set us free of the devil's grip on us!

Jesus stepped away from the Father's side to be with us to enter into this dark, sin-drenched world we live in to complete the mission he was sent to accomplish by the Father.

The best news is that he is still with us through the trinity. The Holy Spirit at his Baptism is the advent into eternity for us with Christ!

Quote from Augustine:

"The very voice of the Father sounded neither from heaven to earth, nor from the water but from heaven.

This though we do not see it with our own eyes nor as yet with the heart, so long as we are being purified by faith, yet by this faith we most firmly and rightly maintain the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the Trinity inseparably one God, not three Gods.

But yet one God in such a way that the Son is not the Father, and the Father is not the Son and Holy spirit is neither the Father or the Son but the spirit of the Father and of the Son. This ineffable Divinity abiding ever in itself. Making all things new, creating anew, sending, recalling, judging, delivering this Trinity, I say we know to be at once indescribable and inseparable."

In closing, every time we come to Christ we have all things that we need to survive each and every day, His living water of Baptism. We are washed clean by the blood of Christ!