

God of the Promise: Do You Know Him? | Pastor Steve Wells | 01.16. 2022  
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

This week Pastor Steve examined John 1:19-37, which detailed the testimony of John the Baptist as he was being confronted by the religious leaders trying to discern who he was, and by what authority he was baptizing people. In this narrative, John summarizes the highlight of the day he baptized Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew gives us a more detailed account of the baptism of Jesus. While this week's message is still fresh on our minds, let's revisit Matthew's account of Jesus's baptism and allow these two accounts to create a more vivid picture in our minds-eye of what happened on that glorious day!

### **Matthew 3:1-17 New Living Translation** ***John the Baptist Prepares the Way***

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, <sup>2</sup>“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” <sup>3</sup>The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said, “He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him!’”

<sup>4</sup>John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. <sup>6</sup>And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?” <sup>8</sup>Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. <sup>9</sup>Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.<sup>12</sup> He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup>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?”

<sup>15</sup>But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

### **Important Notes on Jesus' Baptism:**

- Jesus' baptism was not a required step to “make him Messiah”. Jesus was fully the Messiah and fully God's Son prior to his baptism. Some false teachers submit that Jesus was merely a man, until this moment occurred, thus marking His pivot from humanity to deity. This is heretical teaching. Jesus was fully God from the foundations of the earth. He is eternal. He was present at creation. He is and always will be an inseparable part of the Triune God (aka: the Trinity).
- For a believer, our baptism is quite similar. Our baptism does not save us. We are saved by Grace through Faith (**Ephesians 2:8-10**). While baptism is commanded in scripture, it is commanded and intended to be an outward symbol – proclaiming to the whole world that you are a follower of Christ. It is an outward declaration of your inward decision to surrender your life to Jesus. Some denominations teach that baptism is required for salvation, which is not true. (Evidenced by the thief on the cross)
  - With that said – I do believe that scripture reveals to us that God's heart and earnest desire is for all believers to be baptized when at all possible! It is a step of obedience that brings great joy to the Father. Each believer should examine their own hearts before God on this issue and prayerfully decide if baptism is their next step.

This morning, Pastor Steve asked if any of the statements below describe you? Read and discuss them with your group, then share which one best describes you.

- It's possible to grow up around Jesus and miss that He is/was the Messiah. (John the Baptist)
- It's possible to be really religious and miss that Jesus is the Messiah. (Pharisees & Sadducees)
- It's possible to hear about Jesus for the first time and be convinced that He is the Messiah. (Early Disciples)
- It's possible to reject and live your life completely against Jesus then suddenly recognize who He is and be changed. (Woman at the well, Paul the Centurion)