

Three Things every Child Needs to Hear **Matthew 3: 13-17**

An Opening Question

What did Jesus need to hear from His Father before He began His life's work?

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17

To begin his ministry Jesus needed....

1. A sense of direction (vs. 13-14)
2. A sense of purpose (vs. 15)
3. A sense of blessing (vs. 16)

To provide this his Heavenly Father said three things...

1. "You are my Son..." (identity)
2. "Whom I love..." (security)
3. "With you I am well pleased" (acceptance)

Every Child's Heart asks 3 Questions

1. Do I belong to you?
2. Do you love me?
3. Do you believe in me?

If we don't hear this, we will struggle with our identity...

1. We look to someone or something else to define us
2. Then we are open to believing lies

If we don't hear this, we will struggle with out security...

1. We try to find it in all the wrong places
2. Then we are open to destructive relationships

If we don't hear this, we will struggle with out acceptance...

1. We try to prove we are valuable by our work, appearance, accomplishments, money or relationships
2. Then we are open to moral and spiritual compromise

How can we give our child a sense of identity?

1. Tell them often they belong to you
2. Assure them that nothing will ever change that relationship
3. Be there in their lives (time, attention, sacrifice)

How can we give our child a sense of security?

1. Say "I love you" each and every day
2. Learn to speak their love language (gifts, words of affirmation, touch, acts of service, or quality time)
3. Make their life your priority and celebrate their moments

How can we give our child a sense of acceptance?

1. Tell them how proud you are of who they are
2. Set boundaries, discipline in love and show grace
3. Humble yourself and ask for their forgiveness when you fail

What if you never heard those words?

1. You will tend to repeat your upbringing unless you decide to change
2. You will pass the pain on to the next generation
3. You will become strangers to one another

So how can I be different?

1. Ask Jesus to He heal the father wound in your own heart
2. Identify the lies about you came to believe about God and yourself
3. Study the Father love of God in Scripture (Study the father's example in the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32)

Remember every child's heart asks 3 questions

1. Do I belong to you?
2. Do you love me?
3. Do you believe in me?

Before this day is over tell all your children (regardless of age)...

"You are my son (or daughter), whom I love; with you I am well pleased."