

## Listening to Jesus

Welcome to listening to Jesus, a radio ministry of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday morning, we take two minutes to listen to the words of Jesus and think about what He said. Today, we begin with the first words of Jesus recorded in the Gospels, in Matthew 3:13-15:

*<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."*

John felt completely unqualified to baptize Jesus. Besides, why would Jesus even need to be baptized? John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, and Jesus had not sinned. Jesus would never sin. So, John was confused.

Jesus doesn't say He needs to be cleansed or forgiven or that He is repenting in any way, but that He is seeking to fulfill all righteousness. What Jesus means is revealed by what happens after His baptism: The heavens open and the Spirit of God descends like a dove and rests on Him. God the Father speaks: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, and He is being anointed as our Messiah, the anointed One.

Jesus' first words in the Gospels tell us that He came "to fulfill all righteousness" as our substitute Savior, our anointed Redeemer, our perfect righteousness. God's people had been waiting for hundreds of years for the Messiah, and Jesus' first words announce, "I am here. I have come to do all God has promised, all that God's people need."

Join us again next week as we continue "Listening to Jesus" together. If you live in the Harford County area and you're looking for a church home, join us at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. You can find more information about our church at [www.foresthillpca.org](http://www.foresthillpca.org)