

Intown Community Church

First Monday Prayer and Fasting for March 2019

Again, today, you may want to fast from some routine part of your life that by avoiding that behavior you can focus more on your relationship with God in prayer.

Fasting is a way to discipline our minds and bodies to help us focus on God and his Word. You may want to fast from food, social media, or something that the Lord has been leading you to set aside for a day or two. Ask the Lord if there is anything that is keeping you from hearing His voice.

You can always find resources on prayer and fasting on the Intown.org website under Worship and Prayer.

As you spend some time alone with God, we suggest this pattern for your worship and study.

Jesus's Invitation for Us to follow Him

Day 3: Matthew 3:13-17 – Blessed/Beloved

The Baptism of Jesus

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 alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

These are real people – John and Jesus were men. Actually, cousins in an earthly relationship. John the Baptist observed the absurdity of the situation, but Jesus comforted/counseled John's anxiety and said it's a good thing.

What's right about being baptized? I've been so impressed with what Jesus did for John. Jesus showed respect to John, affirmed and, perhaps, validated John's ministry by submitting himself to John and being baptized.

When Jesus heard the "voice from heaven" was the love coming because of something Jesus had done? No. But who Jesus was to the Father.

“Beloved”
“Well pleased”
This is my beloved son.

Words have power. How would these words make you feel?

Rooted and connected come to my mind. How about you?

Putting us in the scene. Walking in John the Baptist’s sandals.
I’m a beloved child of God as my life is hidden with God in Christ.

“It is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness...” – see Jesus taking John by the arm as he’s talking about being baptized. Powerful. Jesus is connecting deeply with John.

How would Jesus’ affirmation and the Father’s love feel to you?

Power of Scripture is not just in the truth or doctrine being taught, but also in the truth being demonstrated.

Most likely, you have followed Jesus’s example in baptism. How do you reflect on that baptism that you experienced as a baby, a child or an adult?

John had been preaching and teaching a baptism of repentance, which is the first step in turning to God and surrendered ourselves to His mercy and grace.

Is there anything you want to repent of as you reflect on your baptism?

What needs do you see in your life or in the lives of those close to you? Please pray for the Lord’s intervention and presence for all who need Him.

Pray for your Intown family of believers that we would worship the Savior in spirit and truth. Pray that we would follow Jesus in baptism and beyond.

Do you want to make any commitment as you listen to the Holy Spirit’s voice through this Scripture or others? Share your heart with the Lord.