

Baptism of Jesus-- Let Me Show You the Way to Go....Jesus is trying to show you something...Making

Matthew 3:12-17

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ³ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias (Isa 40:3-4), saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, ⁶ And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: ⁹ And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. ¹⁰ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: ¹² Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

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.

- The people were confessing their sins. Confessing of sins is a part of baptism.
- Church folk showed up to the party but didn't get baptized and therefore didn't confess or repent of their sins.
- Church folk....snakes. Wonder...how did you get here? Why call them vipers?
- Question, why would they not get baptized too?
 - John seems to imply that the self-righteous think within themselves that they don't need to repent because they already have an inheritance through Abraham, but not by Abraham's faith, but through a natural bloodline.
- Some come to get right with God.
- Some want the power but not the purification and denying of self. Want the power but not the changed lifestyle. I used to come to church just to show up.

- People would ask me the same thing...how did you get here? Just drunk a few hours ago. Didn't come to confess or repent or change...I came so I could justify staying the way I was.
- This is a stern warning from John of the judgement to come. While John is the front runner baptizing with water, Jesus comes to continue with the process that follows and this is specifically the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus pushes us further through the process.
 - We need to be aware of the process and apply to produce fruit that is received in the harvest to come.

But the day is coming when God ain't going to be playing.

¹³ 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.

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.

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 an 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 an answer.

- The answer; allow this to happen because it becometh us....meaning it is fitting for us....there is benefit, it makes us fulfill all righteousness, or to show others the way or to go through this process even if it isn't necessary for our benefit, doing 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.
 - Jesus loves us enough to go through this process for our benefit.
- He also validates that what John is preaching and doing through baptism is approved by Jesus and God.

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 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 left 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.
 - Here is an important point, confirmation from God is provided that we are His, He is our Father, we are in right standing and in line for an inheritance.
 - 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 wondering why power ain't landing on us, we 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. Jesus trying to show us something.

V17. Validation from the Father that He was not just pleased, but well pleased. Validation from the Father. 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 process:
- Humble submission to God.
- Repent. Turn from sin and self.
- Be down with Jesus and get up in victory.
- 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.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

"Then". Key word. Something had to happen before Jesus steps into the wilderness transition.

In Chapter 3 we find that he first takes the following steps in Matthew 3:13-17:

First, he must humble himself and recognize the need to do this. This requires sacrifice.



Next, he goes into the water, a symbol of burying self; then he rises straight up out of the water. The next steps the Holy Spirit lands on Him. Those around him hear God declare that this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

Likewise, if we want to please our Father, we also must follow these same steps.

- Recognize the need to get right with God.
- Turn from trusting in yourself and humbly submit to God and put your past behind you.
- Rise in the new hope you have by faith in Jesus Christ

Whenever you do these three steps, His Spirit comes alive in you, and you are born again in Christ. The Father is always well pleased and celebrates when we follow these steps and come correct.

Only then can you enter the next phase of transition. Only then are you ready to handle the wilderness.

Notice, Jesus is not making decisions on his own. He is being led by the Spirit. The Spirit is requiring that he enter the wilderness....to again fulfill all righteousness or to demonstrate how we can make it through the wilderness transition.

The devil and temptation are waiting for him there. Salvation doesn't mean you won't have some battles in the wilderness. The wilderness is part of the process. Quite the contrary. It means you will know how to defeat your problems when they show up.

40 days, the number in the Bible for probation. Our Lord is hungry in His flesh. Notice, he is facing the same situation the Children of Israel were facing. We saw last week that they didn't handle things well when they ran out of food in the wilderness. Let's see how Jesus handles physical difficulties when the devil shows up to take advantage of our situation and condition.

The attack:

- Comes in the form of a question. The question is designed to cause doubt in your trusting in the word of God.
- If you're the Son of God, take matters into your own hands and turn these stones into biscuits. This seems innocent enough, and sort of makes sense but what the devil is really saying is this:
 - Why are you going through all this hunger if you're really the Son of God?
 - Why are you still waiting on God to bring you through?
 - Why is God letting you suffer like this if you really are His son?

- If you're really the Son of God, you have the power to make things happen now; stop waiting on God and make things happen now.
- You got this....make it happen on your own. Do it yourself.
- Move your faith back, from trusting and depending on God as your hope, and go back to trusting in you.

