

The Gospel According to Luke

JESUS' BAPTISM

PART 6

Why was He baptized?

READ LUKE 3:13-17

INTRODUCTION

Jesus being baptized is an interesting occurrence. There are many wrong interpretations within this passage of Scripture that say, because Jesus was getting baptized, He was in need of God's forgiveness. This is heresy and should be rejected outright. The reasons for Jesus' baptism are much more simple than sometimes perceived. The main reason we see Jesus being baptized was because of His obedience to the Father. He was always desiring to do the will of the Father and we see that in His symbolic gesture of being baptized.

It is understandable that John would initially reject the idea that he should baptize Jesus because he knew who Jesus was and His importance and position in the world. It is safe to say that most of us, with the same knowledge, would object as well but Jesus is gentle in His response to John and encourages him that what is happening is to be a symbol for all Christians in the future to practice in obedience towards righteousness.

Baptism is a public declaration of, not only our faith in God, but a commitment to obeying His will for our lives. It is the symbol of us dying to ourselves, being buried with Christ and raised up again as a new creation, serving the Lord and glorifying Him in all that we do. There is no magic forgiveness that happens through baptism. It is simply us saying that we are going to be obedient to the will of God in our entire life. That is why Jesus got baptized. To show us and to be our example.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did Jesus need to be forgiven? Why or why not? Discuss why it is important to understand this teaching correctly.
2. Why was being baptized important for Jesus? Why was He so adamant about John baptizing Him? (hint: righteousness)
3. Do you think that Jesus should've been baptizing people? Why or why not?
4. Why is "righteousness" mentioned here in baptism? What is the significance of us being baptized?
5. What holds us back from being baptized? Should we be baptized? Why or why not?

WRAP UP

Jesus was baptized. Since He was baptized, we should be baptized. It is a declaration of our faith and it is a pronouncement to believers that we are to be held accountable to that faith and also to non-believers that our life will look different from now on. We have been made new. Therefore, we do not live according to the flesh any longer.