

Lunch Time Bible Study  
**God With Us**  
A Study of Matthew: "Here Comes Our King"  
Matthew 3:1-17

December 26, 2017

*I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11)*

**I. John, the Baptist Prepares the Way**

- a. Although Jesus, was the Messiah, the King of the Jews, He lived His adolescent years in obscurity.
- b. Like Elijah, John, the Baptist enters the world with a call to repentance. (Luke 1)
- c. John saw himself as a voice in wilderness (Isa 40:3) through which God addressed His people.
- d. John's message is of repentance calling God's people to return to their true allegiance. Repent because *the kingdom of heaven* (aka *kingdom of God* Mark/Luke) has arrived.
- e. John lived a rugged lifestyle compared to the religious leaders who lived in luxury.
  1. His ministry was also aimed at the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Many of them were concerned with religious rites and appearances. John described them as a "brood of vipers."
- f. John's ministry of water-baptism will yield to a baptism "in the Holy Spirit and fire."
- g. The Jews knew about baptism for converted Gentiles. Those converting to Judaism went through three elements in their initiation:
  1. The bath, circumcision and sacrifice. The bath was to wash away Gentile impurities.
  2. Every member of the family went into the bath and washed *themselves*.
  3. The bath symbolically united them with the Israelites' passage through the Red Sea.
- h. The baptism John administered was shockingly new to Israel. It was prescribed just for them.
  1. It was not self-administered. You had to receive the baptism at the hand of another.
  2. John's baptism was eschatological ("last things"). (Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes viewpoints)
- i. Hundreds of Jews followed John into the waters of the Jordan. The time was ripe, and Jesus came forward to join the others.
- j. His humility in ministry gave way to the One who deserved all the attention, Jesus.

**II. God Anoints the King**

- a. Why was Jesus baptized? 1) His baptism gave approval to John's ministry. 2) Jesus identified Himself with the publicans and sinners, the people He came to save.
- b. The baptism was a public declaration. God speaking openly verified, authenticated, and anointed Jesus' ministry. His baptism gives a snapshot of the Trinity.
- c. *God the father is heard but not seen*. A voice speaks from heaven.
  1. The Son was with the Father, but is distinct from the Father. (John 1:1)
- d. *God the Holy Spirit is seen but not heard*. The Spirit of God descends like a dove to rest on Jesus.
  1. The Holy Spirit (*ruah* in Hebrew and *pneuma* in Greek mean wind, spirit or breath) identified Jesus to John. His ministry will be empowered by the Spirit.
- e. *God the Son is seen and heard*. The Trinity is revealed at Jesus's baptism.
- f. Didn't Jesus already possess the Spirit and sonship? Yes, He did.
- g. The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus as the power of superabundant love. As the Father loved the Son, so has Jesus loved us. It took a superabundant love for Him to die for our sin.

**III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action**

- a. Baptism is the outward symbol of what has already transpired in the heart of the one who has trusted the Lord Jesus Christ for full salvation.
- b. The Bible makes it clear that scriptural baptism is a Believer's baptism. (Acts 2:41;8:12, 36, 37)
- c. Baptism is the Christian's identification with Christ (Colossians 2:12).
- d. We all need validation, verification, authentication and the anointing to fulfill and be effective in our Christian duty. Jesus gives it to us.\*