

# Jesus, The Christ!

- ➡ What does that mean?
- ➡ When did that happen?
- ➡ How is that relevant?

Text: Matthew 3:13-17 NAS 2020

By the Holy Spirit: Let's ➡understand and ➡apply the Bible in our lives!

**Introduction**: Dear friends: We live in a world of **fraud** and **scams**! Over the past 5 years, people have tried to deceive me thousands of times through email and various messages. Looking back, ***I thank God for His protection and guidance!***

Deception is common, but let us also be CONFIDENT:

- **Did God create?** Yes, ➡we are living proof **and** ➡we are surrounded by overwhelming evidence!
- **Is the Bible true?** Yes, we have much solid evidence!
- **Is Jesus the Christ?** *We will consider that today!*
- **Is knowing Jesus relevant?** *Listen for the answer!*

1. **The Setting**: <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan, coming to John to be baptized by him.

- a. Who is *this* Jesus? **He is the One** ➡first promised in Eden, ➡who intervened during the OT as the Angel of the Lord, ➡who put on flesh through Mary, and ➡who, *in our text*, is now 30 years old.

- b. Who is *this* John? **He** ♦ was prophesied in the OT, ♦ was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus, ♦ called people to repent, and, *for those confessing*, ♦ baptized them for the forgiveness of their sins.
- c. What about Galilee and the Jordan? **Jesus** grew up in Nazareth, *which is in the region of Galilee in the north*. **John** grew up in the wilderness of Judea, *about 100 miles to the south of Nazareth*.
- d. Why did Jesus go to John? To be baptized by John.

2. **John's Resistance:** <sup>14</sup> **But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have *the* need to be baptized by You, and yet You are coming to me?"** // Let's think this through:
  - a. Why did John refuse to baptize Jewish leaders (3:7)? By coming to John, they were indicating they were repentant, **but** they had **no** evidence of repentance.
  - b. Why did John object to baptizing Jesus? Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins, **but** Jesus had **NO SIN**.
  - c. Why did John suggest that Jesus baptize him? John knew of his sin and his ongoing need for forgiveness.
3. **Jesus Was Baptized:** <sup>15</sup> **But Jesus, answering, said to him, "Allow it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.**
  - a. "Allow it at this time": Jesus could have said: John, you serve Me now by baptizing Me. I will serve you later by taking your ♦ sins and ♦ eternal punishment.
  - b. "it is fitting": That means it is proper. It seemed improper, *since Jesus had no sin*, **but** it was proper – *because Jesus requested it*. A person is baptized for

*his own forgiveness. Jesus chose to be baptized to ultimately provide our forgiveness! **Jesus was the Holy One sent to save all unholy ones – like us.***

- c. What did Jesus indicate by requesting baptism? Voluntarily, of His own choice, He expressed His willingness to **follow God's plan of salvation to take away the sin of the world!**
- d. An interesting point: Jesus' words in [Matthew 3:15](#) are the first words spoken by Jesus, as recorded in the Bible, since He was 12 years old.

4. **Jesus Was Anointed:** <sup>16</sup> After He was 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 settling on Him, <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from the heavens [God the Father] said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- a. When was Jesus anointed? **NOT** WHEN He was baptized, **BUT** AFTER. Look at the text: (1) He was baptized, (2) then He walked out of the river onto the bank of the river, and (3) then He was anointed.
- b. When have the heavens been opened?
  - i. When God showed important things to Ezekiel ([Eze. 1:1](#)) and John ([Rev. 4:1](#)).
  - ii. When Stephen was being put to death – to encourage him ([Acts 7:56](#)).
  - iii. When God the Father anointed Jesus – ➡ **TO ACCEPT HIS WILLINGNESS TO BE THE CHRIST**, and – *after He was transfigured* – ➡ to tell us to **"listen to Him"** ([17:5](#)).

- c. How / Why did God anoint Jesus? As oil was poured on an OT person to anoint him to be the next king, **so God poured the Holy Spirit** (the Oil of Joy – [Is. 61:1](#); [Heb. 1:9](#)) **on Jesus** ➡ to anoint Him to be *the Messiah, the Christ*, meaning: **THE ANOINTED ONE!**
- d. Why was the anointing of Jesus a rare moment? All three Persons of the Holy Trinity were present:
  - i. The Father – *speaking from heaven!*
  - ii. The Son – *being anointed!*
  - iii. The Holy Spirit – *settling on Jesus!*

### **Conclusion:**

- Why are the contents of today's sermon important for us? Since our sin ➡ is real and ➡ can condemn us, ***we need to be certain about the identity of the Christ who alone can save us!***
  - God made Jesus the Christ ([Mt. 3:16](#))!
  - Peter to Jesus, ***"You are the Christ"*** ([Mt. 16:16](#)).
  - Mark wrote: ***"Jesus Christ, the Son of God"*** ([1:1](#)).
- How to benefit from the Christ: When, *by God's grace*, a person ➡repents and ➡trusts in Jesus for eternal life, he is then **forgiven**, **saved**, and **heaven-bound!**

**Let Us Pray:** Dear F, S, and HS, keep assuring us that Jesus is the Christ and that our sins are forgiven through Him! Then, *full of thanks*, help us to rightly love ➡You and ➡all others!