

Saint Timothy Lutheran

Edmonds, WA

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“Jesus, Also, Was Baptized.”

(Text: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22)

Context: Physician Luke continues his account of the life of Jesus with the beginning of Jesus' public ministry which was marked by the baptism of Jesus by John at the River Jordan. In this particular occurrence God is revealed to people in an astounding way. God the Son presents Himself to be connected to sinners by offering Himself to be baptized, God the Spirit descends as a dove upon the Son, and God the Father speaks audibly from heaven for all to hear. This was the way that Jesus Christ of Nazareth (and the holy Son of God) was inaugurated for His role as Savior of the world.

I. **No Person On Earth Was/Is Fit To Undertake This Role Other Than Jesus The Christ. (Romans 3:23: “for all have sinned and fall short...”)**

- A. John the Baptist insisted that He was not worthy to take on this role.
 - 1. Even as the people around John thought that he might be the Messiah, John insisted that He was not the Savior.
 - a. The people who listened to John preaching and witnessed him baptizing were ready to label him the Savior.
 - b. John's popularity was strong as countless throngs went out to hear him and to be baptized.
- B. John called all people to repent of their sins, even the rich and the powerful.
 - 1. When John called Herod the king to repent for his adulterous and incestuous relationship with his brother's wife, the king arrested John and put him in prison.
- C. God, the author of God's Word, speaks as He will (not as man wills) and He speaks truth (not what people might want to hear).
 - 1. Both the Law and the Gospel are given to us in God's Word.
 - 2. The Law reveals our sins and the Gospel announces forgiveness.
 - 3. Note how John preached the Law first and then the Gospel (3:17-18)
- D. John, also, spoke the Gospel (Good News) to the people (3:18).

II. **God Was Well Pleased With Jesus And Stated The Fact For All To Hear.**

- A. The Spirit of God descended upon Jesus in bodily form like a dove (3:22).
- B. The voice came out of heaven saying, “You are My beloved Son, In You I Am (Was) Pleased” (3:22).
 - 1. Jesus is the only human being that is declared by God to be “pleasing” to Him.
- C. Authority like no other is given only to Jesus.
 - 1. As John puts it, “He (the One coming after me) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (3:16).
- D. “And when He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age... (Luke 3:23).
 - 1. Thanks be to God that we have such a One who has pleased God.
 - 2. Thanks be to God that He entered His ministry to save sinners.
 - 3. Thanks be to God that He completed His ministry to save sinners.