

John the Baptist, Week Four. 1/24/2021

**"A New Beginning. The Baptism of Jesus"** FBCLA

Matthew 3:13-17 Dr. Scott T. Arnold.

***<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."***

**Introduction:** *"To Start Anew, God's grace."*

The inauguration of Jesus ministry. The inauguration of a new presidency and administration with Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Are we open and willing to step forward and let go of the past? Are we willing to forgive and seek healing and cleansing? What can we learn from the lessons of our time? We need to start anew, and trust in God's grace and truth.

I. Jesus came to be baptized (3:13) ***<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.***

II. John the Baptist was surprised (3:14) ***<sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"***

III. Jesus assures John that God has a purpose (3:15).

***<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.***

IV. Baptism revealed Jesus Ministry and Identity (3:16-17)

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**Conclusion:** Are we willing to see Jesus as John the Baptist did? Who do we have our eyes fixed on? Who are we listening to? Who are we following? Jesus identified with us by choosing to be baptized, this foretold his eventual ministry on the cross, His death and resurrection. Do we pick up our cross, and follow Jesus into the life and service God would lead us to discover and practice?

What can we learn from the lessons of our time?

We need to start anew, and trust in God's grace and truth.

Together, and personally, may we decide to follow Jesus, not just in word, but in heart and deed.

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus choose to be baptized if He was without sin?
2. Why was it hard for John the Baptist to perform this baptism?
3. What was Jesus foretelling in the process of going down into the waters of the Jordan river and coming up and out of the waters?
4. In what way is the Trinity revealed in the Baptism of Jesus? (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). How is this helpful for faith and living today?
5. What has your experience of baptism been? If you haven't been baptized, would you like to be baptized?