

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Station #4 “Baptism: The Favor of God”

After Jesus’ birth, we skip ahead to his years of ministry. In the beginning of his ministry, Jesus asked John the Baptist to baptize him. After confessing his unworthiness, John conceded to baptize Jesus. When Jesus came out of the water, something amazing happened. The Holy Spirit descended like a dove, and the voice of God boomed down from Heaven, saying “this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” When Jesus returned to Heaven after his resurrection, he promised that the very same Spirit would enter us, and guide us, and encourage us in our lives. Our baptism is a testimony that we are in Christ, and He is in us.

You know, most Christians would agree that “yeah. Once you’re a Christian, the Holy Spirit lives in you, convicting you of sin and guiding you in life, but we forget that once the Holy Spirit lives in us, then that second part of the baptism scene also applies to us. When God looks from Heaven into the life of a Christian, the words He speaks are, “you are my son, I am so pleased with you... or you are my daughter, I am so pleased with you.”

You see, we all picture God frowning down on us and correcting our wrongs. But also in the midst of our stumblings and in the midst of our failures, our Father looks from Heaven, and He loves us and is very pleased with us.

Stop for a moment and rest in the knowledge that God loves you more than you can imagine. Take as long as you like, and when you’re ready, move back out of the sanctuary area to station 5, in the main vestibule.