

The Baptism of Our Lord – 2023
Saturday, 1/7 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/8 at 9:00

BAPTISM

Questions

Text: Matthew 3:13-17 and Other Passages NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Within the Christian religion there are ➔ a multitude of denominations and ➔ a variety of teachings on the topic of baptism.

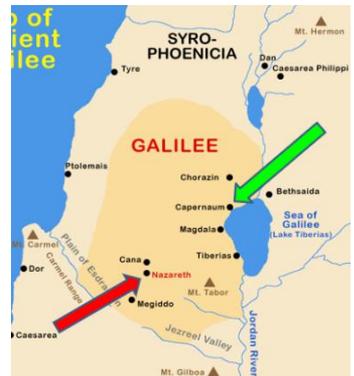
In this sermon ☞ we will consider Jesus' baptism; then ☞ we will **ask** and **answer** some baptism-related questions.

1. **Jesus' Baptism:** Matthew 3:13-17

a. **13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.**

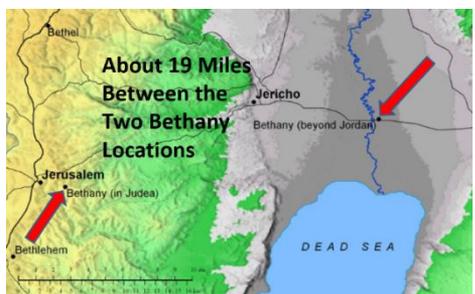
i. **Where was Jesus living at the time?** In Nazareth in the region of Galilee.

Shortly after being baptized, Jesus moved from Nazareth to Capernaum – near the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 4:13).



ii. **Where was John baptizing?** In Bethany, the one beyond the Jordan. One Bethany location

Bethlehem



is two miles from Jerusalem. The other Bethany was 19 miles to the east, *on the other side of the Jordan River*.

- iii. **When was Jesus baptized?** Around 30 years old.
 - iv. **Why not as an infant?** Baptism did not exist until God told John the Baptizer to start baptizing, *about six months before Jesus was baptized*.
 - v. **Why does the Bible include many adult baptisms?** Since baptism did not exist when those people were infants, *they were baptized when they were adults* – after God made baptism available.
- b. **¹⁴ But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?”**
¹⁵ But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit *it* at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him.
- i. **What is the purpose of baptism?** Forgiveness.
 - ii. **Why did John need baptism?** He was a sinner.
 - iii. **Why did Jesus not need baptism?** He was sinless.
 - iv. **What did Jesus’ baptism signify?** He was ready to bear the sins of the world.
- c. **¹⁶ After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”**
- i. **How was each Person of the Holy Trinity present?**
 - 1. **Jesus** (God the Son)—*was on the shore*.
 - 2. **God the Holy Spirit**—*descended upon Jesus*.

3. **God the Father**—*anointed Jesus with the HS (to be the Messiah, the Christ) and spoke from heaven.*
 - ii. **What did God the Father say about Jesus?** “This is My beloved Son...” Even though Jesus looked ordinary, *He is the Very Son of God in human flesh!*
 - iii. **How should we respond?** Let us ✦ be certain of who Jesus is, ✦ trust in Him as our Savior, and ✦ honor Him as our Lord!

Summary: Based on what I have said so far, please understand that Jesus’ baptism was not normal; instead, *it was highly unique.*

2. **Baptism Questions:** Now, let us build on what has been stated by **asking** and **answering** more baptism questions:
 - a. **What is a mystery?** “Something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain” (Oxford Languages). When the Bible leaves something a mystery, we should ✦ believe it **and** ✦ not contradict it with common sense.
 - b. **Does baptism have any power?** **Yes**, *because God is at work through baptism to forgive sins.* For example:
 - i. “...be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38).
 - ii. “Get up and be baptized and wash away your sins” (Acts 22:16).

Note: When God forgives, He also gives the gifts of ✦ spiritual life (Ephesians 2:1-5), ✦ eternal life (1 John 5:11-13), and ✦ the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

 - c. **Does baptism save?** **Yes!** “[God the Father] saved us... by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). *Those words tell us what God the Father does by the Holy Spirit through baptism.*

- d. **What is the direction of baptism – from us to God↑ OR from God to us↓?** Since the Bible teaches that baptism forgives and saves, ***the direction must be from God to us, since no one is able to save himself.*** Jesus said, **“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him”** (John 6:44). **Why?** Before God took loving and powerful action to save us, **we were all:**
- i. **Spiritually blind:** “...a natural man [that is, a worldly-minded person] does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them...” (1 Cor. 2:14).
 - ii. **Spiritually dead:** “you were dead in your trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).
 - iii. **Enemies of God:** “...the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God...” (Rom. 8:7).
- e. **What are important parental responsibilities?**
- i. **Prepare for your child’s baptism – by reading and following the contents of a BLC Baptism Information envelope** (available by our main entrance).
 - ii. **Have the Bible on your own heart – by knowing it and believing it and living it, then diligently teaching it to your children** (see **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**).

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, **from Your word**, we know You anointed Jesus with the HS to make Him the Messiah, the Christ. **So**, let us also know, **from Your word**, that You save through baptism by the HS. **Now**, help us to ✦better understand, ✦cling to Your word, and ✦be thankful!

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