



Uniontown Bible Church

Sermon Guide
March 15: Luke 3:21-22

What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus identified with us completely - Though sinless, Jesus stood in line with sinners to be baptized, foreshadowing His ultimate substitution for us on the cross.
2. Baptism is obedience, not salvation - Baptism doesn't save us; only faith in Jesus does. Baptism is a public declaration of what has already happened in our hearts.
3. Baptism is not graduation - You don't need all your questions answered or your life completely cleaned up before being baptized. It's a step of obedience taken in faith.
4. The Trinity is revealed - At Jesus' baptism, we see the Son in the water, the Spirit descending like a dove, and the Father declaring His pleasure.
5. Reading Scripture changes us - As we engage with God's Word daily, we fall more in love with Jesus and respond with obedience.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus, who was sinless, chose to be baptized? What does this tell us about His mission?
2. What made John the Baptist's message so effective?
3. Read Romans 6:3-4. How does the pastor's explanation of baptism as a picture of burial and resurrection help you understand this passage better?
4. Have you been baptized? If so, share your baptism story with the group. If not, what has kept you from taking that step?
5. The Father said "This is my son in whom I am well pleased" before Jesus had performed any miracles or preached any sermons. How does it feel to know that God's pleasure in you isn't based on your performance?

6. What "kindergarten questions" or uncertainties have you been waiting to resolve before taking a step of obedience in your faith journey?
7. Reading Scripture daily is causing people to fall more in love with Jesus. How has the Every Word reading challenge impacted your relationship with God?
8. Jesus stood "shoulder to shoulder with the greedy, the tax collectors, the soldiers, the violent, the broken, the dishonest." How does Jesus' willingness to identify with sinners encourage you?
9. John the Baptist gave very practical instructions for repentance: share your coat, collect only what's necessary, use power for good. What would practical repentance look like in your life right now?
10. Baptism is "not graduation" but more like the first day of kindergarten. How does this perspective change the way you think about spiritual growth and obedience?

Practical Applications:

1. Continue (or start) the Every Word daily reading challenge. Share what you're learning with at least one person this week. utown.org/everyword
2. If you've been baptized, find a picture or recall your baptism story and share it with someone who hasn't been baptized yet.
3. Identify one area where you've been waiting for "ideal conditions" before obeying God. Take one small step of obedience this week.
4. If you are considering baptism, talk to your home group leader or a pastor about your questions regarding baptism. Read Acts 2:36-41 and Acts 8:26-39 and journal about what these passages teach about baptism. If you're ready, sign up for the next baptism opportunity at church. utown.org/nextsteps
5. If you've already been baptized, reflect on what has changed since your baptism. Write down 3-5 ways God has grown you. Encourage someone who is considering baptism by sharing your story. Identify one "next step" of obedience God is calling you to take (like baptism was a step for you).