

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

INTRODUCTION

Read 2Thessalonians 3:16

- God used John The Baptist to prepare the way for Christ by calling people to true repentance (**Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6**).
- Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness and to show His dedication and full obedience to the Father.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Matthew 3:1-6

- John The Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by shining a light to the people showing the need for repentance.
- John was calling for his hearers to change the way they saw things and to change their behavior as well.
- In Israel the prophets called the people from worshipping idols and return to the covenant of obedience (**Jeremiah 4:1-2**).
- John's baptism involved confession of sin resulting in a radical redirection of thought and life. Normally the baptism was for gentile proselytes embracing Judaism as a way of life, not for Jews.
- In the Old Testament baptism was associated with the idea of purification (**Isaiah 1:16, Ezekiel 36:25-28**).
- John's location (wilderness) symbolizes the coming of a new exodus, the final time of salvation. Also, the exclusion from all that society values.
- The straight path and the way refers to Jesus Christ (**John 14:6**).

Matthew 3:7-12

- John's message of repentance was spoken to the religious leaders. John The Baptist met them with a stern reproof. John referred to them as brood of vipers (They were the offspring wicked parents, crafty, malignant, and mischievous people).
- John's baptism was a religious ceremony that was a message of repentance in preparation for the coming Messiah.
- John recognized there was someone greater than him coming and that He would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
- Baptism with the Holy Spirit results in a judgement of separation: bearing fruit (v10) and winnowing fork (v12). A separation of believers and nonbelievers will occur (**Malachi 3:2-3**).
- God will create new children of Abraham, Gentile believers and Jewish believers.

Matthew 3:13-17

- John recognized that Jesus was greater than he was. So, John did not think he was worthy to baptize Jesus.
- We can through baptism identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (**Romans 6:4-5**). Jesus was also identifying with us as sinners (**2Corinthians 5:21**).
- When Jesus was baptized the Spirit came upon Him to visibly equip and commission Him to understand His mission (**Isaiah 11:2**).
- Jesus' identity as the Son of God was declared and confirmed at His baptism. Baptism of Jesus would be a priestly presentation of the ultimate sacrifice. All the glorious truth of God's mercy through Jesus Christ is on display at His baptism.

Points to consider

- Repentance is a **response** to God's call to salvation. It includes a genuine sorrow for one's sin, **turning from sin to Christ**, and a life that reflects lasting **change** and **transformation**.
- Read and meditate on **Luke 13:3**
- To see God we must recognize the things that prevent us from seeing His ways.
- A transformed heart is the beginning of repentance, confession, and changed behavior.
- When did John first realize that Jesus was God's son?
- In **Matthew 3:16-17**, we see the revealing of the triune.