

COMMENTARY FOR MATT 3:13-17

(ALSO FOUND IN MARK 1:9-11; LUKE 3:21-22)

3:13-14. After years of silence in Nazareth, **Jesus** appeared among those listening to John's preaching and presented Himself as a candidate for baptism. Only Matthew recorded John's opposition to this act: **I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?** John recognized Jesus did not fit the requirements for his baptism, since his baptism was for repentance from sin. Of what did Jesus have to repent? He had never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 John 3:5), so He could not be officially entering into John's baptism even though He was seeking **to be baptized by John**. Some feel Jesus was confessing the sins of the nation as Moses, Ezra, and Daniel had done on previous occasions. However, another possibility is suggested in Matthew 3:15.

3:15. Jesus' response to John was that it was fitting for Him to take part in John's baptism at this time in order **to fulfill all righteousness**. What did Jesus mean? The Law included no requirements about baptism, so Jesus could not have had in view anything pertaining to Levitical righteousness. But John's message was a message of repentance, and those experiencing it were looking forward to a coming Messiah who would be righteous and who would bring in righteousness. If Messiah were to provide righteousness for sinners, He must be identified with sinners. It was therefore in the will of God for Him to be baptized by **John** in order to be identified (the real meaning of the word "baptized") with sinners.

3:16-17. The significant thing about the baptism of **Jesus** was the authentication from **heaven**. As Jesus came up **out of the water** . . . **the Spirit of God** came down on Him in the form of **a dove**. As One **went up**, the Other came down. **A voice from heaven**—the voice of God the Father—**said, This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased** (cf. Eph. 1:6; Col. 1:13). God repeated these words about Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:5). All three Persons of the Godhead were present at this event: the Father who spoke of His Son, the Son who was being baptized, and the Spirit who descended on the Son as a dove. This verified for John that Jesus is the Son of God (John 1:32-34). It was also in keeping with Isaiah's prophecy that the Spirit would rest on the Messiah (Isa. 11:2). The descent of the Holy Spirit empowered the Son, the Messiah, for His ministry among people.

Taken from the Bible Knowledge Commentary, Dallas Theological Seminary

THE GOD IDENTITY, SUPREMACY,
ULTIMATUM SERIES

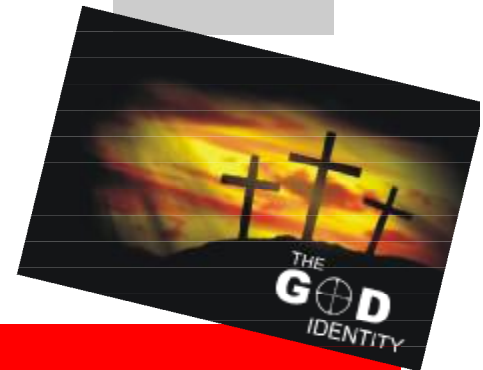
Small Group Bible Study

Week of Sept 2, 2007



This study...

- The God Identity
- Matthew 3:13-16
- A look at the Baptism of Jesus
- A look at the Trinity



Written by
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Bible Study

The Baptism of Jesus

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.”

Warm-ups: If you’ve been baptized, what was it like/what did it mean to you? If you haven’t been baptized, what holds you back?

At Jesus Baptism there was a special appearance of the Trinity. What is the Trinity? How do you understand three being one?

Verse By Verse: 13-14

- What kind of pressure do you think John was feeling in these verses?
- Have you ever tried to ‘deter’ Jesus?
- Are you ever amazed at the things Jesus asks us to do for Him? Any examples?

16

- Did Jesus ‘need’ to be baptized?
- What does He mean when He said His baptism would ‘fulfill all righteousness’?

16-17

- The words ‘as soon as’ indicate that Jesus’ baptism started something; what was it?
- What do you picture in your mind when it says ‘heaven was opened’?
- When people saw the Holy Spirit actually land on Jesus, what would that communicate to them?
- When the crowd heard a voice from heaven, how do you imagine the responded?
- Lot’s of people had lots of opinions about Jesus, but God’s statement said three significant things about Him. What were those three things and what would they mean to His critics and supporters?

For life change...

Application

So What Does It All Mean?

Since Baptism is about identifying with a group/cause, how can we be baptized into the cause of Christ everyday (be practical)?



Why is it important for us to understand the Trinity?

How can I daily respond/interact with ‘the Father’? ‘the Son’? ‘the Holy Spirit’?

Rules for our small group:

Priority: While you are in the group, you give the group meeting priority.

Participation: Everyone participates and no one dominates.

Respect: Everyone is given right to their own opinion and all questions are encouraged and respected.

Confidentiality: Everything that is said in this meeting is never to be repeated outside this meeting.

Empty Chair: The group stays open to new people at every meeting.

Support: Permission is given to call on one another in time of need—even in the middle of the night.

Advice Giving: Unsolicited advice is not allowed. We’re here to support one another, not to fix one another.

Mission: We agree to do everything in our power to start a new group as our mission.