

Because He Said So!

I. The Baptism of Jesus – **Matthew 3.11-17**

A. Background: Jesus & John related (Moms: Mary & Elizabeth)

1. John lives in desert, camel hair clothes, eats locusts & honey.
 - a. Locust, only insect Bible allows Jews to eat.

Leviticus 11:22 Of these you may eat any kind of locust, katydid, cricket or grasshopper.

b. Jews eat locust today, 2013 locust invasion, breaded, chocolate covered & deep-fried.

2. John was baptizing people for about 6 months and now Jesus comes to be baptized.

B. Bible speaks of 7 Different Baptisms, here's a brief overview.

1. Baptism of Moses – Exodus through waters of Red Sea from bondage to freedom.

1 Cor. 10 1-2 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

2. Baptism of Suffering or the Cross – Disciples immersed in pain, shame & death like Christ.

Mark 10:38-39 Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” 39 And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,

3. Baptism of John – (water) preparation for Christ involving repentance & confession of sins.

Mark 1:4-5 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

4. Baptism of Fire – Referring to Christ's judgement on those who do not know God.

Matt. 3.11-12 I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

5. Baptism of the Holy Spirit – (God's approval) Jesus Baptism, Pentecost, Jew & Gentile.

Matt. 3.11 He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **Joel 2.28** I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh

6. Baptism in the name of Jesus – (water) Public declaration of spiritual immersion death to life.

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 6. 3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was

7. Baptism of Jesus – (water) but of the Holy Spirit, showing Christ’s obedience to God.

Matt. 3.13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

II. In all cases, baptism represents a process of change.

- A. Greek word – baptizo: to dip or immerse, an all-encompassing transformation.
 1. Mosaic: bondage to freedom
 2. John’s baptism: hiding/denying sin to repenting/confessing
 3. Jesus baptism: Deity (God) to Humanity (Jesus) through agency of Holy Spirit.
- B. Bible jumps from Jesus age 12 in the temple to his baptism at age 30.
 1. For 18 years Jesus dwelt in humanity working as a carpenter.

Mark 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary ..?

2. Joseph probably died (speculation).
- C. Jesus comes to John to be baptized, John tries to prevent it, however Jesus insists.
 1. Why does John argue against Jesus baptism?
 - a. John’s baptism is for sinners, Jesus is sinless.
 - b. Jesus has no need to repent or confess.
 2. Why does Jesus insist on being baptized?
 - a. Because He (God) said so, and Jesus is obedient to God’s commands.

Matt. 3. 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

- b. It is fitting (appropriate & necessary) in order to fulfill all righteousness.
- c. Jesus is submitting to the ordinance of baptism, to join & identify fully with man.

III. The Baptism (Coronation) of Jesus

Matt. 3.13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

- A. This is a water baptism in the Jordan where some incredibly significant things happen.
 1. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit (visibly) descends and God’s audible voice is heard.
 - a. The heavens were opened, (torn in two, like the temple curtain)

Matt. 27.50-51 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

- b. The Spirit descended (visibly) upon Christ, this is His baptism by the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 11.1-2 (*fulfilling prophecy*) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and

- 1) This is Christ's empowerment for His ministry, (which begins after this)

John 3:34-35 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit **without measure**. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

- 2) This is marriage of deity to humanity.
 - c. God's voice is heard, breaking 400 years of silence (since Malachi in OT)
 - 1) Affirming Jesus as God's son whom He loves.
 - 2) Declaring his approval of His Son.
 - d. This moment affirms the Trinitarian (3 in one) God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)
- B. Jesus is utterly submitted to God in humble obedience.
 1. As a boy in the temple.

Luke 2.46, 49 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

2. To His baptism

Matt. 3. 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

3. To His death, praying in the garden

Luke 22.42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

4. Jesus the man needed the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill the work of God (thus his baptism)
- C. What's keeping us from obedience unto God?
 1. It's not convenient (often obedience is an option of opportunity).
 2. It's too hard (often true with forgiving others when we've been horribly hurt).
 3. I haven't yet submitted to Christ's Lordship.
 - a. Because He said so!
 - b. To which we reply, you're not the boss of me.
 - c. Jesus identified with us, so we can entrust ourselves to Him.
 - d. To whom or what we submit ourselves, will ultimately have power over us.
- CI. Buy the Milk