

BAPTISM OF JESUS - PERSONAL MINISTRY BEGINS

INTRODUCTION:

1. The New Testament Is Silent From Age 12 to 30.
2. The New Testament Offers Exactly Ten Verses About His Baptism:

Luke uses two verses  
Mark uses three verses  
Matt. uses five verses

R.C. Foster speaks of the early church dilemma:

"The question which troubled the early church profoundly and which is still current is: How to reconcile the personality of Jesus with this act of humiliation? How harmonize the virgin birth with the baptism? of humiliation? How could Jesus be begotten of the Holy Spirit and yet need here the descent of the Spirit? Why should he, who was and is God, submit to John's baptism? How relate this humble action with His claims of absolute pre-eminence? How reconcile the great mission of Jesus as Saviour with this acceptance of baptism at the hands of another religious leader! as if Himself needed salvation. How reconcile the claims of Jesus and the New Testament writers that He lived a sinless life with His deliberate acceptance of this baptism of John which was of repentance unto the remission of sins'.

I. MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE WRITE OF THE BAPTISM, AND JOHN ALLUDES TO IT.

- A. Matthew 3:13-16 "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him, saying "I have to be baptized by you," and are You coming to me.

But Jesus answered and said to him, Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he allowed Him.

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were open to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven saying, 'This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased'.

- B. Mark 3:6-11 "Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying there comes one after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. This voice came from Heaven. You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- C. Luke
- C. LUKE 3:21-22 "When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while he Prayed

II. JOHN'S BAPTISM REQUIRED FOUR THINGS:

- A. Repentance from a sinful life.
- B. Water
- C. GOING DOWN INTO THE WATER
- D. Coming Up out of the water.

Note: John was baptizing in the Jordan River because there "was much water there".

Sprinkling and Pouring are not scriptural baptism.

III. E. Here At The Jordan Is The Meeting Place Of Jesus and John.

- 1. John refers to our lord as "The Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world."
- 2. In John 1:19-28 he had told the scribes and pharisees that he was not the Messiah.
- 3. The descent of the dove revealed Jesus to John as the long awaited Messiah.
  - (a) John did not reveal Jesus as the Messiah to the multitudes - but rather let Jesus to continue his on time to reveal himself.

IV. THE PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM WAS TO "FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS".

- A. It was to do his father's will.
- B. It was to reveal himself to John the Baptist.
- C. It was to set an example for each of us.
- D. It was to set God's stamp of approval for His ministry.

William Barclay has well written:

"So in the baptism there came to Jesus two certainties - the certainty that he was indeed the chose One of God, and the certainty that the way in front of him was the way of the Cross:

In that moment he knew that he was chosen to be King, but he also knew that his throne would be a Cross. In that moment he knew that he was destined to be a conqueror, but that his conquest must have as its only weapon the power of suffering love. In that moment there was set before Jesus both his task and the only way to the fulfilling of it."

Note: After many years of toil and sweat in the workshop in Nazareth, Our Master put aside his tools, turned over the shop to his half-brothers, and at the age of 30 he walked across the Valley of Jezreel to the Jordan River to be baptized of John and thus begin his personal ministry - "to do the will of the one who sent me".

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V. WAS JESUS A SINNER? WAS HIS BAPTISM TO TAKE AWAY SINS?

1. Hebrews 4:15-16 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may find grace to help in time of need."
  
2. I Peter 2:22 "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth."
  
3. Our Master Was Baptized To Set An Example Of Obedience.
  - (a) Hebrews 5:8-9 "Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience through the things which he suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him."

CONCLUSION: Jesus came to do the will of God. He is our example.  
It is our responsibility to do God's will for our lives.