

Baptism of Jesus -- Making Our Father Proud

Matthew 3:12-17

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. ¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, 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:

¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Making My Dad Proud

Story begins with John the Baptist preaching repentance and baptizing the people. Purpose of his preaching and the purpose of his baptism ministry is to prepare people for the coming of Christ and avoid God's wrath.

- Baptism was a key to getting ready. A process. If you don't do it right, it won't work right.
- Lots of folks were coming to the baptism, but not everybody was coming correct.
- Verse 6, says people were confessing their sins.....part of the process.
- Verse 7 says there were some other people....John called them poisonous snakes who were showing up too but they were not trying to change or repent of their sins.
 - Poisonous folk want the benefits and the blessings but don't want a changed lifestyle.
 - Show up because it looks good but ain't trying to do good. Looking good and doing good ain't the same thing. I used to go to church, but I was still no good.

So what..... why should we care what John was preaching. Because the message ain't changed. You still need to go through the process of baptism in order to be prepared for the coming of Christ.

- The same way people showed up to John's baptismal service is the same way folk come to church today.
 - Some come because they need a change on the inside. They know God ain't happy with their lives so they go through the process of pleasing the Father. They ain't fake or phony, instead, they looking for a change.
 - Some folk though show up because it looks good, or they looking for a breakthrough and a hook up but ain't looking to really change. Instead of turning from sin, when they leave church they run back into sin.
 - You still have some poisonous people showing up for church. Poisonous people ain't ready for Christ, because they ain't coming correct.

V13. After all of this, Jesus shows up to be baptized. We need to understand why this is important to us. He comes after all this because some folk ain't doing it right.

- Jesus showing up tells us that he agrees with, is down with, and validates what John is doing. If Jesus is doing it, there must be something to it. WWJD.

V14. What Jesus is asking doesn't make any sense to John. John asks a question and Jesus has an answer.

V15. To fulfill all righteousness. He didn't have to do it, he didn't need to do it, but he knew we needed him to do it. I need Jesus to be baptized so I can know how to go through this process. Because if I do it right, I'll be in right standing with God.

- My dad loved me and he wanted me to be successful and make him proud. So he not only told me what to do, he sometimes would demonstrate it and show me how to do it. That way I could get it right.
- God is our Father, and he didn't just send John to preach and tell us what to do, He also sent Jesus to show us the way. Jesus is saying this today....Let me show you the way to go. My dad didn't have all the answers to every one of my problems....but my Father in heaven has my answers.

V16. The process of baptism done correctly. How to come correct.

- Humble. Confessing that you ain't got this all together yet. Some people got too much pride to come correct. When you come to the place where you know you can't make it without God, you can't do this thing on your own. Your education, your strength, good looks, wits, your hustle, when you're finally done trying to do it your way....then you are doing this proper like.
 - This thing doesn't work unless you've been down. Start of the process....I need Jesus.
- After you've been down, expect to get back up.....quickly.
- If you do this thing right, you won't be down for long, you've got to come straight up. Baptism isn't designed to keep you down, it is designed to lift you up. That's good news, if you are down with Jesus, straightway you should be coming up pretty soon. Jesus is demonstrating how this works...you won't be down for long, there is an expiration date on you being down, when you are down with Christ.
 - I didn't say everything would be fixed right then, but you won't be down about it.
 - Everything may not be just the way I want it in my life yet, but I ain't down about it; I'm up, I'm looking up, and my future looks bright. I don't complain as much as I used to.
 - If you've been down with Jesus, you really should be up by now, and if I'm up, I'm still in the fight.
- After he goes through the process, heaven is opened to Him, and gifts from heaven land on Him.
 - The Spirit lands on him, power lands on him, blessings land on him, things are available to him now that wasn't available before. He has what He needs to go further.

- Until you come correct through the baptism process, some things you need and desire to make it through your next season, won't fall on you.
- If heaven wasn't opened to Him until after He was baptized, there may be some things we've been waiting for, some doors we need opened that are still closed....and they will stay closed until we come correct through the process.

V17. Validation from the Father that He was not just pleased, but well pleased. God declares Jesus to be His Son. In fact, God brags about Him being His Son. A proud Father, not ashamed of His Son.

- Jesus goes through the process because he knows it will make the Father happy. Instead of pleasing ourselves all the time, we ought to be looking to please God. How can I please God and get some blessings falling my way? I need some things from heaven to land on me.
- We ought to seek to make the Father happy. Jesus through his baptism shows us that doing this pleases God. Instead of pleasing ourselves all the time, instead of looking out for ourselves, we ought to be looking to please God. How can I please God and get some blessings falling my way? I need some things from heaven to land on me.
 - Be baptized. Not just the water baptism. Go through the spiritual process:
 - Humble submission to God. You must recognize you need God. This is always the first step.
 - Be down with Jesus and get up in victory. Being down means turning from yourself. Putting down pride, your way, your plan, your desires so you can turn to God.
 - When you get up again, you are giving up yourself and putting your hope in Jesus alone.
 - When you are down with Jesus, expect to get up, expect the Spirit and power from heaven to land on you, expect blessings from heaven to start falling on you; things that were not available to you before will be falling on you in just a minute.
 - Expect a new identity and confirmation of who you are. Know that you are in right standing because you are pleasing God. Being in right standing pleases God, and baptism puts you in right standing with God.
 - Something about pleasing your Father should make you feel good. I know it makes God happy and He'll be happy to have you as His Son.

