

Get it in the Garden: Jesus the Begotten Baptizer

Overview

This message explores how Jesus is both the "begotten one" and the "baptizer" who came to restore what was lost in the Garden of Eden. Pastor Heath walked us through the parallel between Adam and Eve's fall and Jesus' redemption, showing how Christ went to both the wilderness (for Eve/the flesh man) and the garden (for Adam/the spirit man) to break sin's curse and make us complete. He was begotten so we could be begotten again and receive sonship. Not only that, but as the Anointed One, He gave us the power of the baptism in the Holy Spirit to defeat the works of the enemy and lead more people to God. Through His death, resurrection, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus makes both men and women complete as God's children, giving us the Spirit both within (for identity) and upon them (for power).

Key Points:

- God is our singular soul supply—both spiritually and completely
- Adam was begotten by God's breath (spirit man), while Eve was formed from Adam's flesh (flesh man)
- The Fall occurred when Eve lived to please the flesh instead of the spirit man, and Adam lived to please Eve instead of God
- Jesus, born of the Holy Spirit through Mary, conquered temptation in the wilderness (redeeming Eve/the flesh) and submitted to God's will in the garden (redeeming Adam/the spirit)
- Jesus is both flesh of flesh (son of Eve) and the perfect spirit man (Son of God)
- Today through Christ, there is no distinction between male and female, Jew and Gentile—all can be begotten of God, born of the Spirit.
- Believers receive the Holy Spirit within them for identity (sonship)
- Believers still need the baptism/anointing/filling of the Holy Spirit upon them for power to overcome the enemy and minister as priests to God.
- The complete package includes being born of the Spirit, baptized in water, and continually filled/anointed with the Holy Spirit.
- David's Psalm 23 illustrates both the indwelling Spirit (cup filled) and the anointing (head anointed with oil, cup overflowing) needed to face his enemies

Key Themes to Discuss

1. Seeing Without Understanding

Read: Matthew 13:13-15

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to "see but not really see" Jesus? Can you think of examples in your own life where you knew about Jesus but didn't truly understand Him?
- Why do you think people can go to church regularly and still miss who Jesus really is?
- What helped you move from knowing about Jesus to actually knowing Him?

Key Takeaway: We can be familiar with Jesus and still not "get it" without the Spirit giving us eyes to see and ears to hear.

2. The Problem in Paradise

Read: Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17; Genesis 3:1-6, 23-24

Discussion Questions:

- Pastor Heath explained that Adam represented the "spirit man" (begotten by God's breath) and Eve represented the "flesh man" (formed from Adam's flesh). What was supposed to happen in this relationship?
- How does the fall show us what happens when flesh doesn't submit to spirit, and spirit doesn't submit to God?
- In what ways do you see this same battle between flesh and spirit playing out in your own life today?

Key Takeaway: The fall happened when Eve (flesh) lived to please herself instead of the spirit, and Adam (spirit) lived to please Eve instead of God. We face this same struggle daily.

3. Jesus: The Begotten One

Read: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22; Luke 4:1-2

Discussion Questions:

- How does Jesus being "born of the Spirit" through Mary connect to God's original design for humanity?
- Why was it significant that Jesus went to the wilderness (where Adam and Eve were cast out) and faced temptation there?
- Pastor Heath said Jesus went to the wilderness for Eve and to the garden (Gethsemane) for Adam. How does this show God's heart to redeem both our flesh and our spirit?

Key Takeaway: Jesus, as the new Adam, conquered in both the wilderness and the garden, breaking the curse for both the flesh man and the spirit man.

4. Jesus: The Baptizer

Read: John 14:16-17; John 20:22; Acts 1:4-5, 8

Discussion Questions:

- What's the difference between having the Holy Spirit "with you" (like the disciples had Jesus physically present) and having the Holy Spirit "in you"?
- Why wasn't it enough for Jesus to just breathe on the disciples (John 20:22)? Why did they still need to wait for Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- Pastor Heath said we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit to have power over the enemy and be priests to God. Have you experienced this power in your life? If not, what might be holding you back?

Key Takeaway: Being saved (Spirit in us) gives us identity as God's children. Being baptized/filled with the Holy Spirit (Spirit upon us) gives us power to overcome the enemy and do God's work.

5. Identity and Authority

Read: Romans 8:15; Galatians 3:28; Psalm 23:5

Discussion Questions:

- How does understanding that you are "begotten" of God (His son or daughter) change the way you see yourself?
- What does it mean practically that "there is no longer male nor female" when it comes to receiving the Spirit and the anointing?
- Pastor Heath suggests that Adam and Eve 'weren't complete yet' even in paradise because they didn't look like Jesus. What does it mean for you to become complete in Christ's image?
- Psalm 23:5 says God prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies and anoints our head with oil. What "enemies" are you facing that you need God's anointing to overcome?

Key Takeaway: Every believer—male and female, young and old—can receive both the identity of being God's child and the anointing to be a priest and minister in God's kingdom.

Personal Reflection Questions

Take 5-10 minutes for individual reflection:

1. Do I truly "get it"—who Jesus is and what He came to give me?
 2. Have I received the Holy Spirit and experienced being born again?
 3. Have I been baptized/filled with the Holy Spirit for power to overcome the enemy?
 4. Where am I living more like Eve (pleasing the flesh) or Adam (pleasing others) instead of pleasing God?
 5. What area of my life needs the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit right now?
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Practical Applications**This Week's Challenge:****Choose one or more of the following to put into practice:****For Those Seeking Salvation:**

- If you've never surrendered your life to Jesus, talk to your small group leader or pastor about receiving Christ and being baptized in water.

For All Believers:

- Daily Declaration: Each morning this week, declare out loud: "I am a son/daughter of God. I am begotten by the Spirit. I have the power of the Holy Spirit upon me."
- Prayer for Anointing: Set aside time to ask God to fill you afresh with the Holy Spirit and His power for the specific battles you're facing.
- Face Your Wilderness: Identify one area where you're living to please the flesh instead of the Spirit. Ask God to help you submit that area to Him this week.