



Lesson 8 – The Baptism

Based on Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21, 22.

Tidings of John the Baptist and his wonderful announcement, spread throughout Galilee. The message reached the peasants in the remotest hill towns, and the fisher folk by the sea, and in these simple, earnest hearts found its truest response.

In Nazareth it was told in the carpenter shop that had been Joseph's, and One recognized the call. His time had come. Turning from His daily toil, He bade farewell to His mother and followed in the steps of His countrymen who were flocking to the Jordan.

1) How did John react when he saw Jesus?

Matthew 3:13-14 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John _____ him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

When Jesus came to be baptized, John recognized in Him a purity of character that he had never before perceived in any man. The very atmosphere of His presence was holy and awe-inspiring.

Never had he come in contact with a human being from whom there breathed an influence so divine. All this was in harmony with what had been revealed to John regarding the Messiah. Yet he shrank from granting the request of Jesus. How could he, a sinner, baptize the Sinless One? And why should He who needed no repentance submit to a rite that was a confession of guilt to be washed away?

2) What did Jesus say to John?

Matthew 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all _____. Then he suffered him.

Jesus did not receive baptism as a confession of guilt on His own account. He identified Himself with sinners, taking the steps that we are to take, and doing the work that we must do. His life of suffering and patient endurance after His baptism was also an example to us.

3) What happened next?

Matthew 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was _____, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well _____.

Upon coming up out of the water, Jesus bowed in prayer on the riverbank. A new and important era was opening before Him. He was now, upon a wider stage, entering on the conflict of His life. Though He was the Prince of Peace, His coming must be as the unsheathing of a sword.

Alone He must tread the path; alone He must bear the burden. Upon Him who had laid off His glory and accepted the weakness of humanity the redemption of the world must rest. He saw and felt it all, but His purpose remained steadfast.



Never before have the angels listened to such a prayer. They are eager to bear to their loved Commander a message of assurance and comfort. But no; the Father Himself will answer the petition of His Son. Direct from the throne issue the beams of His glory. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour's head descends a dovelike form of purest light, a fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly One.

- 4) What did the Father say about Jesus in the presence of everyone?
Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved _____, in whom I am well pleased.
- 5) What did John the Baptist say afterward about his cousin?
John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the _____ of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

None among the hearers, and not even the speaker himself, discerned the import of these words, "the Lamb of God."

- 6) What did Isaac ask Abraham about the sacrifice on Mt Moriah?
Genesis 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the _____ for a burnt offering?
- 7) What was Abraham's reply to his son?
Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will _____ himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

In the ram divinely provided in the place of Isaac, Abraham saw a symbol of Him who was to die for the sins of men.

- 8) What did Isaiah prophesy about our Saviour?
Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the _____ of us all.
Isaiah 53:7 He was _____, and he was _____, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

The people of Israel had not understood the lesson. Many of them regarded the sacrificial offerings much as the heathen looked upon their sacrifices, as gifts by which they themselves might propitiate the Deity.

God desired to teach them that from His own love comes the gift which reconciles them to Himself.

- 9) What did Paul tell the Ephesian believers?
Ephesians 1:6-7 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us _____ in the beloved. In whom we have _____ through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

The glory that rested upon Christ is a pledge of the love of God for us. It tells us of the power of prayer, how the human voice may reach the ear of God, and our petitions find acceptance in the courts of heaven.



By sin, earth was cut off from heaven, and alienated from its communion; but Jesus has connected it again with the sphere of glory.

10) What did John say in his first letter?

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see _____ as he is.

Our Redeemer has opened the way so that the most sinful, the neediest, the most oppressed and despised, may find access to the Father.

11) How does Jesus describe Himself in the message to the Philadelphian church?

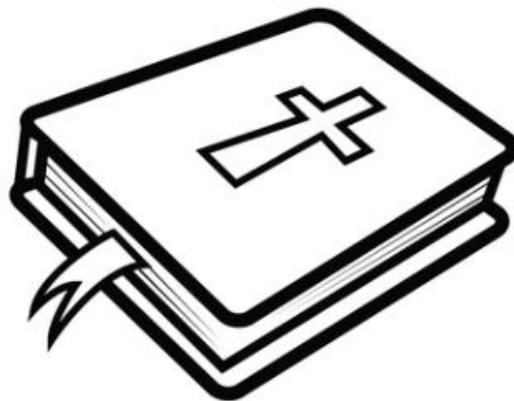
Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is _____, he that is _____, he that hath the _____ of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

His love has encircled man, and reached the highest heaven. The light which fell from the open portals upon the head of our Saviour will fall upon us as we pray for help to resist temptation. The voice which spoke to Jesus says to every believing soul, This is My beloved child, in whom I am well pleased.

Can you see the enormity of the task Jesus took on?

Are you interested in having the strength that Christ had here on earth?

When is the time to seek His blessing?



Thy Word have I hid my heart