

The Gospel of Matthew

Title: The Coronation of A King

Text: Matthew 3:13-17

INTRODUCTION: We have so far seen the King's ancestry, His arrival, His adoration, His announcement. The providence of God in bringing about His Son to be the atonement for our sin. John's message was one of fulfillment by Isaiah "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!" This begins the public ministry of Jesus, the way to the cross, the fulfillment of a Savior to save His people from their sins.

Point 1 - The Baptism Of Jesus. As Jesus came to John the idea of John himself baptizing Jesus was unthinkable. In John 1:29 when John saw Jesus coming, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." It's not difficult to understand John's concern, his baptism was for confession of sin and repentance, of which Jesus had no need. John's baptism was for those who have turned from their sins. Why would the sinless King want to be baptized?

Some historical views of the baptism of Jesus. Many who were influenced by Gnostic philosophy (Gnosticism believed that salvation could only be obtained by a secret knowledge). They believed that Jesus was an ordinary human, sinful like every other man, but as His baptism he was endowed with divine power to purify Him. This of course does not align with Scripture, Luke 1:32-35 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

John's resisting of Jesus was not like Peter's in Matthew 16. John's refusal to baptize the Pharisees and Sadducees is they were in need of repentance but were unwilling to ask for it and gave no evidence of it. Jesus came with no need of repentance. Some have said concerning the baptism of Jesus' baptism was a rite of ritual for the priesthood. Others said Jesus wanted to identify Himself with the Gentiles. Others say it was an affirmation of John's baptism, an approval of sorts. Yet, some say this baptism along with his death is the means of salvation.

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We seem to have the answer in vs. 15 “**permit it at this time**” is an “*idiom meaning*” that his act of baptism, though not seemingly appropriate, was indeed appropriate for this special time. It was fitting to fulfill all righteousness.

Furthermore, Jesus was baptized to show obedience to His followers. In His baptism Jesus acknowledged John's standard of righteousness. As John MacArthur notes, "He identified with men, so He could purchase righteousness for men." Isaiah notes hundreds of years before Christ, "**and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**"

He who had no sin took His place among those who had no righteousness. He who was without sin submitted to a baptism for sinners. The sinless friend of sinners was sent by the Father. Romans 8:3 "**For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.**" We should adhere carefully to 2 Corinthians 5:21 "**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**"

Jesus' baptism was not only a symbol of His identification with sinners but of His death, burial and resurrection. Two other references Jesus made concerning this and it's important to understand the meaning. Luke 12:50 "**But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished.**" Mark 10:38 "**But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”**"

POINT 2- THE ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT. Christian baptism identifies with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Romans 6:4 "**Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.**" Colossians 2:12 "**having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.**" The Greek word itself is *baptizo* literally means to dip the object into water or other liquid. The church knew no other form of baptism until the 1300's when sprinkling was adopted. Since Jesus came up out of the water, there's no other explanation except He was under not sprinkled.

The heavens opened up and what a glorious site this must have been. Stephen said in Acts 7:56 "**Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**" Revelation 11:19 "**And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and**

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sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm." Revelation 19:11
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John MacArthur notes in his commentary, "Why did the Holy Spirit come upon Jesus? When He became a man Jesus did not lose His divinity. He was still fully God in every way. In His deity He needed nothing. But in His humanity He was being anointed for service. The Spirit anointed him for His kingly service as Isaiah predicted "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners." The anointing of the Holy Spirit for Jesus was unique, it was to empower his humanity.

POINT #3 - THE CONFIRMATION OF THE FATHER. No old testament sacrifice, no matter how carefully selected was not truly pleasing to God. In fact, it may have been seemingly perfect, but it wasn't totally perfect. The blood of these animals was, at best, symbolic. Hebrews 10:4 "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." The sacrifice Jesus made on the cross would be "with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ." Thus God could say He was well pleased with His Son.

He uses the word beloved. This word carries a deep, rich, and profound relationship. It is used here for the Father's great love for His Son. It is also used elsewhere of His love, for believers, Romans 1:7 "to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints." It's also used for the love believers have for each other 1 Corinthians 4:14 "I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children."

Finally, because God was well pleased in His Son, and because of this, He now by His grace finds no imperfection in those who trust in Him and are redeemed by His blood, cf. Ephesians 1:3-6