

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

JESUS IS KING



The Baptism of Jesus

Text: Matthew 3:13-17

1. Jesus comes to John for baptism. - Matthew 3:13-14

This is a significant emergence of Jesus from His many years of obscurity. These first works in His public ministry carry great meaning in understanding the rest of His ministry.

Jesus came: No one compelled Jesus to be baptized.

I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?: John recognized the inherent irony in this situation. Jesus had nothing to repent of, and it would be more appropriate for Jesus to baptize John.

2. Jesus insists to be baptized by John. - Matthew 3:15

Jesus understood why this seemed strange to John, but it was nevertheless necessary **to fulfill all righteousness**.

It wasn't that this one act in itself fulfilled all righteousness, but it was another important step in the overall mission of Jesus to identify with fallen and sinful man, a mission that would only finally be fulfilled at the cross.

Then he suffered him: The purpose was for Jesus to completely identify Himself with sinful man. This is exactly what He did in His birth, His upbringing, and His death. So here, as John **suffered Him** to be, Jesus stood in the place of sinful man.

Some Bible students have identified seven baptisms in Scripture. The seven baptisms are usually listed as being these:

The baptism of Moses - 1 Corinthians 10:1–3

The baptism of John - Mark 1:4

The baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:13–17

The baptism of fire - Matthew 3:11–12

The baptism of the Holy Spirit - Eph 1:13–14, *1 Cor 12:13*

The baptism of the cross - Mark 10:35–39

The baptism of believers - Matthew 28:19

3. The Divine witness to Jesus' Deity. - Matthew 3:16-17

It was important for God the Father to publicly demonstrate that Jesus' baptism was not just like anyone else's, in the sense of being a display of repentance. It was *not* a display of

repentance, but instead it was a righteous identification with sinners, motivated by love, was *well pleasing* to the Father.

The Spirit of God descending like a dove: This was a dramatic experience with the Holy Spirit, with the **Spirit of God** coming upon Jesus in a way that could actually be seen (somewhat similar to the coming of the Spirit of God upon the gathered disciples in Acts 2:1-4).

This was not a temporary gift of the **Spirit of God**. John the Baptist's testimony in John 1:32-33, when he said that he saw ***"the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him."***

The Spirit of God descending... My beloved Son: We should not miss the obvious point: *God the Father loves God the Son, and communicated that love by God the Holy Spirit*. Here we see the love relationship and cooperation between the Persons of the Trinity, in one occasion when the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were all manifested at the same time.

There is no suggestion that Jesus *became* the Son of God with this experience. "We shouldn't assume that Jesus had no previous experience of the Spirit; the vision symbolizes his commissioning for his Messianic work, not a new spiritual status."



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have you been baptized after trusting Christ as your Savior?
2. What does the term baptism mean?
3. Why do you think Jesus was baptized?
4. How was John's baptism different from Believer's Baptism?
5. What was the significance of the presence of God the Father and God the Spirit at the baptism of Jesus?
6. What is the difference between spiritual baptism at salvation and water baptism after salvation?
7. How does water baptism identify you with your church?
8. How did the first three words of verse 13, "Then cometh Jesus", speak to your heart from the message?