

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; John 1:19-34

When Jesus was about thirty years old, he left his home and work as a carpenter to begin his teaching work.

At the same time John the Baptist was preaching in the wilderness of Judea. He told the people to repent, because the kingdom of Heaven was very near. John was the one spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, who said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." This John dressed in clothes made of camel's skin. Locusts and wild honey were his food.

People from Jerusalem and Judea and all the area around there went out to the wilderness to hear him preach. And John baptized those who repented of their sins in the Jordan River.

The Jews sent out priests and Levites from Jerusalem asking John who he was. He told them that he wasn't the Christ. Then they wondered if he was Elijah come back from the dead, or that prophet. He answered them that he was not! Again they asked him, who he was and what he had to say for himself. John said to them, "I am here to prepare the way for the Lord." Then they asked, "Why are you baptizing people if you are not Christ or Elijah, or that prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but there is a man standing among you that you don't know. He is the one who was preferred before me, but he comes after me. I'm not even worthy to untie his shoe laces."

The very next day John saw Jesus coming towards him. He said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is the one that I told you of."

Jesus asked John to baptize him, but John said, "No, I need to be baptized by you." Then Jesus said, "Allow it to be done this way now, for it will accomplish God's plan." Jesus was not baptized to show repentance for his own sin, because he was without sin. But Jesus was baptized to show that he was personally confessing the sin of all sinners.

Then John took Jesus down into the water and dipped him under it, that is he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. When Jesus came up out of the river, the heaven was opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and landing on him. Then they heard a voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

In the matter of baptism, as in all things, Jesus pleased his Father, and showed perfect obedience. He gave an example to all who would believe on his name: be baptized in public to show repentance from rebellion and sin against God. Obedience in this matter shows that a person has started a new life of obedience and service to God.

LEARN: Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38 b

1. Color Jesus in the Jordan River
with John.

2. Color dove white.

3. Cut out dove + clouds.

4. Pull string through 2 holes + tie in
back of paper.

5. Tape dove on string or pull under
clouds, then descending on Jesus' head.

6. Tape edges of clouds to paper edge
in upper left corner.



