

The Gospels Series: Heaven Was Opened

Speaker: Missy Carfield

Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17

SUMMARY

At Jesus' baptism heaven opens and the Father's voice declares beloved delight—showing that our ministry and identity are meant to flow from approval already given, not from a lifelong scramble to earn it.

OVERVIEW

Launching the Gospels series, Missy Carfield names the ache for approval that drives parenting, work, and church life. She then turns to Matthew 3: Jesus comes to the Jordan, insists on baptism “to fulfill all righteousness,” and as He rises the Spirit descends like a dove while the Father says, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Jesus does not begin ministry to win the Father's pleasure; He serves out of pleasure already spoken. That word reorders how disciples live—less proving, more receiving belovedness, then obeying from rest.

KEY POINTS

- Our culture rewards performance; the gospel offers belovedness first
- Jesus' baptism is not repentance for His own sin but solidarity and righteousness fulfilled
- Heaven opens: the Spirit rests on Jesus and the Father's voice affirms Him
- Identity precedes assignment—Jesus ministers from approval, not toward it
- Children and adults alike ache to hear that what they offer is enough
- Discipleship means receiving the Father's delight in Christ as our own standing
- From belovedness, we can stop hustling for validation and start living free

MEMORABLE LINES

"Jesus... lives in his ministry and his call and his life grows out of the approval that he already has from God."

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

"There is a deep ache... for approval, for validation, this pressure to measure up."

TAKEAWAY

Begin this week by receiving the Father's word over you in Christ—"beloved, well pleased"—before you try to achieve anything for Him.

SOURCE

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDfxsZ7HDUk> (captions)
- Website: <https://www.baypointchurch.com/media/ntrpm3z/the-gospels-series-heaven-was-opened>