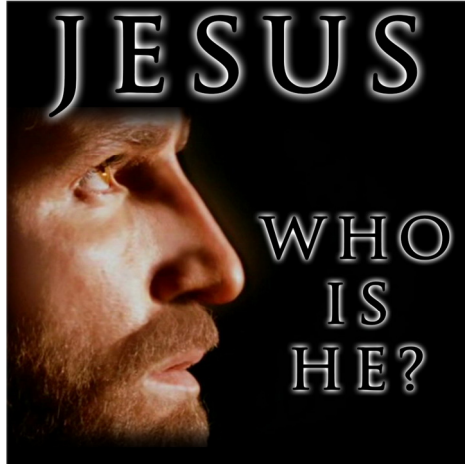


Matthew 3:13-17, Jesus: Who is He? “Beloved Son”

5.31.15

Last Song: My Heart is Yours Invitation: He is Jesus

This morning, we continue in our series: Jesus-Who is He?



And we're going to see another attribute of Jesus: as the "Beloved Son."

You know it's quite interesting to me all the different ways Jesus is portrayed in our culture today.

The Buddy Jesus—exists to make me happy, (a.k.a. the "Self-Help" or "Therapeutic" Jesus)

The Social Jesus—exists to cure poverty, hunger, homelessness and to save the whales

The Hipster Jesus—He's the cool, renegade Jesus, who desperately wants to be relevant, so he's dressed in all leather and has gauges in his ears and rings in his nose

The Political Jesus—all three political parties claim this Jesus. He's on their side. He's for a woman's right to choose, men to bear arms and for this party He is anti-NSA...and, no you can't read His emails. But I say, "Salvation will never be brought to America via *Air Force 1*"

Church family, do you understand what's happening today? People have created their "own" Jesus that suits their lifestyle. They've totally thrown the Scriptures to the curb and made their own god. Do you know what have done when they do such a thing? They have broken the 2nd commandment, which says to make no graven images of another god.

People today have not only broken the OT commandment, they are also breaking the "Greatest Commandment" which Jesus said is "to love the Lord your God, with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." Jesus said to love the Lord God. That Lord God is found in the pages of the Bible.

Oh church, we've got to be so careful today. We've got to be so careful with what we read and what we hear when it comes to how people want to describe Jesus because most of it is baloney! We've got to be careful with how people describe Jesus in their blog posts, twitter feeds, Facebook statuses and Instagrams. We've got to make sure that the Jesus we're talking about and following and worshipping is the Jesus of the Bible and not the Jesus of our own making!

And so it's to the pages of the Bible (Scripture) that we've been looking for several weeks now and asking, "Who is Jesus?" Who is the real Jesus of the Bible! For it's in the pages of Scripture that we see the TRUE and GENUINE Jesus as revealed by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to mankind.

What have we seen thus far in our study together? Well, the Apostle Matthew describes Jesus as the King of Kings and in our journey through his Gospel we have seen the Ancestry of the King, the Arrival of the King through the miracle of the Virgin Birth. We've seen True Worship of the King with the visit of the Wise Men from the East. We've seen that Jesus is the King and fulfillment of prophecy, guaranteeing that He is indeed the Messiah. We've seen he is the Redeemer of Repentance, who calls all people everywhere to "Metanoeo" (repent) for His Kingdom is at hand. And today we are going to see that he is the Beloved Son of God, the anointed King.

Earlier today we honored our graduates and we celebrated their accomplishments as they are now moving to a new phase of their lives whether it be college, or work or whatever that might be. They will soon be embarking upon new territory in their lives...untraveled territory in their lives and the same was true for Jesus.

As we come to the end of Matthew, chapter 3, we see that Jesus is now 30 years old and He's preparing to embark upon a new phase in His life. Think about it. Up to this point in the life of Jesus we have heard nothing of Him or from Him for 18 years. We've not heard from Jesus since Luke recorded His last spoken words at the age of 12 when He was in the Temple

Remember those words from Luke 2:49? He said them to Joseph and Mary, "Didn't you know I had to be about my Father's business." Yet, for 18 years, we've heard absolutely nothing from Jesus. All we know is what Luke recorded in...

