

## The Gospel of Matthew: “Surprised by Jesus”

Matthew 3:13-17, February 21, 2021

### Contrast between John the Baptist and Jesus

*We are on our feet, expecting a great leader, perhaps the living God himself, sweeping into the hall with a great explosion, a blaze of light and colour, transforming everything in a single blow. And instead we get Jesus. The Jesus we have only met so far, in Matthew’s gospel, as a baby with a price on his head.”* N.T. Wright

**Jesus’ Humility:** Verse 13: Jesus, the baptizer to come (see verse 11) wants to be baptized

*“I consider this incident to be Jesus’ first miracle: the miracle of his humility.”* Dale Bruner

**John’s Objection:** Verse 14: Jesus the sinless one with no apparent need to repent

**Jesus’ Response:** Verse 15: “To fulfil all righteousness”

Much bigger story going on of God’s redemptive plan for human history, Jesus the fulfilment of God’s promises

Righteousness = “doing the will of God”

### Why was Jesus Baptised?

1. Jesus’ Baptism is his declaration of his decision to live **a life of humble obedience to God**

Baptism is our public declaration of our commitment to obey God with all our lives

Illustration: Jesus is not a, a guru or god amongst many. Jesus is Lord.

2. **Jesus is identifying with us in his baptism**

Romans 6:4 “We were therefore buried with him...”

Jesus, in his baptism, identifies w the sinners he came to save

*“From his baptism to his execution Jesus stays low, at our level, identifying with us at every point, becoming as completely one with us in our humanity, as he is believed to be completely one with God in eternity.”* Dale Bruner

**Jesus’ Baptism and the Dove:** Verse 16

The Spirit Descends like a Dove

Fulfilment of Isaiah 11:1-2 – “the Spirit of God will rest on Him”

Creation: Genesis 1:2 – The Spirit hovering over the waters of Creation

New Creation: Genesis 8:8-9 – Noah’s dove – a sign of Re-Creation

Dove and the quality of Gentleness – Matthew 10:16 “gentle as doves”

Surprising quality of the Holy Spirit - Gentle

Two Gifts in our Baptism: Forgiveness of Sin, Gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

**Jesus Baptism and the Voice:** Verse 17 - *“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

Affirms Jesus’ Identity: Chosen Son

Psalm 2 and Isaiah 42

The Focus on Jesus – Two times Father speaks, Baptism & Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-8)

*“it would seem that the one fact the Father wants believers to know, above apparently all other facts, is how much we have in Jesus. “My priceless Son, deeply pleased.” If we know this, we know the most important fact in the whole world.” Dale Bruner*

God’s affirmation and kindness towards Jesus is for us

Our Adoption: 1 John 3:1-2, Ephesians 1:5, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 8:14-17, 23

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?
2. What do we learn about our apprenticeship to Jesus in this passage?