

This is My Son

Matthew 3:13-17

Main Truth: Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness

John the Baptist has been baptizing Jews and calling for repentance. He has been preparing the way for the Lord who was to come next. Enter Jesus.

Matthew 3:13-14 Jesus arrives at the Jordan River and asks John to baptize Him. Jesus did not need to repent or be spiritually washed clean. Jesus was demonstrating a pattern for us to identify with.

Knowing we could not perfectly live out the law, He provided a way of redemption. He stepped down from His throne and lived among His creation as a human being. He identified with our weakness, suffering and pain. He fulfilled all righteousness and took on the part of the sacrificial lamb who takes on the sins of the world.

John 1:29-31 Righteousness comes from Jesus alone. He did not need to be baptized or die on the cross to fix things for Him and the Father. His baptism was an action of identifying with us and participating in a symbol of repentance. Later He would become sin for us and die on the cross, paying for what He had not owed, but in payment for our debts.

Jesus was baptized because of what it represents and not because of what He needed. Baptism represents the dying to the old self after repentance and a new life in God.

Jesus begins His earthly ministry by being baptized in the Jordan River.

Matthew 3:15 John tried to deter Jesus from being baptized by him. Jesus answers John explaining that His baptism was “to fulfill all righteousness.” Jesus was taking the symbolic step to show that baptism was not about being perfect but about who God is.

Isaiah 40:3 begins speaking of John the Baptist foretelling “A voice of one calling: “in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord””.

Isaiah 40:5 10-11 Isaiah immediately changes the focus to what the arrival of the coming Messiah, Jesus, means for Israel and the world. God makes clear that Jesus was the Messiah and His Son: He makes things right.

Jesus has arrived:

- for God’s glory to be revealed
- with the power of the Sovereign Lord
- to rule with a might arm
- to tend His flock
- to gather the lost lambs in His arms and carry them close to His heart

Isaiah 40:25-26 Jesus is the Holy One. He is the Starry Host, the Good Shepherd. Jesus fulfills all of these things, all righteousness. He identified with humanity to clearly show that He understands. He is God in the flesh.

John consented and baptized Jesus.

Matthew 3:16-17 Jesus' baptism is not ordinary. We see the trinity all interacting individually in these verses. Jesus the Son is coming out of the water after being baptized. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends and alights on him. The voice of God the Father speaks out of heaven affirming Jesus' eternal identity "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Jesus is God Himself. His baptism fulfills what was promised: A Messiah.

God has shown up in the flesh with a purpose: He came to seek and save the lost.

In our idolatry of sin, we wander in the wilderness dead in our sin, separated from God. But God does not leave us that way. He met us and provided for us the way to cross into eternity. No one else but His Son can fulfill all the righteousness necessary to bring humanity back from the wilderness.

In His baptism, we see Jesus for exactly who He is: the fulfillment of all prophecy and all of promises.

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

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Application: Follow the Son and trust in God's strength

Salvation is only found in the Son, who is strong enough to save.

Hebrews 9:27-28 "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

Jesus' one sacrifice paid it all.

Isaiah 40 28-31 "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Small Group Discussion Questions

This is My Son Matthew 3:13-17

1. Have you ever had one of your parents brag about you to others and say how much they love you and are proud of you? How does it feel to have someone do that about you? Do you do that about your children?
2. How did John the Baptist react to Jesus' request for baptism, and what did he say to Jesus? What does this tell you about John?
3. What was Jesus' response to John's reluctance, and what did he mean by "fulfill all righteousness"?
4. Since John's baptism was about repentance, why was it significant for Jesus at the start of his ministry, who was sinless, to undergo a baptism of repentance? How did Jesus' baptism help to identify Him with humankind?
5. How did the Spirit of God appear, and what was His role in this event?
6. Reflect on a time when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. What was that experience like?
7. If Jesus was dependent on the Spirit's empowering for effective service, how much more do we need His help and strengthening? In what ways are you making yourself fully open to the Holy Spirit's power and directions? What role does the Holy Spirit play in our daily life as a Christian?
8. What was heard from heaven, and how does this voice describe the relationship between God the Father and Jesus? Is the Son "beloved" in your eyes as well? How does your love for Him express itself in your conversations, your interactions, your behavior, your worship?
9. How does the divine endorsement of Jesus impact your understanding of His role in the Bible and your life? How can we cultivate a relationship with God that allows us to hear His affirmations as He did with Jesus?
10. We found out what John the Baptist's mission in life was. Has God given you a mission? If so, what is it? Do you ever get distracted from your mission or discouraged? Do you think John the Baptist was ever discouraged when people didn't repent or show fruits of repentance?
11. Share something you have learned about the Trinity in these verses?
11. How can the image of the open heavens during Jesus' baptism inspire us in our prayer lives?
12. Read Matthew 28:19. Why did Jesus command his disciples to baptize new disciples? Discuss if being baptized is an option for a Christian, a true disciple following Jesus?
13. Read Romans 6:1-4. How do the elements of water and immersion symbolize spiritual truths, and what do they personally mean to you?
14. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. In what way do you realize that you are a new creation when you accepted Jesus as both your Savior and Lord? How have you experienced or witnessed this transformation?

Personal Study Guide

Believer's Baptism

Baptism represents the washing away of one's sins and the beginning of a new life in Christ. It symbolizes a believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is viewed as a public declaration, an outward profession of an individual's personal, inward faith in Jesus Christ. It is a way for believers to publicly testify that they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Baptism is a symbol of faith, forgiveness and a rebirth into a new life in Christ.

Baptize - to plunge, immerse, dip, or submerge.

Matthew 3:13-17

Luke 3:16-22

Acts 2:38-41

Galatians 3:23-29

Romans 6:1-6

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Colossians 2:9-15

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

1 Peter 3:18-22

Matthew 28:19-20

Acts 22:12-16

Mark 1:5

Acts 8:12-13

Acts 18:8

Acts 8:26-40