



Elgin Evangelical Free Church - April 14, 2024

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" 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.

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, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

I. Identifying—3:13-15

A. The Confusion – 3:13-14

B. The Conclusion – 3:15

II. Anointing—3:16

A. The Approved Christ

B. The Empowered Christ

III. Declaring—3:17

A. The voice of the Father

B. The delight of the Father

C. The connection to the Father

Life Group Study Notes

My Beloved Son

Matthew 3:13-17

1. Describe the impact of your own fathers ownership of you (positive or negative). Would you agree that the positive affirmation of our father is something we desire? How do you see the power of the Father's ownership of the Son playing out in this passage?
2. What do you think was the reason behind John the Baptist struggle to baptize Jesus? How does Christ identifying with our sin cause us discomfort?
3. We know that Jesus had no sin and did not need to be baptized. What did His baptism symbolize and how does it give us a better picture of what the Messiah was here to accomplish?
4. Have you been baptized and what mode of baptism did you experience (immersion or sprinkling)? Do you understand the picture of immersion vs. sprinkling?
5. What was the significance of the "heavens opening"?
6. The bible confirms that this moment was an "anointing of Jesus with the Holy Spirit." Does this mean that Jesus did not have the Holy Spirit or he was somehow less than God? If not, then what does this mean?
7. The moment we hear the Father speak we are struck by His affection and delight in His Son. Why do you think the Father is so pleased with Jesus (Hint: John 10:17)?

8. This affirmation from God of Jesus should give us hope in our salvation. To be saved is to be “in Christ” and to be invited into the love that the Father has for His Son. What does it mean to you to be loved by God this way?

Please close your time in prayer for one another.