

Lesson 107: Jesus is baptized

Scripture: Matthew 2; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1: 19-34

Memory Verse: And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
(Matt 3:17)

John the baptizer spent many months prophesying to Jewish people who lived in Jerusalem and all throughout the Jordan River Valley. He preached that they should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River

Everyone was expecting the Messiah (that is, God's Anointed One) to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. The religious leaders came to him and asked him, "Who are you?" He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."

"Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"

"No," he replied.

"Are you the Prophet we are expecting?"

"No."

"Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Clear the way for the Lord's coming!'"

Then the religious leaders who had been sent asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?"

John told them, "I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal."

Later, John announced: "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. I baptize you with[d] water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who with whom I am well pleased."