

The Baptism of Our Lord ~ Sunday, January 12, 2025

“Manifestations of Glory ~ Baptism”

Mark 1:1-11

If the two _____ of the Christian year are Christmas and Easter, Epiphany serves a sort of _____. In other words, before we take the road to Jerusalem with Jesus in Lent, before we walk the way of the Cross with Jesus in Holy week, it's important for us to encounter and _____ upon the person of Jesus.

Next to the events of Christmas and Easter, the baptism of Jesus is one of the most _____ events in His life because it marked the beginning of His earthly _____.

“John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins...” (Mark 1:4-5)

Although the rituals of Judaism included various ceremonial _____, baptism by full _____ into water was not a normal part of Jewish religious practice. The closest parallel was when Gentile _____ to Judaism were washed in mikveh baths to signify their entrance into the faith.

For John to call the Jews to be baptized, in a way designed for non-believers, would have been shocking and _____ at the time. To confess that they were no better than Gentiles was, for many Jews, undignified and _____.

“In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John.” (Mark 1:9)

John's baptism was a sign of _____ designed for sinners as a declaration that they'd forsaken their wicked ways and turned back to God. If this baptism was _____ to the self-righteous sinners in John's audience, how much more _____ must it have been for the Messiah Himself to seek baptism. Jesus was the _____ Son of God. His life required no _____ or repentance. He needed no _____ or transformation.

WHY JESUS CAME TO BE BAPTIZED

#1. Jesus was baptized to _____ as one of us.

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way

to fulfill all righteousness.’” (Matthew 3:13-15)

“tried to prevent” = *diekoloyo* = in the imperfect tense, indicating that John was _____ trying to prevent Jesus—emphasizing how inappropriate it was for the Lord to receive a baptism designed for sinners.

John's attitude to Jesus was the exact _____ of his response to the religious leaders of the day. He publically confronted their _____ and commanded them to _____. He refused to baptize them on account of their _____, duplicity, and impenitence.

Jesus doesn't _____ John's assessment of His sinless perfection, and answers John's objections by explaining that His baptism was _____ and proper, so that He might fulfil all the _____ requirements of God. It was God's will for John to baptize the people; and because Jesus perfectly _____ to the will of God in everything, it was fitting for Him to also receive the baptism of John.

“Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Even though He was without sin, by standing in the Jordan, Jesus was standing in _____ with the rest of us—with those in _____ to sin.

It's significant that when Jesus _____ Himself of all His rights and privileges as God and stepped into the ring as our representative, He was faced with the full ugliness of our human condition in _____.

#2. Jesus was baptized to demonstrate His _____.

Righteous = *dikaisyne* = _____

It is often used a _____ for the Christian life—a life that's lived out in relationship with God, through faithful _____.

Righteousness can only be _____ or give to us through Christ. We can't just repent and then go living the same way—repeating the same sins over and over—we need to receive Christ's righteousness and then seek to follow God's ways through faithful obedience.

Jesus fulfilled all righteousness, not only through His life of perfect obedience, but also through His _____ death on the cross.

“God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The righteous requirement of God’s law was _____ as a payment for sin. Christ’s death on the cross _____ in His baptism, _____ that debt in full.

The sinless Lamb _____ to a baptism designed for sinners, foreshadowing that He would soon submit Himself and die as our _____, a death deserved by sinners.

#3. Jesus was baptized to _____ His ministry.

“And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’” (Mark 1:10-11)

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, a _____ scene immediately began to unfold, which might be best described as Jesus’ royal _____; a glorious event that not only manifested God’s _____, but also the divine inauguration of His public ministry. This regal ceremony was distinctly _____.

schizo =

“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.” (Isaiah 64:1)

With beauty and gentleness, the _____, like a dove, descended upon Jesus, to provide a visible symbol of divine _____, authentication, and _____ at the outset of Jesus’ ministry. The baptism of Jesus wasn’t merely a ceremonial act; it was a _____ of God’s glory in the fullness of His presence in the person of Jesus.

The fact that Jesus is the Son of God is _____ to the gospel message.

a) It underscores the truth that Jesus is one in _____ with God.

- He possessed the same nature as the Father (John 1:1)
- He is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of God’s nature (Hebrews 1:3)
- He is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- He is the One in whom the fullness of deity was pleased to dwell (Colossians 2:9)

b) It tells us that Jesus is _____ by God.

Beloved = *agapetos* = expresses the _____ deep and eternally profound

relationship enjoyed by the Father with the Son. Jesus is uniquely the object of the Father’s highest _____.

Although this same word is used elsewhere in the NT to describe God’s love for _____, He loves His Son supremely above all others. In fact, it’s only because believers are in the _____, that they are privileged to receive the Father’s love at all.

c) It show us that Jesus was _____ to His Father.

In His _____ as a baby in Bethlehem, the Son perfectly submitted to the Father’s _____, and in His death, He fully satisfied the Father’s _____. The Son would offer Himself as the _____ sacrifice for sinners, and the Father was delighted to receive that sacrifice.

It OT Israel, an acceptable sacrifice to God had to be _____ and unblemished. Only the Son—the perfect Lamb of God—could ever fully meet those requirements. At the Cross, God’s justice was fully _____ by the pure sacrifice of the Son. Thus, the Father was well-pleased with the Son—both in His life and death.



Jesus’ baptism in the river Jordan was a _____ event in His life and ministry. It was also a pivotal point in _____ history, marking the beginning of the end of the old covenant, the coming of the new, and the inauguration of the Kingdom of God. No longer would people be reliant on the sacrificial system to be made _____ with God. Through Jesus and His finished work on the cross, people could be saved, simply by coming to Him in _____.

When we think of Baptism today in the context of the Christian faith, we often focus on, and even get caught up on, how far **we** must _____. It’s not about how far we go, its about how far _____ went.

Jesus’ baptism was a declaration that there’s no place too _____ for Him to go. He chose the Jordan because it represented the depths of humanity’s _____. The tears of the penitent, the dirt of the downtrodden, the weight of generations of _____—it all flowed into that muddy water. And Jesus chose to step right into the _____ of it all.

Was there any part of you Jesus didn’t reach? Any corner of your pain, regret, or shame He left untouched? NO. Jesus’ baptism declares that He meets us at our _____ so that He might lift us into the _____ of God’s love.

Jesus went all the way _____ for you.