

Why was Jesus Baptized? | Mark 1:9-11 & Matt 3:13-17 | Sept 23

Today we are going to answer an age-old question = Why was Jesus baptized?

- Heresy = Adoptionism (Jesus was tested for 30 years... baptism = supernatural = adopted)
- Heresy – Purified the water... (Giving the water the power to remove sin)
- Not heresy / Not full – Symbolic... just a model for us to follow (more than that)

I know we're in a study of Mark, but I want to show the most comprehensive answer to the question... the most complete scripture on the baptism of Jesus = Matt 3:13-17

~ Show the two scriptures side-by-side... these two profound verses ~

I am going to show four reasons why Jesus was baptized

1. Inaugurates His ministry (Matthew 3:13)

(13) Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by Him.

→ I do not want to spend long on this... because the scripture doesn't... but it is no less important

We know from Luke's gospel = 30 years old = start His public ministry

→ Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5), lived in Egypt, hometown = Joseph & Mary (Humanize)

Look at how intentional v 13-15... "Came to the Jordan, to John, to be baptized" The time has come

Isaiah 40:5 "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it"

- Inauguration of a president = "Hail to the Chief"

"Hail to the chief we have chosen for the nation, hail to the chief, we salute him one and all! Hail to the chief, we pledge cooperation... in proud fulfillment of a great noble call."

What was Jesus' inauguration? → John 1:29 "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins... world"

What does this teach us? God doesn't wander into things accidentally.

- He chose the right time to be born. He chose the right time to leave His home and enter into the public light... just as He chose the right time to go to the cross.

He always chooses the right time to enter your life... whatever that thing is... trust

Why was Jesus baptized? Inaugurates His ministry... second...

2. Exemplified His obedience (Matthew 3:13-15a)

(14) John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to see me?"

Have you ever been asked something by your boss... above my pay grade

→ I had a boss once ask me to do his performance review ← John is not on board...

We know from last week why John was baptizing... where people would come and commit themselves to the **one true God** through repentance and the forgiveness of sins

We know that Jesus doesn't need to commit to the **one true God**... no repentance... no sin!

So we are just as confused as John... why is Jesus being baptized by John... Jesus should baptize John... right?

- We have turned a beautiful word, righteous word, into a dirty word = submission

Jesus's baptism is an affirmation of the submissive disposition of the Lord Jesus to the Father's will

→ John 6:38 "For I have come down from Heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me"

- Jesus lived a perfect life before the perfect righteousness of God's law...

Submission isn't a bad word ~ submission takes strength | Bad? Abuse authority

- Wives & husbands | parents & children | governments & people | pastors & parishioners

* We do not have a submission problem... we have an authority problem!

→ We're running out of people to trust! Abusive / abandon/ politicians / church

So who can we trust? Jesus is exemplifying His trust in His Father... so do we

Look at the last three words of v 15 = "Then he consented" = John the Baptist

- How many of us have been here? Jesus = do this | me = ugh | Jesus = let it be so [Coram Deo] ***

This whole story is showing us that we ought to get to "Then Jeremy consented"

- We fail at our obedience to the Lord... but Jesus was completely obedient... sinless at the cross!

Why was Jesus baptized? Inaugurates His ministry | Exemplified His obedience...

3. Identifies Himself with sinners (Matthew 3:15b)

"Let it be so now for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness"

* We need to see how this all ties together: This study = made me fall in love... Jesus

→ By participating in a baptism of repentance, even though he had no sin to repent of, shows the righteousness he wanted to fulfill was not the righteousness required of himself, but every sinful man

Isaiah 53:11 "Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant make many to be accounted righteous and he shall bear their iniquities."

→ Jordan = why doesn't God just come down here and tell me to believe?

He did! God came to be with us and like us!

He did! Out of eternity → Time

He did! God came... from the temple surrounded by Seraphim... to a manger!

He did! God came... from perfect peace into poverty and pain

→ What does that mean? You're not abandoned... you're not alone

→ He loves you so much that He left splendor → and became our decay!

The one who held the stars... was sentenced to die for my sin!

* To not give Jesus your sins... is to make a mockery of the Cross

- He came to identify Himself with sinners and die for them

Isaiah 53:10 "It was the will of the Lord to crush him" (right before)

Why was Jesus baptized? Inaugurates His ministry } Exemplified His obedience

→ Christ being baptized, symbolically identifies himself with sinners as it would on the cross...

4. Foreshadows His sacrifice (Matthew 3:16-17)

(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; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- life / death / resurrection | "heavens were opened" → Red sea / Moses clearing the rock → temple curtain torn in two

- Spirit of God = dove → Spirit over water & creation | symbol of power & peace

- Voice from Heaven = you are my Son = Nation of Israel / King of Israel / Davidic Messianic King

Most beautiful displays of the trinity

- Theological word... perfect distinctive personhood and divine unity

→ the sacrifice of Christ = The father willed it

The Spirit empowered it

The Son endured it... and our rescue was accomplished

* Is this just a model to follow?

→ not "just" ... but we are baptized as an act of obedience... as Jesus was

Why was Jesus baptized?

Inaugurates His ministry

Exemplifies His obedience

Identifies Himself with sinners

Foreshadows His sacrifice

Pray

*** Coram Deo – In the presence of God

- Live your whole life before the face of God

→ We are called to obey every command God has given us, but our obedience does not secure our salvation

→ Only faith in Christ can do that

→ Our obedience is a reflection of whether we are grateful for our Lord's obeying perfectly... in our place