

Sermon Series:
Who is this man? - The Book of Mark
Sermon Title:
The Testimony of the Trinity [Sermon #3]
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Isaiah 9, 'The land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in an land of deep darkness, on them a light has shone. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the Increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

Isaiah 11:1, 'There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 64:1, 'Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down.

Isaiah 42:1, 'Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him;

Mark 1:9-11, 'In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

2 Corinthians 5:21 - 'For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. '

We have seen Jesus indirectly in the book of Mark so far and now..we will see him face to face.

We are introduced to Jesus in the most amazing way.

You could say this is the inauguration of Jesus to his earthly office.

You could say this is Jesus' coronation as King of Israel, suffering servant.

He didn't become something different at this moment, just assuming his role as the obedient son who will be the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Why does the scripture mention that Jesus comes from Galilee?

Why were the heaven's torn open?

Why does Jesus get baptized?

What's the significance of this Testimony to who Jesus is- by the Trinity?

A Comparison between Mark 1:5 and Mark 1:9

All —————Jesus
Jerusalem & Judea————Galilee
Baptized by John/ Jordan——Baptized by John/ Jordan
Confessing sin & repenting———— ‘nothing’

Notice that all people are coming to be baptized by John in the Jordan in verse 5.

Everyone is being called to escape the judgement of God by repenting of their sins
confessing them to God
since water is a symbol of Judgement {Noah’s ark},
they are going down into the water to say ‘I don’t want to face the judgement of God’.

Jerusalem and Judea were considered the most religious areas of Israel.

The closer you got to the temple the better. Jesus was from Galilee, which was a ethnically mixed region about as far away as you can go from Jerusalem.

It was considered a place that was not very religious.

Remember what one of the disciples said, when he heard that Jesus was from Nazareth.

‘Can anything good come from Nazareth?’

No mention of Nazareth in the Bible until now. It’s nowhere. Jesus comes from nowhere into the pages of history to be baptized by John in the Jordan.

Turn in your Bible to Matthew 3:14 and you'll see that Matthew's gospel includes this conversation between John and Jesus.

John makes it very clear that Jesus needs no baptism but that Jesus should have been baptizing John, who was a sinner.

Jesus didn't need to be baptized.
Jesus didn't need to repent of anything.
Jesus didn't have anything to confess.

See the contrast: everyone else is confessing and repenting and getting baptized.

When they come up out of the water there is no parting of the heavens.

There is no Spirit coming down.

There is no voice from the sky. Nothing.

When Jesus comes out of the water, something happens.

Why were the heavens torn open? What's the significance of this?

Just like the Old Testament text I read in **Isaiah 64:1, Oh that you would rend/tear open the heavens and come down!**

God has come down.

He is breaking into human history in a significant way.

Time and space open up as God 'BREAKS IN'.

*The only other place this phrase 'rend or tear open' is used is when Jesus dies on the cross, the curtain of the temple is torn in two. Significant.

Why the Spirit descending into him like a dove?

This is the anointing of the King.

He has come to do battle.

The kingdom of God is breaking in.

The Spirit coming down into him was going to be with him in every battle that was yet to come and would empower him to heal, raise the dead, resist Satan, live a sinless life, and lead him to the cross.

What about the voice from heaven?

Here in only 3 instances in the gospels do we see God speak audibly. One is at the Transfiguration and the other is in John 12:28.

**We see the the Trinity at the same place & the same time.
Spirit, Son, Father.
Spirit like a dove
Jesus the Son in the waters
the voice of the Father.**

You are my beloved son. With you....with YOU.....ONLY you...
I.....am.....well.....pleased.

I am not pleased with everyone else.

They have sinned. You are God the Son. I am pleased with you.

Now the rest of the time, I WANT TO ANSWER ONE QUESTION....**WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?** It is clear that he didn't need it, so why did he do it?

In Matthew 3:14, Jesus said that it was to
'FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS'.

What does this mean? What does it mean for us?

Jesus is being baptized, not because he's a sinner but to
IDENTIFY with sinners.

**{Imagine Jesus stepping into the waters of the Jordan with
you on his back.}**

Jesus is symbolically going into the waters of judgment, not for his
own sin, but because he would do that for others....on the cross.

Jesus needed to die your death.

Jesus also needed to live the life that you and I couldn't live.

New City Catechism Question 7-

What does the law of God require?

Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with
all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as
ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God
commands should always be done.

We couldn't keep the law of God.

He, (as our representative) kept the law of God perfectly and lived
the sinless righteous life that we couldn't.

Romans 5:19 says, 'For as by the one man's disobedience the
many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the
many will be made righteous.'

Adam our first representative sinned and we were all counted guilty.

Jesus our new representative (the new Adam) was sinless and all (who believe) are counted righteous in him.

This is called in Theology...the imputed righteousness of Christ. Imputed means, 'entered in to the account of', credited, connected to,

3 ways that guilt or righteousness have been 'imputed' or 'credited to someone's account' in scripture.

1. Adam's guilt and sin was credited to us. God viewed it as belonging to all of us, so it did.
2. Christ suffered and died for our sins. Our sins were credited to Christ. God viewed our sins as belonging to Christ and so it did.
3. Christ's righteousness is credited to those who believe. God views it as also belonging to us now and so it does.

Illustration- person to help with back pack.

What is the significance of the baptism of Jesus?
Why did he do it?

1. At the baptism of Jesus, we see Jesus being empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill his mission as the suffering servant.
2. At the baptism of Jesus, we see the Father and Spirit testify that Jesus is indeed the promised king, messiah and the beloved God, the Son.
3. At the baptism of Jesus, we see Jesus step into the waters of judgment, not for his own sin but to be judged for others.
4. At the baptism of Jesus, we see a picture of Jesus trading our sin for his righteousness. He takes the sin. Those who believe get his righteousness.

APPLICATION:

The Father God is well pleased with Jesus Christ. Not so with us. But, if anyone believes in Christ, HE is pleased with you.

1. **To the non-believer-** today is the day for you to confess your sins, turn away from your sinful life. Flee the judgment of God. Transfer your sins over to Jesus and he will give you new birth.
2. **To the believer-** Praise God today that he is pleased with you, only because of Jesus Christ, who passed through the waters of judgment on the cross, for you. Praise God today that he not only died your death but he lived your life. You can live a righteous life now, empowered by the same Spirit, in Jesus.

Some of you today struggle with that. Is God really pleased with me? I still sin, how can he be pleased with me?
In Christ,.....he is pleased.