Luke 2:51-52

51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. **52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

That's all we get for 18 years. He was submissive to the authority of His parents and He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. Graduates...those are pretty good qualities. Young people and children in the room...those are qualities we should embrace as well.

1. Submissive to parents
 2. Increasing in wisdom and stature
 3. Increasing in favor with God and man
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For 18 years Jesus lived in absolute obscurity. Basically no one knew Him outside of his hometown of Nazareth. He learned the carpentry trade from His father and the Scriptures were imbedded into Him by His parents. Jesus lived just 33 years and just 3 of those years were in ministry. Only 1/10th of His life embodied ministry. 90% of His life was as ordinary as it could be. It was as ordinary as your life and mine. For 30 years Jesus was just like everybody else. Only 3 short years of His life was in ministry. Does that seem like a waste to you? It shouldn't!

God doesn't reckon time like we do. You see, I've known men and women who died at the age of 30, who did more in their 30 years of life than folks who lived to be 90. And I bet you have too!

Think about it. Jesus waited and worked in almost total obscurity for 30 years in that carpenter's shop in Nazareth, doing the simple, mundane duties of the home and that workshop. Jesus was also a big brother to 4 other brothers and at least 2 sisters according to Matthew 13:55. Jesus was the oldest of at least 7 children. Can you picture Jesus like this?



He had major responsibilities in the family because He was the oldest. But all the while, He knew He was the Son of God. He knew what awaited Him. He knew there was a lost and dying world that needed salvation. The world was waiting for Him and now...the hour struck...and when it struck...he picked up what little belongings he had and kissed his mother and brothers and sisters and headed south from Nazareth to the Jordan River for a meeting with his cousin, John the Baptist.

Turn in your Bibles to Matthew, chapter 3, verse 13. As you do so, I want you to see this map.



Jesus would travel from Nazareth near the Sea of Galilee down to near Jericho to the **northern part of the Dead Sea, where the Jordan River empties into it.**

Matthew 3:13

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

I've been to the area where scholars believe John was baptizing people. Here it is... (I'll show you 3 pictures):



Imagine seeing John baptizing all of these people.



Why was John baptizing? Do you remember from last week? John was proclaiming that the KING IS COMING. John was calling the people to repentance. In order for the people to be ready to receive the King, they had to repent of their sins. The only way for the human heart to be able to receive Jesus is through repentance. There is no other way. We must metanoeo.

You see, Jesus wants our hearts! He wants our lives! But, He can't have your life until you are converted and you can't be converted unless you repent. To receive Christ, we must repent and confess and that's what John's baptism represented...the first step of salvation: repentance.

You say, "Wait a minute! If John's baptism was for sinners, what's Jesus doing there? He didn't have any sin! He had no sin to confess. Jesus was sinless right?!" Yes He was! So, John protests!!

Matthew 3:14

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

I looked it up and I found that what John was saying in verse 14, "I need to be baptized by you..." is written in the "imperfect tense" and that means that John was saying over and over and over again... "Hey I can't baptize you...NO...NO...NO...We've got this all backwards! You need to baptize me!"

Remember last week how the Pharisees and Sadducees came and pretended they wanted to be baptized. Yet, they were unrepentant. John saw right through their self-righteous, pompous, hypocrisy and he called them a bunch of snakes. But, with Jesus, He saw deep humility. John knew that Jesus was the Son of God, and I'll prove this point from John's Gospel account.

The Apostle John records his viewpoint of Jesus' arrival at the place where John the Baptist was baptizing...

John 1:29

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John was overwhelmed by what Jesus was asking him to do. How in the world could he baptize the Messiah, the Son of God? How could he administer a baptism of repentance to a man who had never sinned? Good question!

