

**WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?
MATTHEW 3:13-17**

INTRODUCTION

After the accounts of Jesus' birth, only Luke's Gospel gives us a brief glimpse at Jesus' childhood. Of his life between the ages of 2 and 12 we are only told: *Luke 2:40*—“*And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*”

The Gospel of Luke then gives us only one story of Jesus at age 12 as He visited the temple with His parents at the feast of Passover. After that one incident, all we are told of Jesus childhood and early adulthood is wrapped up in one verse:

Luke 2:52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

Then, after years of silence in Nazareth, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John record that Jesus appeared among those listening to John's preaching and presented Himself as a candidate for baptism.

READ SCRIPTURE

Only Matthew recorded John the Baptist's opposition to this act in verse 14.

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 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 just as Moses, Ezra, and Daniel had done on previous occasions.

The only explanation that is offered as to why Jesus desired to be baptized comes from his own mouth in Matthew 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 by that?

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I. IT MEANT THAT JESUS WAS FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS TO BEGIN HIS OFFICE AS PRIEST.

The Levitical law, according to *Numbers 4:3*, required **all priests** to be consecrated when they were 30 years of age.

According to *Luke 3:23*, Jesus was about 30 years of age here when He was baptized and began His earthly ministry.

Now I Want You To See The Manner Of Consecration in Exodus 29:4-9 (It Was Threefold.):

A. The Washing With Water--Ceremonial Cleansing. (Vs 4)

The Baptism of Jesus identified Him with this ceremonial cleansing as our Great High Priest.

B. The Clothing With Garments. (Vs 5-6)

The glorious garments of the Levitical priesthood spoke of the glorious clothing of the coming Messiah who would be clothed in Righteousness.

Jesus was clothed in Righteousness from His Birth.

C. The Anointing With Oil. (Vs 7)

(Prophets, priests, & kings were all anointed)

The Oil that these were anointed with was a symbol of the Holy Spirit who descended upon Jesus like a dove, and lighted upon Him.

This was the priestly anointing of the One Who was not only a priest by Divine appointment, but an eternal priest according to Psalm 110:4 which says,

“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

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So, Jesus was divinely consecrated for the work of redemption.
Acts 10:38– “. . . God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power... ”

IT MEANT THAT JESUS WAS FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS TO BEGIN HIS OFFICE AS PRIEST...

II. IT MEANT THAT JESUS WAS IDENTIFYING WITH THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST. (Matthew 3:1-3; 5-12)

A. John The Baptist’s Message Was “Repent.”

Though Jesus had no need to repent, He identified Himself with the message of John.

B. Jesus’ Message Was “Repent.”

Matthew 4:17–“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Luke 13:3-- “. . . except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

C. Jesus’ Disciples Message Was “Repent!”

Mark 6:12–“And they went out, and preached that men should repent.”

D. Peter’s Message On The Day Of Pentecost Was “Repent!”

Acts 2:38–“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

E. Peter’s Message Remained The Same–“Repent!”

Acts 3:19–“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”

F. Paul Called On Men To Repent!

Acts 17:30–“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”

Acts 26:19-20

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G. The Lord Jesus Even Called On Some Churches To “Repent!”

1. The Church At Ephesus. Revelation 2:4-5

The problem was that they had left their first love.

2. The Church At Pergamos. Revelation 2:16

The problem was that false doctrine had crept in.

3. The Church At Sardis. Revelation 3:3

It had a name that it lived, but was dead.

4. The Church At Laodecia. Revelation 3:19

The lukewarm Church—they weren’t hot, they weren’t cold.

They thought they were rich, increased with goods, and had need of nothing.

They didn’t know that they were wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

IT MEANT THAT JESUS WAS FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS TO BEGIN HIS OFFICE AS PRIEST... WAS IDENTIFYING WITH THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST...

III. IT MEANT THAT JESUS WAS IDENTIFYING WITH SINNERS. (Matthew 9:10-13)

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 as the sin bearer.

A. He Did Not Identify With Our Sin!

Hebrews 7:26–“For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.”

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B. He Did Identify With Our Humanity!

Hebrews 4:15—“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.”

IV. IT WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST’S WAY OF IDENTIFYING THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD. (John 1:32-34)

The significant thing about the baptism of Jesus was the authentication from Heaven!

This baptism was unlike any time else that John the Baptist had baptized before!

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!

There was a voice from heaven—**the voice of God the Father**—which said, *“This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

God the Father repeated these words about Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration as recorded in Matthew 17:5.

All three Persons of the Godhead were present at this event:

1. The Father Who spoke of His Son,
2. The Son Who was being baptized, and
3. The Spirit Who descended on the Son as a dove.

This verified for John the Baptist that Jesus is the Son of God!

It was also in keeping with Isaiah’s prophecy that the Spirit would rest on the Messiah .

Isaiah 11:2—“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;”

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The descent of the Holy Spirit empowered the Son of God Who was also the Son of Man, the Messiah, for His ministry among people!

From the time of Jesus Christ’s baptism until now, we find Jesus Christ ministering!

He ministered among people up to the Passion of the Cross!
He ministered to every lost soul as He gave His life on the Cross!

He ministered to many of his followers after His resurrection!
He now ministers through His Body, the local Church!
He also now ministers in Heaven as our Great High Priest!

CONCLUSION

He identified with us, the question is have you identified yourself with Christ? Are you saved?

Have you repented of your unbelief and turned to God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary?

He became our High Priest, He became our Sacrifice, He is now our Intercessor and our All in all!

He has issued a call to repentance;

He is looking for confession of sins;

Have you been baptized since you were saved? It is shows our identification with Him!

He is looking for those who say they believe in Him to bear fruits in their lives that are evidence of changed lives!

Do you really love Him? Does your life show it? Are you living for Him?

Or have you left your first love and gone back to the ways of the world?