

Our Lord's Baptism and Temptation

Sermon 4 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 3:15-4:11

I. The Baptism of Jesus 3:15-17

A. Why was Jesus Baptized? (We know he had no sin).

B. The Mode of John's Baptism – Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-11

Many of our paedo-baptist friends accept immersion as an acceptable mode – even if they prefer sprinkling or affusion (pouring water)

Calvin in the Institutes – Book IV page 524

“Whether the person baptized is to be wholly immersed and that whether once or thrice, or whether he is only to be sprinkled with water, is not of the least consequence: churches should be at liberty to adopt either, according to the diversity of climates, although it is evident that the term *baptize* means to immerse, and that this was the form used by the primitive church.”

C. The Meaning of “To Fulfill all Righteousness”

1. This is part of his active obedience.
2. In his baptism we see a picture of double imputation

John Hendryx -- quoted by the Monergism.com website

Yes we must be quick to acknowledge that our Lord's atoning death removes sin. Clearly, the curse of the law is removed because Jesus endured the penalty for us. “For our sake he made himself to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Cor. 5:21). “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” (Gal. 3:13). Indeed, as the text of Scripture declares, in order for human beings, who are sinners, to have eternal life the guilt and penalty of sin must be removed. But **Jesus does this not only by dying the death we justly deserve but by living the life we should have lived.** This means, along with punishment for sins, that we must also have a perfect record of obedience to God's law. When these two conditions are fulfilled people can be justified or declared righteous, before God. Therefore, justification contains one negative and one positive element...If Jesus simply needed to impute the righteousness of God from His essence, there would have been no need for him to live for 33 years. Instead when Herod went to go massacre the infants in Bethlehem, Jesus death as an infant would have sufficed for our justification. But this was not the plan of God because to become a perfect high priest and lamb without blemish, Jesus not only had to die for us but he had to live for us. It is clear then that the Scriptures speak of God's people not only being justified by His death (Rom. 3:25; 5:9) but also as being saved by His life or obedience (Rom. 5:10, 19).

(He goes on to cite Hebrews chapters 4 & 5)

D. The Trinity at the Baptism

The Father – with a voice from heaven, confirming Jesus as the Son of God

The Son Himself fulfilling all righteousness

The Holy Spirit descending upon him -- as a sign to John the Baptist that this was Messiah, and a sign to the world that His ministry was beginning.

The best understanding of “the God-man” – 100% God and 100% man is found in creedal language, such as Chalcedon, and LBCF – ch 8 paragraphs 2-4.

E. The Son of God

1. The testimony of John the Baptist **John 1:31-34**

2. Matthew’s usage of the term.

About half of the time “Father” is used in connection to Jesus.

The rest is in connection with the “Father” in relation to the disciples.

1 John 3:2 -- Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Mark Ross, “He is the Son of God. He is everything we were meant to be. Having become one with us in our humanity, he has now revealed perfectly what we were meant to be: a people wholly consecrated to God.”

II. The Temptation 4:1-11

Introductory Observations to the Text

A. The Temptation of the Bread 4:1-4 -- Deut. 8:3

The Lord was tempted – basically to provide for his own needs apart from the will of His Father. Something Christ refused to do, because he always did the will of His Father in Heaven.

B. The Temptation of Misused Scripture 4:5-7 – Deut. 6:16

Satan is quoting from Psalm 91:11-12.

Jesus goes to the heart of the matter – You must not put God to the test.

You must not assume that you can do what you want – and just let God work it all out for what is good and right.

C. The Temptation of the Kingdoms of this World 4:8-11 – Deut. 6:13; 10:20

Christ winning the victory without suffering, dying, and rising again to fulfill the eternal Covenant of Redemption between Father and Son.

Final Applications