I had the same quandary as John did. Why did Jesus want to be baptized? After all, He was

sinless. The writer of Hebrews can give us insight.

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

John says, “NO...NO...NO Jesus! I can’t!” But Jesus said this...

Matthew 3:15

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

Jesus said, “Let it be so now.” What does that mean? It means, “John...allow this...yield to me on this one...it’s okay...it’s right for us to do this even though I have no sin.”

Listen carefully... Jesus was always doing the right thing. Remember when the Temple Tax Collectors came to Peter and said, “Why doesn’t your master pay the Temple tax?”

Matthew 17:27

27 However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself.”

Why did Jesus do it? Because it was the right thing to do! Jesus always does the right thing! **And he’s our example!**

As followers of Jesus we should always be known for doing the right thing, every time. That’s what Christians do. The word Christian means, “Little Christ” and if we are going to truly call ourselves disciples and followers of Christ, then we should do as He did. Jesus said we would be blessed if we hungered and thirsted for righteousness... He said that those who do will be filled.

Did you catch the word, “us” in verse 15? Look at it again:

Matthew 3:15

15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for **us** to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.

John had to consent. John had to be willing to go along with what Jesus was asking and as followers so do we. It’s not a one-sided deal here. Jesus wants us to do the right thing, but He won’t force us.

So, Jesus said, “John, we’ve got to do this...we’ve got to FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

“Fulfill all righteousness...” What does that mean? In the Greek it means “the condition acceptable to God.” What is the condition acceptable to God? Humility. Jesus humbled Himself. Why?

We just need to look back at what we read a moment ago from Hebrews 4:15

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus sympathizes with us... He was tempted in every respect like us...

Do you want to know why Jesus got baptized?

So He could identify with us! He had to identify with us as sinners! And He humbled Himself to identify with us. Wow! The King becoming like His servants. Wow!

And this is exactly what the Prophet Isaiah said Jesus would do...

Isaiah 53:4-6

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But he was pierced for **our** transgressions; he was crushed for **our** iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought **us** peace, and with his wounds **we** are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of **us** all.

Jesus, the One who knew no sin...identified with us so that He could take our sin away. Jesus took His place with sinners. Jesus is the friend of sinners. The Apostle Paul has it right:

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Do you see what God did? For our sake...for you...for me...God made His Son, Jesus, who knew no sin TO BE SIN! He poured all our sin on His Son! God, in His omniscience...all knowing mind...looked through time and He saw you and He saw me and He saw our sin and He said, "Jesus you are going to take it all. You are going to take all their sin. I'm putting it on you..." And Jesus took it!

Why? **So that we could live in sin?** No! Did you see the end of the verse?

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

So that we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus took all of our sin upon Himself not so that we would live in sin...but become the righteousness of God. That's why we sing... "My heart is yours...my heart is yours...take all...take all...my life in your hands..." We surrender all to Jesus so that we may live right and honor God.

So, Jesus went down in the water...

Matthew 3:16

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;

Now church...what I'm getting ready to share with you is critical that we understand. Every time we have a baptism, I share this... But, we've got to get this. It's one of the principle reasons we are Baptists. Listen carefully, you know I'm always giving you the Greek meaning of words and I'm going to do know less here.

Here is the Greek meaning for the Greek word for baptize:

Baptizō:

1. to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
 2. to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
 3. to overwhelm
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Take a look at this picture... It's a vessel being sunk...



What does this vessel do?



Submarines submerge. They are immersed.

That's what it means to be baptized. Do you remember from last week verse 6? This is real simple stuff folks... Watch the wording...and notice the word, "in."

Matthew 3:6

6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Notice the wording in the first part of verse 16.

Matthew 3:16a

16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water...

He went UP **FROM** THE WATER.

Listen carefully, there is zero question that Jesus was immersed folks. He wasn't sprinkled. He wasn't dipped. It wasn't "a little dab will do ya!" No sir! Without question, unequivocally Jesus was submerged and immersed in the Jordan River and came UP OUT OF THE WATER.