A different Version Preached entitled, "Let Me Show You the Way to Go"

The story begins earlier in the chapter with John the Baptist preaching repentance for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Preparing people for the arrival of Jesus. You better be ready before he comes



around again. Verse 6 states the people were confessing their sins. Confessing of sins is a part of baptism. Verse 7, some folk showed up for baptism but didn't confess or repent of their sins. Church folk....snakes. John calls them out, Wonder...how did you get here? Some come to worship Him and some come for the power, but not the purification and denying of self. They want the power but not the changed lifestyle. Just a public show. I used to come to church just to show up. People would ask me the same thing..."how did you get here?" I may have been drunk a few hours ago. I didn't come to confess or repent or change...I came so I could justify staying the way I was.

The time for fruit inspection is coming. God is going to judge your fruit. This ain't no play thing. Some folk will show up to the baptism with a heart and mind to confess and repent and to turn from sin to bringing good fruit. Some folk are showing up just to look good. This ain't no pool party, it's a baptism, and some people will show up and still produce bad fruit. But the day is coming when God judgement will arrive and play time will be over.

John is laying this word down, but Jesus shows up to demonstrate and illustrate by example. You can tell somebody to do something, and you can tell them how to do it, but they may never get it right until you show them.

V13. After John has been preaching repentance, then comes Jesus to demonstrate, this is how you do it. Jesus wants John to baptize him.

- Baptism is part of the confession of sins and repentance. Problem is Jesus didn't have anything to confess. He was without sin.

V14. John doesn't do it right away. Doesn't make sense to him. Why are you coming to me, when I should be coming to you? John recognized that Jesus didn't need to go through the process of baptism. Baptism wasn't necessary for him...he didn't need to do it for himself. John is asking a valid question. Jesus is requesting something of him that he doesn't understand and it doesn't make sense in the natural.

V15. Jesus gives him the answer. That's good news, when you don't understand something, when you don't understand why it seems God is asking you to do something, perhaps you just need to ask Him, and He'll give you the answer. John has a question and Jesus speaks a word which gives him his answer.

- I've been getting a lot of answers to my life questions by asking God and reading His response. The answer is in His words and His words are in the Bible.
- The answer; allow this to happen because it becometh us....meaning it is fitting for us....there is benefit, it makes us look good to fulfill all righteousness, or to show others the way or to go through this process even if it isn't necessary for our benefit. Performing the true baptism process fulfills all righteousness or puts you in right standing with the Father.
- To complete all the steps of the reconciling process.

- To fulfill all righteousness means trying to always please God. Jesus knew that going through the baptism even though he didn't need to for himself, would be pleasing to the Father.
- What John and been preaching and teaching, Jesus is about to give a demonstration of how this is done for real. He also validates that what John is preaching and doing through baptism is approved by Jesus and God.
- Everybody was coming out to get baptized but not everyone was coming correct, Jesus gives a proper demonstration of how to please the Father.

V16. Jesus' baptism, in order for Him to be baptized, he had to go down. He had to allow himself to be down.

- He created us and yet humbles himself to be down. Until you humble yourself, put off your pride, you will never truly be baptized the way Jesus was baptized, you will just be all wet but not spiritually clean.
- If you do this thing right, you won't be down for long, you've got to come straight up. Baptism isn't designed to keep you down, it is designed to lift you up. That's good news, if you are down with Jesus, straightway you should be coming up pretty soon. Jesus is demonstrating how this works...you won't be down for long, there is an expiration date on you being down, when you are down with Christ.
- Heavens were opened for and to Him and the Holy Spirit landed on him.
 - Wait a minute, after he goes through the process, heaven is opened to him and stuff from heaven falls on him.
 - Spirit lands on him, power lands on him, blessings land on him, things are available to him now that wasn't available before.
 - Jesus is trying to show you something. If heaven was opened after Jesus went through the process of heaven.....then it must have been closed before.
 - You want heaven to be opened to you, we want blessings to fall down on us, we may be wondering why power ain't landing on us, we may be wondering why heaven ain't dropping some favor on us....it might be that heaven is closed to you and the key to opening that door is baptism done correctly by faith. Jesus is trying to show us something.

V17. Validation from the Father that He was not just pleased, but well pleased. God declares Jesus to be His Son, that He is loved by the Father, and that He is pleased. In fact, God brags about Him being His Son. A proud Father, not ashamed of His Son.

- We ought to seek to make the Father happy. Jesus through his baptism shows us that doing this pleases God. Instead of pleasing ourselves all the time, instead of looking out for ourselves, we ought to be looking to please God. How can I please God and get some blessings falling my way? I need some things from heaven to land on me.

- Be baptized. Not just the water baptism. Go through the spiritual process:
- Humble submission to God. You must recognize you need God. This is always the first step.
- Be down with Jesus and get up in victory. Being down means turning from yourself self. Putting down pride, your way, your plan, your desires so you can turn to God.
- When you get up again, you are giving up yourself and putting your hope in Jesus alone.
- When you are down with Jesus, expect to get up, expect the Spirit and power from heaven to land on you, expect blessings from heaven to start falling on you; things that were not available to you before will be falling on you in just a minute.
- Expect a new identity and confirmation of who you are. Know that you are in right standing because you are pleasing God. Being in right standing pleases God, and baptism puts you in right standing with God.
- Something about pleasing your Father should make you feel good. I know it makes God happy and He'll be happy to have you as His Son.

Matthew 4:1

V1. Why you need to be baptized and filled with and led by the Spirit.....because it will be the key to going through temptation and attacks from the enemy.

Are you down with Jesus so you can get up proper like. I just came by to prepare the way and tell you what you need to do in order to get ready before Jesus comes again.

When I'm going through, I share that with my kids, because I want to give them a demonstration for how to do this faith thing the right way. Easy to tell somebody to have faith, but some folks won't understand until you give them a demonstration.