

The Baptism of Jesus

Read from your Bible: John 1:29-36 and Matthew 3:1-17 The Baptism of Jesus

Do you ever get a little dirty? Just now and then? Do you ever get Really Dirty?
I mean ALL OVER.

What do you do when you get dirty? How do you get clean?
Do you wash your clothes, wash your hair, or brush your teeth?
Do you need a water hose, fire hose or sprinkler?
Whatever it takes, you can wash up!

These are all excellent ways to get clean if you are dirty...on the outside!

Now, what do you do to get clean if you are soiled/dirty on the INSIDE? There is no way for us to clean ourselves up if we get dirty on the inside. **Things that make us dirty on the inside are called sins.**

Sometimes we know we do wrong on purpose. We hurt other people or we do other things that God has told us NOT to do in His Word. All of us have done things we know are wrong.

But Jesus was different. Jesus NEVER did anything wrong.

John the Baptist was a preacher, who preached near the Jordan River. The people of John's day had done wrong things and they knew it. He spoke to the people and said: "*You have done wrong things! Repent and be baptized*".

Hey, what does that word "Repent" mean? Repent means to admit you have done the wrong thing, to be sorry, and to ask God to forgive you.

To be baptized means that the people should come and be washed in the water of the river. It was a sign of the cleaning up that

was taking place on the inside.

Many people were sorry for their sins so they lined up to be baptized by John.

... one day Jesus came to be baptized by John.

Did you know that John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin?

John didn't want to baptize Jesus. John knew that Jesus had **NEVER** done anything wrong. He had nothing to repent of.

But Jesus said it was important for Him to do all things that were right to do.

So... John baptized Jesus.

Jesus was baptized and so identified Himself with us, sinful mankind, even though He'd never done anything wrong.

When **Jesus** came up out of the water, at that moment, heaven was opened and the **Spirit** of God descended on Jesus like a dove. And He heard the voice of **God** the Father from Heaven who said...

“This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.”

*God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all present! This is the **ONLY** time in the Bible that they were together at the same time!*

God the Father never called anyone else His Son.

Glass Jar Activity

Supplies needed: Glass jar with a lid, several strips of black paper and a cross made out of white paper

"We are like this glass jar. When we do bad things, we get "dirty" on the inside.

Put a couple of strips of black construction paper in the jar and close the lid. Shake the jar. Turn it upside down and shake it again.

"There is no way to get them out. They just stay in there and get worse."

Put a few more slips of black paper inside. "
And when we do more bad things, it just looks worse and worse in there."

"Poor us... We can't clean up the inside by ourselves. All the washing on the outside doesn't clean up the inside."

"But the Good News is that when we accept Jesus as our Savior, He comes to live in our lives.

He cleans up the inside and gives us His righteousness. (Take off the lid, dump out the black strips of paper, and put in the white cross.)

"Now on the inside there is Jesus. He takes away all of our sins."
(Because of what Jesus did on the cross, God takes away all of our sins.)

"When we have Jesus on the inside we may still occasionally do bad things. But this time they only can only bump up against (or stick to) the outside." Toss black strips at the jar. They do not stick. (Optional: Use tape to stick black strips on outside of jar.)

When we ask God to forgive us, He gives us His forgiveness and He washes away our sins. (Take black strips off the outside of the jar or let them simply fall to the ground.)

God will never take His forgiveness (or love) away from us. He wants us to have them.

So, Baptism washes us clean!

But, most of us were baptized as babies! Babies don't have sin! Well, babies are baptized so he or she will be filled with Holy Spirit and becomes a child of God. The child will be raised and nurtured as a Christian and will learn to live his or her life like Jesus.

An understanding of baptism can be heard in the famous words of the French Reformed Church baptismal liturgy:

*Little one, for you Jesus Christ came into the world:
for you he lived and showed God's love;
for you he suffered the darkness of Calvary
and cried at the last, "It is accomplished";
for you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life;
for you he ascended to reign at God's right hand.
All this he did for you, little one,
though you do not know it yet.
And so the word of Scripture is fulfilled:
"We love because God loved us first."
(Book of Common Order, Church of Scotland)*

God loved us first. That is what we hold dear. Whether with a believer or a child, baptism enacts the love of God — the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ, who comes to us in the power of the Holy Spirit, a love that will not let us go. That is the story of Scripture, and that is the story of baptism, whether an infant in arms or a saint who is finally at rest.

Just Some reinforcement!

Please answers the following:

Who was John the Baptist? _____

Why did John not want to Baptize Jesus?

Why did the people come to John to get baptized?

Why did Jesus want to be baptized?

Why didn't John want to baptize Jesus?

When Jesus rose from the water who came and descended on Jesus?

What did God say about Jesus?
