

#Jesus Baptism and Temptation

Today - Baptism of Jesus and the Temptation he faced

Waited 30 years

Luke 3:23 - about 30 years old when he began public ministry

Most of the gospels focus on the last few years of his life during his ministry

But before he began, something had to happen

Matt 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Up until John, baptism was reserved for gentiles who were converting to Judaism

John preached a message that prepared the way for the Messiah

He called Jews to an awareness of their sins and their need of a Savior

Matt 3:5-6 - People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

So John's baptism was for repentance from sin

There were some hypocritical religious leaders that came to John as well

Matt 3:7-8 - But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees

coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

They were apparently there to observe and see what all the fuss was about According to John himself, they didn't hear his message

"Who warned you?"

But here were people who needed to repent but wouldn't be baptized by John

Then comes someone else who had no need of repentance, but insisted that John baptize him

Obvious question is "Why"

Jesus knew no sin - didn't need it

John tried to talk him out of it

What we're going to see is that Jesus' baptism is a foretaste into his purpose

A glimpse into the whole point of his life and ministry

First, let's take a look at why we baptize people today

This is an audio podcast, or I would post some funny videos of modern baptisms

Violently shoving people under water and then yanking them back up

Lots of yelling and fist bumps

I come from a charismatic background and I still find it funny

I guess you could apply the phrase, "To each their own" to that

It is an outward representation of what has happened inside when we confessed our sins and began following Jesus

It represents our death, burial, and resurrection into new life with Christ

Which, I suppose, could warrant some level of yelling and fist bumps

So the reason we are baptized today is so that WE can identify with Jesus

Jesus came to be baptized by John so that HE could identify with US

Let's dive into that a little more

As John as baptizing, he said, "after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry." (Matt 3:11)

So Jesus comes to John to be baptized by him

John already knew that Jesus was the Messiah

John's account in John 1:29-31

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' **31** I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." "I'm the one who needs to be baptized by you!" (Matt 3)

John strongly objected to baptizing Jesus

John must have thought it was a pointless exercise

I'm sure Jesus was self-aware enough to know that John had a point

He said, "It needs to be done in order to carry out all that God requires"

Other translations - "to fulfill all righteousness"

If you're like me, you might ask, "What does that mean?"

Jesus: Just trust me. It has to be done. The result will be something good and righteous

NIV - Let it be so now

Greek - to leave behind, dismiss, forgive, cancel a debt

Weird, right?

It's the same word used in NT when talking about the forgiveness of our sins

Even more weird, right?

Forgiveness of sins is a serious matter

This just doesn't seem to be on that level

There are Greek and Hebrew expressions for which we have no English equivalent

I guess the closest one to this would be the phrase, pardon me.

Maybe you cough at an inappropriate time and say, pardon me

You are not in need of an official pardon

You have not committed a punishable offense

Or you might say, excuse me

To excuse someone would be to let them off the hook and avoid consequences

Certainly not what is necessary for a cough

It's a similar expression here

You might even say that Jesus is saying, "John, humor me."

We both know you're right, but it really does need to happen. Something good will result, I promise

What is that good thing?

I've preached that it would set into motion the divine plan for the Messiah's work

These are his first recorded words since he was 12 years old in the Temple

"Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"

And now - "Don't you know that I must complete my Father's work?"

But there's something a lot more immediate and practical than that

Jesus came into the world to identify with people

To identify w/ people is to identify w/ sin

Heb 4:15 - "This high priest of ours understands our weaknesses"

Rom 8:3 - "God sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have"

Greek - sarkos - flesh

Other places, that word is used to describe the baseness of humanity

Such as 1 John 2:16 - sarkos described as the lustful flesh

At the outset of his ministry, through baptism, Jesus identified w/ those he was going to minister to

I think it's interesting and amazing that Jesus did not present himself to people as higher

He certainly WAS higher

Phil 2:6-7 - Although he was in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,

Isa 53:2 - There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him

The Bible presents Jesus very differently than art and the movies

And I'm so glad

Jesus was one of us

Yes, he was fully God, but he was also fully human
Some of us need a different view of Jesus

We see him as utter perfection, but not in the good way
Some unattainable, unpleasable judge
A halo over his head and a lamb in his arms
But Jesus brought himself to our level - to MY level
Jesus went slumming

In fact, if all this happened in our time, I don't think he would hang out w/
the church crowd
Not sure he would listen to KLOVE
Definitely wouldn't present himself as holier than thou
Probably wouldn't be able to pick him out of the crowd
He'd be hanging out where the people are
Probably in places that would draw criticism from the religious people of
our time

The Savior of the world
The most important person to ever live
The one man who will have a direct impact on all of humanity
Is one of us

