

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 12-10-23
Christianity 102 – Message 32 Part 3
Jesus approaches John

1. Introduction:
 - a. Taking a look back:
 - 1) Are you willing to be a voice crying out in the wilderness today?
 - 2) John called out the Pharisee's, scribes, and Sadducees.
 - 3) We saw the danger of hypocrisy.
 - 4) Jesus declared the greatest among you is the servant.
 - b. Taking a look ahead:
 - 1) From hypocrisy to something that sets believers apart.
 - 2) Pride can be destructive – James 4:6
 - a) Sinful pride is the exaltation of self over and above another.
 - 3) Perspective is important –
2. The crowd wants to know – who are you? Matthew 3:11-12; John 1:19-27
 - a. Important moment for John.
 - 1) John told them –
 - b. Baptism by the Spirit: Matthew 3:11
 - 1) In the coming days at Pentecost – Acts 1:5
 - a) At salvation, the believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ.
 - b) This is called Baptism of the Spirit. This happens only once at salvation.
 - 2) Justification – a legal term declaring the one who has repented of their sin and confessed faith in Christ – NOT GUILTY.
 - a) Two implications – a pardon of all sin and the end of separation.
 - b) No expiration date!
 - 3) Some confuse the Baptism of the Spirit with being filled with the Spirit.
 - a) II Corinthians 5:17 –
 - c. Baptism with fire: Matthew 3:11
 - 1) This speaks of judgement.
 - a) The day when the fire of God's justice will burn away the lies and the hypocrisy and reveal the truth.
 - b) Verse 12 –
 - 2) Application – The picture that John presents is strong.
 - a) The chaff represents –
 - b) Do you know anyone who right now is headed for the fire?
 - d. So, what about the sandals? Matthew 3:11
 - 1) John considered himself unworthy to even bear the Deliverer's sandals.
 - 2) Application – John recognized the Greatness of God and that changed the way he saw himself.
3. Jesus walks up and asks John a question. Matthew 3:13-15; John 1:29-30
 - a. John, will you baptize men?
 - 1) Jesus is walking from Galilee to Jordan where John and the multitude is gathered.
 - 2) Why would Jesus need to be baptized?
 - a) To show that He accepted John as God's prophet.
 - b) Jesus identified with the very people He came to save.
 - c) Picture of His future baptism on the cross.
 - 3) Baptism implies identification.

4. Jesus is baptized. Matthew 3:16-17

a. The Spirit of God:

1) Coming like a dove identified Jesus to John. John 1:31-34

b. Thank God for the ministry of the Spirit in the life of believers.

1) Baptism of the Spirit, I Cor. 12:13; Indwelling of the Spirit, I Cor. 3:16; Sealing of the Spirit, Eph. 1:13 and the Filling of the Spirit, Eph. 5:18

c. A good example here.

1) The Holy Spirit came to guide Jesus in His future work.

d. The ministry of the Spirit of God in the life of a believer is truly amazing.

1) At salvation you get 100% of the Holy Spirit.

a) It is not a matter of me getting more of the Spirit, it is a matter of the Spirit getting more of me.

2) Application – what is the only thing that can keep you from walking in the Spirit?

e. God the Father speaks: Matthew 3:17

1) “My Beloved Son”

5. Today’s Take Away:

a. Pride – the exaltation of self over or above another. Are you walking in pride?

b. The day of judgement is coming fast.

1) One day God will separate the wheat from the chaff.

c. Are you learning to walk in the Spirit?

d. Who is Jesus to you?