

THE GOD-MAN

Monday, March 6

Reading: Luke 3:21-38

Luke 3:21 And as [Jesus] was praying, heaven was opened **22** and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased."

Why did the sinless Son of God submit to a baptism of repentance? He had no sin to repent!! By being baptized Jesus was identifying Himself with sinful humanity.

"[Jesus' baptism] is unexplainable because One who has never and will never sin submits to a baptism that is a sign of repentance. He is not repenting; He is identifying. It is the first step toward an eventual death on the cross. Here, with John, He submits to a baptism of repentance for sins He never committed. On Golgotha He will die for sins He never committed so that He can forgive each and every sin"¹

God the Father showed His approval by publically proclaiming Jesus as His "beloved Son." Jesus is the eternal Son of God. This event simply proclaimed that fact to the world. Only Luke, with His emphasis on prayer, mentions that Jesus was praying when the heavens opened and the Spirit descended. Here we see all three members of the Trinity.

God's voice at Jesus' baptism showed the deity of Christ – the Son of God. The genealogy that follows shows the humanity of Christ. Luke traces Jesus' family tree through David, Abraham, and all the way back to Adam. Matthew 1 records the royal genealogy of Joseph (Jesus' adoptive father) from Abraham through David and Solomon. Luke records the actual bloodline of Jesus through Mary, a descendant of David through another son of Bathsheba named Nathan (1 Chronicles 3:5).² By taking the genealogy all the way back to Adam he is showing the humanity of Christ and His mission to the whole world, not just the nation of Israel.

Jesus is the God-man! He is fully God and yet is able to sympathize with us because He is also fully human.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. **16** Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

POINTS TO PONDER:

As Jesus identified with us at His baptism so we identify with Him when we are baptized. In obedience to His command, our public baptism tells the world that we are followers of Christ. Paul reminds us that "we were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:4). Since Jesus became a man so He could identify and die for us, how do you show your allegiance to follow Him?

¹ Michael Card. Luke: the Gospel of Amazement, 60.

² Though Mary's name is not mentioned, the structure of this genealogy suggests that Mary's line is being traced here while Joseph's line is being traced in Matthew.

READING THE STORY: Matthew 3-7