

Life in God's Family - Baptism

Baptism – What is Baptism? Matthew 3:11 – 17

1. John the Baptist Matthew 3: 1 - 12

- I baptise you with water for repentance
- Baptism is for those who confess their sins
 - Verse 8 'Produce fruit in keeping with repentance'
 - Our relationship in the family does not come through birth, it comes through being born again.
- Ezekiel 36: 24 – 25 'I will sprinkle clean water on you'

'After me will come one who is more powerful than I'

Jesus and Baptism

- 'He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire'
- Ezekiel 36: 26 – 32 'I will put my Spirit within you'

2. Jesus is baptised Matthew 3: 13 – 17

- John tried to deter him
- 'It is proper to do this to fulfil all righteousness
- Jesus had nothing to repent – 'He was without sin' Hebrews 4:15
 - i. Jesus was identifying with us – 'He became sin for us' 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 'This is my Son, whom I love; with whom in whom I am well pleased'
 - i. Jesus was identifying with God's will and plan

3. Baptism is:

- Acknowledging and accepting I need to repent
- Proclaiming Jesus – He is my Lord and Saviour
- A commitment to living life in step with the Spirit.

A public declaration of a personal experience.

Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 3: 1 – 17

1. Take some time to share accounts of your own experiences of being baptised and the journey leading to it.
2. Repentance is one of the key elements of baptism. What is repentance?
3. Would you see baptism as a process or an event?
4. In verses 7 – 10 John is talking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, what does he challenge them to think about and how does this help us to see what baptism is?
5. In verse 11 John refers to Jesus' baptism as one 'with the Holy Spirit and with fire' what does that mean?
6. In verse 15 Jesus says: 'This is to fulfil all righteousness' what does he mean by this?
7. In verses 16 – 17 we see all three persons of the Godhead in action together. In what ways does this help us understand the threefold nature of Father, Son and Holy Spirit?