

Luke 3:21~38

Here we find one of the “*Crowning moments*” in life of Jesus during his life here on this earth... It is here at this event, that God the Father, announces to the world, that this man known commonly referred to as Jesus of Nazareth, was no common man, but rather God’s very own son...the promised Messiah. The event-taking place here is actually the “*anointing*” of Jesus for the work God had sent Him to do. Anointing means to authorize or set apart a person for a particular work or service. Priest, Kings and Prophets, all were anointed, showing the belief that the individual being anointed had been chosen of God for the particular task they were filling. The act of anointing was the pouring of oil on the head of the person being set apart, and for the most part, it was olive oil that was used. The pouring of oil over a man’s head was symbolic of God’s blessing and power.

Here we see Jesus being anointed, not with oil, nor by men, but with the *very blessing and power of God...His Spirit*, and by *God Himself!*

Interestingly enough, this is where Jesus acquired the name Christ...Jesus *Christ*, or Jesus the “*anointed one.*” *Messiah* comes from the Hebrew word “*anointed,*” while *Christ* comes from the Greek word.

Now as we look at this tonight, we must begin by looking at Matthew’s account of the events... Simply for the fact, that Luke does not record one aspect of the event, that happened just prior to him being baptized. According to Matthew’s account, when Jesus came to John to be baptized, at first John adamantly opposed the idea.

(Mt. 3) ¹³*Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and come thou to me?*

The Greek for *forbade* suggests a continued effort by John—“*he kept trying to prevent Him.*”

The reason for this was no doubt, John’s sense of insufficiency in light of the person of Jesus Christ. It is clearly apparent that John was fully aware of Jesus’ deity and sinlessness... This is made clear by the argument John makes for not wanting to baptize him, “*I have need to be baptized of thee, and come thou to me?*” As much as *a man of god* that John was, he recognized his unworthiness and insufficiency in comparison to Jesus. John’s argument is basically, *why are you coming to me to be baptized, when I should be asking you to baptize me?*

Just as a note of interest... John resisted baptizing Jesus for exactly the opposite reason that he resisted baptizing the Pharisees and Sadducees. They were in great need of repentance but were unwilling to ask for it and gave no evidence of having it. John therefore refused to baptize them, calling them a “*brood of vipers*” (3:7). Jesus, by contrast, came for baptism, though He alone of all mankind had no need of repentance. John refused to baptize the Pharisees and Sadducees because they were totally unworthy of it. Now he was almost equally reluctant to baptize Jesus, because He was too worthy for it.

(Mt. 3) ¹⁵*And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness.** Then he suffered him.*

Jesus declared, that it was *imperative* that he be baptized of John, stating that it was necessary in order to fulfill all righteousness. In other words, Jesus was saying that if He were not baptized, there would be unrighteousness... In order to remain sinless before His Father, and remain suitable to be offered up for the sins of the world, it was absolutely imperative that He be baptized. Hearing that, John agrees, and baptizes Jesus...

Now the question remains, as to what Jesus meant by that... Why was it, that He **must** be baptized? There seems to be no indication in the O.T. anywhere, suggesting that the Messiah would be baptized. None of the prophetic writings give any indication of this being one of the signs pointing to Messiah... So what did Jesus mean by that?

Well, one view is that Jesus did so...to identify with sinners... Jesus came into the world to identify with men, and to identify with men is to identify with sin. This view holds to the belief, that Jesus subjected himself to baptism as a show of willful identification of the sinless God with sinful people.

He who had no sin took His place among those who had no righteousness...

Though that is true of Christ, though he did identify with sinners, I do not believe that is why it was so imperative that He be baptized of John... I am under the conviction that the fulfillment of righteousness is the fulfillment of a commandment. Obedience to God is righteousness, while disobedience is unrighteousness. Therefore, I see this as something Jesus was commanded to do by the Father, and out of desire to be obedient; He declares to John that he must baptize Him.

I think we find the answer to this issue in John 1...

(Jn 1) ²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world. ³⁰This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. ³¹And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, **therefore am I come baptizing with water.**

Notice...now consider what John just said here...

...“**therefore**...” or “**For that reason**”...*am I come baptizing with water...*

For what reason? ...*that he should be made manifest to Israel...*

John declares that God’s plan was to reveal to Israel who the Messiah was, through John’s baptism... Read on, John makes this fact crystal clear, by what he says in the next couple of verses...

³²And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. ³³And I knew him not: **but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizes with the Holy Ghost.** ³⁴And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John makes it clear, that the one who gave him his orders, that being to baptize the people with water, that same one told him... “Upon whom you see the Spirit coming on and staying on, this is HE who baptizes with the Holy Ghost!

That much is clear...the only question is, **Who sent John?** We find the answer to that in (Jn 1). ⁶There was a man **sent from God**, whose name was John. ⁷The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

God was the one who told John to baptize the people... And here we learn, that He also told John that he would know who the Messiah was, by who he saw the spirit descending on. Point being, God had told John how he would manifest to him and the nation, who the Messiah was, and that it would be through baptism. Therefore, Jesus comes to John and insist that he baptize Him. Given that John was preaching the baptism of repentance, John couldn’t imagine why Jesus was coming, he had no need to repent. But

Jesus knew what the Father had told to John...and God cannot lie. Therefore, it was imperative that John baptize Jesus, in order to fulfill the words spoken by God to John.

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All of the gospels bear testimony of the fact, that upon Jesus being baptized, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him, and then they heard a voice from heaven, declaring Him to be God's son...

(Luke 3) ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, ²²And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

We often read passages like this, and really never stop to reflect what really happened... Think about this, they saw the "Spirit of God"...in a "bodily form," come down out of heaven and rest on Jesus. And if that weren't enough, they heard a voice from heaven say, "Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." Think about that...they literally heard the "voice of God." This might well be the first time that a group of people heard God speak. I know that God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush, and there were others He talked to, but I think this might be the first time the voice came out of heaven. The audible words from heaven, were announcing to the world, that this was indeed God's son...

Again, the event here is that of the "anointing" of Jesus for the work God had sent Him to do... And it seems to be where He acquired His last name that we refer Him by, Jesus *Christ*, or Jesus the "anointed one."

(Vs 23~38) Immediately following the announcement from heaven, that this was God's Son, Luke traces the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to Adam...*"which is the son of God."* There have only been two "Sons of God" in the sense that they were literally the children of God, all others were the seed of man. Adam being the first, but as we know from scripture, Adam fell. But here, God announces His second Son, the second Adam...the one who would come and restore all things.

Scholar's suggest that this genealogy is that of Mary's bloodline... Whosever it is, Luke's purpose is to show that "this Jesus" met the criteria to qualify Him as the promised Messiah, as far as bloodline goes...