



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Christ Begins: Anointed for His Mission

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

1. In Matthew's Gospel, how much time has elapsed between Matthew 2:23 and Matthew 3:1? (Consult Luke 3:23) When is the last time that we hear about John and Jesus together? (Consult Luke 1:39-45).
2. There's a story in the Old Testament about Elisha healing a commander from Aram named Naaman. What did Naaman say about the waters of the Jordan? See 2 Kings 5:10-12

Now consider this: your God was baptized in the Jordan for you.

3. Agree or Disagree- Jesus needed to be baptized.
4. Look at these passages to get a sense for how "fulfilling all righteousness" connects with God's saving activity in the Old Testament. Psalm 65:5, Isaiah 41:10, 42:6, 45:21, 46:13.
5. Compare Isaiah 42:1 (the First Lesson for today) with Matthew 3:17. Isaiah is talking about the office of the Servant who will redeem Israel. What is happening in Matthew 3:17?
6. What was the purpose of "anointing" in the Old Testament? See 1 Samuel 16:13. How is this connected to the title "Messiah" and "Christ"? Now connect it back to the dove at Jesus' baptism.
7. Jesus' baptism has great significance for our life. He is publicly declared our substitute and Savior. How does that give new meaning to the way you think about your baptism?
8. John got to see this amazing sign, but later on while in prison, he seems to fall into doubt about who Jesus is. (Pastor Wordell preached on this in Advent.) How can you use this sign in your daily life to assure yourself of who Jesus is and what he promises you?