Now why is this important? Simply because of what baptism symbolizes. Jesus' baptism symbolized His death and His resurrection. You've got to see that!

Romans 6:3-4

3 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 raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Listen, trickling water on someone's head doesn't symbolize what Jesus did. His baptism symbolized His identification with not only sinners, but with death. When Jesus came up out of that water it symbolized His resurrection from the dead when He burst out of the grave on the 1st Easter morning, He overwhelmed death! He overwhelmed Satan and He overwhelmed the grave!

I want you to understand something about Baptism. Baptism by immersion was the only form of Baptism until the Middle Ages? Even the Roman Catholic Church immersed until the Middle Ages. Thomas Aquinas, the Catholic Theologian, who lived in the 13th century said:

"In immersion, the setting forth of the burial of Christ is more plainly expressed, in which this manner of baptizing is more commendable." Thomas Aquinas (circa 1274)

Unfortunately, just 37 (circa) years after Aquinas said that, the Roman Catholic Church declared in 1311 that sprinkling was permissible. It is from the Roman Catholic Church that today, many Protestant denominations still sprinkle such as the Episcopalians, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Methodists...just to name a few. But, folks, in my estimation, based on what we see in the original Greek language, there is zero rationale for this practice.

So Jesus came up out of the water...

Matthew 3:16

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;

How might that have looked? Perhaps like this... The Spirit of God, descending like a dove...



This is so powerful! Do you know what the Jews of that day recognized the imagery of that dove to be? Those common folks recognized and identified the imagery of that dove as the sacrifice that most of them could afford to purchase to offer as their sacrifice at the Temple. Most of the folks coming to be baptized by John couldn't afford a lamb, so they would purchase a dove. That representation of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove would represent the anointing of God upon His Son. The King has now been anointed. Just Samuel anointed King David with oil. King Jesus was anointed with the baptism of John.

By the way, do you know what else we see here? The Trinity. We see the Father, the Son and the Spirit in this one verse. This one verse embodies the Trinity. And then the Father speaks...

Matthew 3:17

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

Why was God pleased? This was not only His Son, Jesus was the sinless, spotless, perfect sacrifice, who was humbling Himself to identify with humanity to the point of death and His Father was well pleased! God had been pleased with His Son for the last 30 years. God had examined His beloved Son and checked Him out and He said, "Perfect! Perfect!! He's ready to begin the work I've prepared for Him to do and I am well pleased!"

Who is Jesus? Well we've been trying to answer that question for weeks! I'll tell you who He is...

He's not The Buddy Jesus who came to just be your pal. He's not the "Self-Help Jesus," who exists to come running when you've gotten yourself into a bind. He's not the "Therapeutic Jesus" just hanging around to make you happy. He's not the Social Jesus, trying to save all the whales and spotted owls, making sure the United Way stays in operation. He's not the Hipster Jesus—who's desperately trying to be cool...to be the hip and happening renegade. He's not the Political Jesus, who's trying to win the popular vote and be politically correct...because He ain't running for office.

Who is Jesus? I'll tell you who Jesus is... He's the carpenter from Nazareth who spent 30 years being your average Joe. Being obedient to His parents, being a wonderful big brother, working hard in sweaty carpenter's shop so that one day He could answer the bell...

...the hour struck and His cousin was ready and God had finished His inspection... Yes...this is my Son...He's ready...and I'm well pleased!

And so to the banks of the Jordan River He came to be baptized. Why? To identify with you and with me. This Jesus, who knew no sin, came to be sin...to take all of your sin and all of mine. So that we MIGHT be HAPPY? Save the whales? Be cool? Get elected? Nope! So that we might

become the sons and daughters of God, and represent Him by living right.

Yes, God sent His One and Only Son so that you and I could by faith, repent of our sins and call on the Lord Jesus, and in so doing become joint-heirs with Him... Who is Jesus...He is the Beloved Son, the perfect Son of God...in whom He is well pleased!