Jesus' response to this deceptive attack is that he used what was available. Didn't have food but what he did have was, the word and the Spirit. He quotes from Deuteronomy 8:3.

- Man doesn't just live by bread alone. Bread is important, but I have something more important that I need....the word of God.
- His spirit didn't lead me out this far to leave me out here to fail or to die....He is coming to my aid so by faith I wait on Him.

You have to have the Spirit and the word in order to survive in the wilderness or else you will give up on God.

Background: In between your last season and your best season is transition. Jesus shows us how to survive the wilderness.

Next attack, verses 5-6, the devil recognizes he is leaning on the word, so he tries to meet Jesus where he is. So, the devil takes him to the temple. Please note, the devil knows how to get to church and he knows the word.

- The devil doesn't have a problem with you coming to church, he'll sit with you, drive you there, and chip in on the gas.
- The devil doesn't care if you know the word; just doesn't want you to believe and trust in it.
- The devil doesn't care if you know the word, just doesn't want you to interpret it correctly.

Hey, if you're really the Son of God, use your power and authority to perform. Throw yourself down and let the people see how God can deliver you. Use your faith in the word of God to perform. The devil quotes from Psalm 91:11-12 to back up his argument and what he wants Christ to do.

- He misuses the scripture to support what he wants Christ to do rather than using the word to meet what God intended it to do. It is a misapplication of the scriptures.
- So, the temptation here is to get Jesus to perform. Pride is involved in this type of performance. It is no longer about God getting the glory, it becomes about impressing others.
- Self-promotion.

Jesus' response is to use another scripture to justify continuing to just trust and depend on the Father.

- He quotes again from Deuteronomy 6:16. “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”.
- Jesus recognized that the devil was trying to use this passage of scripture to tempt or test God rather than glorify Him.

Last attack, the enemy takes him to a very high mountain where he can view all the kingdoms of this world. He will give Jesus the world if he only worships him.

- The previous temptations involved a greater level of deception.
- It was less of a need because the world looks good to the eye.
- Shows him all the kingdoms and the glory. Indeed, the world and the things of the world look glorious.
- There certainly are many things in the world that I see that I want that looks wonderful and desirable.

Jesus’ response to these temptations is consistent, he uses the Word of God as his defense. He knows the Word and is skilled in the application of the Word.

I noticed what Jesus attacks. He doesn’t say that achieving and acquiring things in the world that we see is the problem. What he does attack is the temptation to worship things or someone other than God...that is the problem.

So having the stuff is not the problem, worshiping the stuff is the problem. Putting the stuff ahead of God is the problem. Worshipping others who can give you the stuff rather than trusting in God is the problem. Not waiting on God and trusting in Him, is the problem.

Jesus’ response is for him to bounce. He again uses the scriptures to justify continuing to stand on the promises of God. Deuteronomy 6:13....Only serve God!!!

Now observe. The devil offers him the kingdoms of the world now...no waiting. But Jesus already knows the plan of God and that in time, He would be the king of kings. Again, the temptation is to not wait or trust in God and instead move out on your own.

You can go after a good thing the wrong way. You won’t be able to hold onto it.

Jesus wins. Uses the Word to defeat the enemy each time.

Angels come and minister to Him. A time of refreshing and peace.

What does this tell us about the wilderness?

- The devil and temptation are coming. Will tempt you through your flesh, eyes, and pride.
- The temptation is designed to keep you from reaching the goal God has for you to prosper.
- Temptations from the enemy are designed to create doubt and move you from standing on the promises of God and turn/fall back into working things out on your own.



- You can experience revival and victory even in the wilderness.

You really can't start your ministry to others until you have gone through the wilderness and are skilled in the application of the word of God in your life. It takes active faith.

It is part of God's plan. Christ follows the same seven step plan outlined in the Feasts.

1. The Cross – recognize you need Him.
2. Repent – change your mind about doing this your way. Bury the past.
3. Trust in God and the Word – this is your new hope....the new you.
4. Through the power of the Holy Spirit know you belong to the Father, so make Him proud.
5. Wait on God when trouble comes, He will show up....like the rapture.
6. Victory in a final battle.
7. Peace and restoration.