

In Romans 8 Paul tells us that we are also God's children.

1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

- 1 John 3:1 NIV

Take a moment to thank God for this amazing truth, that the God of the Universe loves you and calls you "His child".

What Jesus did by submitting His life to the will of the Father, He did because of who He is- God's Son. As children of God and followers of Jesus, we should also seek to submit our lives to God's will to please Him, not to earn His love. But sometimes we are torn between pleasing ourselves rather than pleasing God.

What makes it difficult for us to surrender to God in certain areas of our lives (fear, pride, rebellion)? If there is an area of your life you feel you are struggling in that you need to submit to God's will, pause and pray.

WRAP-UP

Jesus submitted to the will of God and was baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist as He began His earthly ministry. We see the triune God joining together at that moment as the gateway to God's presence was opened, the Spirit descended, and the Father spoke. Jesus led the way for us into heaven as we saw the curtain of the temple torn apart upon His death. He demonstrated what we are called to do. When we are willing to repent, die to our old nature and follow Jesus, we declare that publicly through the sacrament of baptism. Next week we will be celebrating baptism in our services. You can join in the celebration by remembering your own baptism, or if you haven't been baptized yet, make this your moment to declare your faith in the Son of God, Jesus, the Messiah.

MEMORY VERSE

10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." - Mark 1:10-11 NIV

Challenge- Check out some of the other appearances of the Trinity in these verses. At the resurrection- Romans 6:4, John 2:19-21, John 10:18, Romans 8:11. At creation- Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1-3, 14, Genesis 1:26, in the Great Commission- Matthew 28:19

Jesus' Baptism The Gospel of Mark - Week 3

INTRODUCTION

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus, the Messiah. He called people to prepare the way, to repent and be baptized. When Jesus appeared at the Jordan River to be baptized, John was reluctant. How could someone who was unworthy to untie Jesus' sandal be asked to baptize Him? In this significant and surprising scene, we see the Trinity demonstrated as Jesus is confirmed as the Son of God who would take away the sins of the world.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever been surprised by something that was so totally unexpected that you found it difficult to believe? (like the Cubs winning the World Series?)

Key Passage

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." - Mark 1:9-11 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Jesus Baptism

Jesus began His ministry by being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. At first this doesn't seem unusual until you consider that John was preaching, repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sin. But Jesus had never sinned, so why was He being baptized? The accounts of Jesus' baptism in John and Matthew help shed light on this question.

29 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." - John 1:29-31 NIV

John the Baptist knew what God had called him to do. How did he describe his purpose for water baptism (John 1:31)?

*13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" 15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.
- Matthew 3:13-15 NLT*

Even though John knew what he was called to do, it appears that he didn't know that the Messiah was Jesus until Jesus came to be baptized. As John resisted baptizing Jesus, what was the explanation Jesus gave that it must be done?

Jesus had not come to have His sins forgiven, but to do the Father's will. Jesus began His ministry doing the Father's will and He would end it the same way on Calvary.

Have you ever wondered how the Son of God could live 30 years without being recognized? Just look at how Jesus is described in Mark 1:9. How does this description of his name, hometown and the place of the announcement by John make Jesus more approachable to us? Compare this to Mat 17:1-5 when Jesus was transfigured with only 3 witnesses.

2. The Trinity

The word "trinity" is not found in the Bible. That may surprise you. One of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith is the belief that God is 3 in 1- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Not three Gods, but one God in three persons. It is one of the most difficult concepts to grasp or explain. This passage is one of the clearest manifestations of the Trinity.

*10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
- Mark 1:10-11 NIV*

The first thing that happened as Jesus rose out of the water was a glimpse into a different reality as heaven was torn open (*schizō*). This is the same word used to describe what happened to the curtain in the temple when Jesus died on the cross.

*51 At that moment [as Jesus gave up His Spirit] the curtain of the temple was torn (*schizō*) in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split
- Matthew 27:51 NIV*

*3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,
- Hebrews 9:3 NIV*

*3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- Romans 6:3 NIV*

What was behind the curtain in the temple that represented God's presence? Paul tells the Romans that we are baptized into Jesus' death. Taken together, what was the significance of heaven torn open at Jesus' baptism and the curtain torn apart upon His death?

In the waters of the Jordan, the Spirit came down to rest on Jesus in the form of a dove. At creation the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. That word for hover is *rāḥaḇ* and can also mean flutter or brood.

*1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- Genesis 1:1-2 NIV*

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ... 15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'")
- John 1:1-3, 15 NIV*

How do these passages explain the Trinity was at work in Creation?

3. God Our Father

From heaven God declared that Jesus was His Beloved Son. What John had announced, God had confirmed. Jesus was the Son of God, Messiah.

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. - Romans 8:15-17 NIV