

Review

- ✓ Jesus is born; this event is followed by 12 years of scriptural silence.
- ✓ Jesus' first recorded words in the scriptures were at age 12, when Jesus celebrated Passover at the Temple.
- ✓ 18 additional years of scriptural silence.
- ✓ **Matthew 3:13-17;** Jesus comes to John the Baptizer, to be Baptized. Baptism gets a bad rap, from some who practice incorrect theology.
- ✓ Baptism brings up different images for different people.

Matthew 3:13-17; Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. Jesus made the Journey for this purpose, to be baptized. Who is John the Baptizer?

- ✓ "This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey." **Matthew 3:3-4.** Weird, John was a bug eater and a beekeeper.
 - ✓ He was a wilderness preacher, preaching repentance. People were confessing their sins and being baptized. He was preaching about the coming Messiah.
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John & Jesus

- ✓ Their mothers were related, which means that John and Jesus were too.
- ✓ Their birth announcements were near the same time.
- ✓ They both had parallel ministries for a time.
- ✓ John the Baptizer had a ministry before Jesus, as he was 6 months older than Jesus. He prepared the way for the coming Messiah.
- ✓ Their alignment in ministry would make both John and Jesus targets.
- ✓ Who baptizes you mattered to Jesus.

Matthew 3:8; Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

- ✓ John's theology shaped his philosophy and process; he would not baptize just anyone.
 - ✓ The emphasis is to renounce sin.
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Baptism

- ✓ Baptism had become the uniform of believers, that which identifies them.
 - ✓ Those who repented and turned toward God were confirmed through baptism. Currently, this applies to those who have believed in Jesus as their Christ and Lord.
 - ✓ **Matthew 3:13-17;** "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'"
 - ✓ John refused to baptize those who did not repent. John initially refused to baptize Jesus, because He did not need to repent, and then John recognized his position with Jesus.
 - ✓ **Matthew 3:11;** "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the One who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
 - ✓ Who needed the "Repent-er's" baptism? Everybody except Jesus. John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"
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Luke 3:13-23, "Jesus Gets Baptized"

- ✓ I see what you're doing here, Jesus... and that isn't right. Baptism is a symbol, you know... and that symbolism doesn't fit with you. (Jesus' uniqueness as the Son of God comes into play here, don't you think?)
 - It is preposterous that Jesus would come to me, says John.
 - It is amazing that Jesus would come to me, says every believer.
 - God has His absolutes, but God can also work in unconventional ways.
 - Question: Are you deterring God in any way?
 - ✓ **Matthew 3:13-17;** Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.
 - ✓ The one person who didn't need baptism asked to be baptized.
 - ✓ Now is God's appointed time to be baptized without pressure from other people.
 - ✓ Jesus waited and started his ministry in accordance with the Father's timing. Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness... to do every right thing! He was ready to comply with everything the Father prescribes.
 - ✓ God determines what is right and wrong, not convention. So that we can fulfill all righteousness (verse 15).
 - ✓ Jesus was fulfilling prophecy, providing us an example, and identifying with sinners.
 - ✓ Jesus' baptism was important to Him. Jesus would not be hindered.
 - ✓ Question: Are you "All In" with Jesus?
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In Baptism, Jesus Identifies Himself with Sinful Men

- ✓ He is a friend of sinners.
- ✓ Jesus chose righteousness above status, convention, or appearances.
- ✓ Jesus chose humility.
- ✓ As an example, as a way of life
 - No one is too lowly to serve.
 - No one is too outcast to be associated with.
- ✓ **Matthew 3:13-17;** "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment, heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.""
- ✓ As God Himself, Jesus confirms John's ministry, which in turn confirms and launches Jesus' ministry.
- ✓ Question, how is your ministry going?

Ending

- ✓ Repent-ers came to John to be baptized,
 - ✓ The repented from known sin.
 - ✓ Obedience leads to the presence and power of God. Walking with God is more important than walking for God, as your knowledge of Jesus grows, so will your opinion of Him.
 - ✓ We can say, with John, **John 3:30** He must increase, but I *must* decrease.
 - ✓ I need more Jesus and less me.
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