

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Five

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Scripture reading: Matt. 3:13-17

Burden to Impart:

God sent John the Baptist to ordain baptism and Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Although John preached a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (Luke 3:3), Jesus had no need to be baptized for sins, because he had no sin. But He still needed to be baptized to fulfill the requirement of God. This shows that Jesus was righteous by living, walking, and doing things in the way God ordained (Matt. 3:15, note 151).

Memory Verse: "And behold a voice out of the heavens saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I delight" (Matthew 3:17).

Facts to Teach:

1. John the baptizer came preaching to the people, telling them to repent of their sins, to turn back to the Lord their God, and to be baptized.
2. In order to show their real repentance for their sins the people needed to be baptized in the dirty, muddy waters of the Jordan River. This was a public declaration of their repentance.
3. Before Jesus began His public ministry and service to God, He came to be baptized by John. John hesitated to baptize Jesus because he knew that Jesus was holy and without sin. Jesus was not being baptized because of repentance, but "to fulfill all righteousness." He would be baptized in order to be right with God according to the way He had established for all men. The Lord Jesus did not make Himself an exception. He followed God's way.
4. John pointed the people to Jesus, to their Savior. He was the only One who could wash away their sins and save them.
5. When Jesus was baptized God showed how very pleased He was by giving the following signs:
 - a. The heavens were opened to Jesus.
 - b. The Spirit descended upon Him as a dove and remained upon Him to empower Him for his earthly ministry.
 - c. The Father spoke from the heavens and said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I delight."

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Songs for Lesson Five

HIS BAPTISM

Matthew 3:13, 16-17; tune: "I've Been Redeemed."

D
Then Jesus came (Then Jesus came)
From Galilee (From Galilee)
A
Then Jesus came (Then Jesus came)
D
From Galilee (From Galilee)
G
Then Jesus came from Galilee
D
To the Jordan unto John,
A 7 D
Jesus came to John to be baptized by him.

The heavens were opened (The heavens were opened)
Were opened to Him (Were opened to Him)
The heavens were opened (The heavens were opened)
Were opened to Him (Were opened to Him)
The heavens were opened up to Him,
And He saw the Spirit of God
Descending as a dove to empower Him.

And behold, a voice (And behold, a voice)
Out of the heavens (Out of the heavens)
And behold, a voice (And behold, a voice)
Out of the heavens (Out of the heavens)
And behold, a voice out of the heavens
Said, "This is My beloved Son,
This is My beloved Son in Whom I delight."

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(Story for lesson 5)

THE LORD'S BAPTISM

Memory verse: And behold a voice out of the heavens saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I delight.

Matthew 3:17

By the time the Lord Jesus came, God's people, the Jews, had turned away from God and had broken His commandments. They no longer loved Him and they did many sinful deeds. God sent a messenger to them named John. John was not ashamed to speak God's word to them and he was not afraid to say the truth. He was honest, and He was filled with the Spirit of God. He told them that they had sinned against God and they must repent, which means that they must turn back to Him. If they were truly sorry and wanted to repent and turn back to God they must show it to everyone by being baptized. Also, John the Baptizer told the people that Jesus would soon come and that they must believe in Him. John himself could not help them, only the Lord Jesus could. Jesus is the Son of God, and He is the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the whole world. John introduced the people to Jesus.

One day while John was baptizing the people who had repented from their sins, Jesus came up to John and asked him to baptize Him in the river Jordan also. At first John would not do it. He thought to himself, "This is the perfect Son of God. He has never sinned and He has no sin to repent of. Why should He be baptized?" He told Jesus that it would be better if Jesus would baptize John instead. Although Jesus had no sin, He told John to go ahead and baptize Him just like everyone else in order to "fulfill all righteousness," that is, to do everything according to the right way that God had decided for all who wanted to be right with Him. Because Jesus was also a man, He knew that He must not be an exception to the way God had ordained; He must be baptized also. So John baptized Jesus.

Jesus' baptism was a great sign. He had desired to serve God when He was 12 years old and remained in the temple. However, He honored His heavenly Father by subjecting Himself to His earthly parents for the following 18 long years. Now, at 30 years of age, before beginning His ministry and service to God, He firstly presented Himself to John to be baptized and put under the water. This showed that although He was the perfect Son of Man, He would not live His own life or serve God according to His own will or way. He would absolutely put Himself aside and live by the Father (John 6:57) and according to the Father's will. The way He served God was perfectly expressed when He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane before He was crucified, "Father, not my will, but Yours be done."

The Father was so delighted with the righteous obedience of Jesus that He could not help but express His joy. He opened up the heavens and poured Himself out upon the Lord Jesus as the Spirit, in the form of a dove. Also, He spoke a sweet word of appreciation and testimony to Him saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I delight."