All In with Jordan Easley

The Easter Story Begins With A Baptism

Walking The Via Dolorosa | Week 3 | Matthew 3:13-17

INTRODUCTION

Before there was a crucifixion, and before there was a resurrection, there was a baptism. Three years before Jesus died, He was baptized. We don't usually associate his baptism with Easter weekend because, the truth is, three years is a long time, and many things happened in Jesus' life and ministry between His baptism in the Jordan River and His grave experience in the garden tomb. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in how the story ends that we forget where the story begins. But in this message, we're going to change that and focus on what we can learn from the beginning of Jesus' story – His baptism.

KEY POINTS

1. The Baptism Of Jesus Was An Inauguration

For Jesus, this moment of baptism was a new beginning. For **30** years, Jesus lived a life of anonymity and obscurity.

When Jesus came from heaven to earth—He laid down his crown and the Bible says in Hebrews 2:17, He became like us. He was tempted and tested, just like we're tempted and tested, and yet, Jesus never sinned. The One who was eternal, and infinite was now roaming the earth searching for food and shelter and rest. Jesus shed real tears. He experienced real emotions. Jesus suffered like we suffer and felt the feelings that we feel.

For 30 years, that was the story of Jesus. Even though Jesus was the Son of God and God the Son, His life was very similar to ours. But in this moment, the moment of His baptism, everything changed. It was a new beginning.

2. The Baptism Of Jesus Was A Demonstration

In the beginning, baptism was an external statement that said: I'm going to do something religious so that God can accept me. But then John the Baptist comes on the scene and says: Today marks a new beginning!

This baptism isn't a baptism of religion. It's a baptism of confession that says, "I'm a sinner in need of a Savior, and religion can't save me!" It's a declaration that says, "I need somebody to do something for me that I can't do for myself!"

NOTES

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And then John shows up, points at Jesus, and says, "That's why He's here! Jesus came to do for us what we are incapable of doing for ourselves." That's why Jesus was baptized, as an inauguration and as a demonstration.	NOTES
3. The Baptism Of Jesus Was An Illustration The word "baptize" comes from the word, "baptizo" which means, "to fully immerse or submerge." It paints the picture of a new beginning and uses the symbolism of a grave to tell the story.	
The baptism of Jesus was an illustration. It was a foreshadowing of the Easter story - Life. Death. Burial. Resurrection. Jesus' baptism told a story, and it also showed the people what was coming.	
4. Baptism Is A Symbol Of Identification When Jesus was baptized, it told the story of the gospel. But not only was this baptism an illustration. Baptism is a symbol of identification. It was designed to be a testimony that would spotlight a person's identity.	
That's what baptism was designed to be for Christ-followers. It's an outward expression of an inward decision to trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord.	
Jesus modeled baptism and illustrated its significance, and then He commanded us to do the same after we were saved.	

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. How does Jesus' baptism point to other significant points in His ministry?
- 2. Had you ever considered baptism to be the beginning of Jesus' story? Why or why not?
- 3. If you've been saved, have you been baptized yet? If not, what is holding you back from doing so?