

TITLE AND NUMBER: 10. The Baptism of Jesus



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Mark 1: 4-11

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (v.9-11)

LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 2 v.13-17; Luke 3 v.21-22; John 1 v.29-34

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Jesus's whole mission was not to be served but to serve. Right at the beginning of His ministry He demonstrates this by coming humbly to John for baptism and identifying Himself with those whom He would rescue from their sins. He had no need for baptism as a token of sins being forgiven because He was sinless but he wanted to be united with those He had come to serve and to save.

We read about heaven being "torn open" as Jesus was coming up out of the water, perhaps looking forward to the moment of His crucifixion when the curtain in the temple would be "torn in two from top to bottom" (Mark 15:38). Both these occasions show God breaking through into our human lives. We also read that the Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove, a bird we associate with peace. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). So Jesus's ministry is powerful and brings peace to those who follow Him.

God the Father confirms that Jesus is his much loved Son with whom He is well pleased. This is a time when we are aware of the three persons of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – being obviously together and is therefore very significant for our understanding of the nature of God – the Father who creates, the Son who enables forgiveness and the Holy Spirit who guides and strengthens us.

John told the people (v.8) that though he baptised with water, Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit, this same Spirit that came to Jesus at His baptism and comes to us today. Amazing!

Reflections:

- What are some of the reasons why Jesus was baptised right at the beginning of His ministry?
- How have you felt the power of God breaking into your life?
- How can Jesus be powerful and yet bring peace?
- What do you understand as the difference between worldly peace and the peace of God? What does it mean to you that as humans we receive the same Spirit that came to Jesus at His baptism?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

