

FOLLOW ME

The Gospel of Matthew Part 1

WEEK 3 - THE BAPTISM OF JESUS OVERVIEW

In this message we will explore the pivotal moment in which John the Baptist baptizes Jesus. We'll see first how Matthew sets up John the Baptist as a fulfillment of the prophetic threads of the Hebrew Bible. Then, we will consider how Matthew uses this scene to show us the complete obedience of Jesus as well as to give early confirmation of his identity as the son of God. In all of it, Matthew is preparing his readers to see Jesus as someone truly unique who has a destiny to finally bring God's ancient promises to fruition.

A voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Matthew 3:17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Amy talked about John the Baptist's "grand entrance". What other characters in the Bible make "grand entrances"?
2. How was John the Baptist a "grand character"? (See [Luke 1:17](#) and [Matthew 3:4](#))
3. How do we see the theme of fulfillment in the story of John the Baptist? (See [Malachi 3:1](#), [Isaiah 40:3](#), [Matthew 3:3](#), [Matthew 11:12-16](#), among others)
4. Read [John 3:28-31](#), [Matthew 3:1-2](#), [5-12](#)
 - a. How would you describe the way John the Baptist ushered in the ministry of Jesus?
 - b. How did John the Baptist see his role?
 - c. What did other people think of John the Baptist?
5. Read [Matthew 3:13-17](#) and [John 1:29-34](#).
 - a. How did the moment of the beginning of Jesus' ministry play out as expected? What was unexpected? (see also [Isaiah 64:1](#), [Isaiah 42:1](#), [Isaiah 11:2](#), [Isaiah 61:1](#), [Psalm 2:7](#))
 - b. Why did John baptize Jesus?
6. Amy asked us each to consider, like John the Baptist: Is Jesus the star in your show? Is he center stage in your life?
7. What would it look like for us to prepare others for Jesus' coming, as John the Baptist did long ago?