Immediately after his baptism, we read about the temptation of Jesus
This is recorded in the first part of Matt 4
I want to suggest to you that it should be in the same chapter as his
baptism
Because it's a continuation of the same point
Earlier I read Heb 4:15 - That Jesus understands our weaknesses

Moving on in that same verse - for he faced all of the same testings we do"
If we're honest, we have big problems w/ that
I don't think he faced the same things I'm facing
The things that are readily available in our society today simply didn't exist
back then
Definitely not as easily accessed

If you read through the temptations he faced, you'll find that they are very similar to what we face

Jesus was tempted with the lust of the flesh - command these stones to be turned into bread

The pride of life and ego - throw yourself down from the top of the temple, after all, it is written that he will protect you - that is, IF you ARE the Son of God

The lust of the eyes - to inflate our worth - I will give you all the kingdoms of the earth if you fall down and worship me

Take everything we are tempted with today
Any of us with anything we are tempted with
They all fall into one of these three categories

Lust of the flesh

Pride of life

Lust of the eyes

Jesus faced it and came through without sinning

We don't fare quite as well

We find ourselves falling into the same stuff over and over again

He shared in our temptations

Same stuff, different scenery

Same stuff, different name

So he can empathize w/ you in your weaknesses

He did not SHARE in our weaknesses, but he definitely UNDERSTANDS them

Through his baptism and temptations

And I don't think it's a coincidence that the temptations came after his baptism

Because it happens like that for us, doesn't it?

Just b/c we're following Jesus and baptized doesn't mean temptations go away

But through his baptism and temptations, he identified w/ us in our most wretched state

Right at the beginning of his ministry, Jesus submitted to God's plan and purpose

What a sacrifice for the Son of God to become one of us

What incredible love that caused him to identify w/ us in our most disgusting, shameful condition

Easter was just a couple days ago

Why did he have to endure the cross?

I'm not asking why he had to die.

I'm asking, "Why the cross?" Why like that?

As the eternal Son of God, Jesus was not subject to death at all

But being made in human likeness, he submitted himself to the point of death - even death on a cross

The worst, most agonizing, most humiliating kind of execution anyone could experience

We'd be hard pressed to sink any lower than that today

He identified w/ us even in death

A kind of death the vast majority of humans will not come close to experiencing

He identified w/ us in that and overcame it

He identified w/ us in temptation and overcame that

He identified w/ us as sinners through his baptism

the one who knew no sin became sin for us so that, in him, we might become the righteousness of God

He identified w/ us in death and through his resurrection, overcame it

It's not just about a perfect, sinless Son of God who died on the Cross for our sins

It's about the fully human Jesus who identified w/ us at our worst

He knows - and it doesn't scare him off

He knows - and he has such love and compassion toward you

He knows - and he wants so badly to come to your rescue

Heb 2:14-15 - Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— **15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

But not a physical death, a spiritual death

That's exactly how God feels about you and me in our sinful state

Heb 2:14-15

Context - spiritual death

We have a fear of that

I've been through enough in my life that I've lost any fear of physical death

But the thought of spiritual death, eternal separation from God, terrifies me

None of us want that

B/c of what Jesus willingly went through for us, he is able to save us from that

This is why you don't have to clean yourself up first before coming to Christ

You can't clean yourself up anyway!

But he already knows all about it

You know what? He still loves you

Have you been out at a restaurant or grocery store and encountered a young mom with a screaming child?

It's always the mom and never the dad

Doesn't happen w/ dad b/c he's actively appeasing the child

Do you want some candy? There you go. We're happy, right?

But moms don't typically see it that way.

I've seen moms in grocery stores, pushing a cart w/ a screaming toddler.

They continue shopping like the kid isn't even there

Just let them cry it out

Other young moms get so embarrassed

They are apologetic to other customers and are hurrying through so they can get out as quickly as possible

My response is always, "It's ok. I've been there and I understand. It's not a problem"

Recently, Vicki flew to OKC

There was a toddler that screamed through the entire return flight

Some passengers were moaning over this

Vicki just smiles. It's ok. I've been there and I understand

You know, that exactly how Jesus thinks of you?

Now I'm not about to suggest to a mom w/ a screaming toddler that she give the kid to me and let me try to calm him while she shops

First, creepy

Second, I'm simply not willing to do that

There are things I will happily do for my own kids that I simply wouldn't do for someone else's kids

But you are his child. He's not afraid of your messes

He's been there, he understands, and he can bring you through it

That's all the time we have for today

If you enjoy this podcast, please share it on your social media platforms

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Until next week, my prayer for you is that the Bible would become reality in your everyday life

God bless