

WELCOME TO ADULT BIBLE STUDY

April 5, 2020

March-May 2020: JESUS THE MESSIAH

Unit 20: JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

04/05 – Jesus is Baptized (Matthew 3:1-17)

04/12 – Easter: Alive with Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-22)

04/19 – Jesus is Tempted (Luke 4:1-13)

04/26 – John Points to Jesus (John 1:29-34;3:25-36)

05/03 – Jesus Calls His Disciples (Luke 5:3-32)

LAST WEEK...

JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:40-47 – By age twelve, Jesus had become “...***strong, filled with wisdom***.” While in Jerusalem for Passover, he demonstrated this wisdom by “...***sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.***”

Luke 2:48-50 – Jesus stated the ***priority*** of His life when He asked Mary and Joseph, “...***Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?***”

Luke 2:51-52 – “***And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.***”

As followers of Christ we demonstrate wisdom by making Him the priority of our life and by increasing our knowledge and understanding of the heart and mind of God.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning
of wisdom: and the knowledge of the
Holy is understanding.

- *Proverbs 9:10*

UNIT 20

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

Session 1 – Matthew 3:1-17

Jesus is Baptized

1. The Son's Herald Calls for Repentance and Baptism
(Matthew 3:1-6)
2. The Son's Herald Calls for the Fruit of Repentance
(Matthew 3:7-12)
3. The Son's Herald Baptizes Jesus
(Matthew 3:13-17)

SESSION AT A GLANCE

As prophesied by Malachi, John the Baptist came “...in the spirit and power of Elijah...” and broke the prophetic silence of 400 years by proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. He called the people to repentance, confession and transformation, evidenced symbolically by baptism and lived out by bearing “...fruit in keeping with repentance.”

QUESTIONS TO PONDER...

Why is confession of sin a vital step on the path to changed behavior?

What are some examples of “fruit in keeping with repentance” in your daily life?

What are some ways your identity as a believer in Jesus should impact thoughts, actions, and life choices?

1. THE SON'S HERALD CALLS FOR REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM (Matthew 3:1-6)

Matt 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

Matt 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matt 3:3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Matt 3:4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

1. THE SON'S HERALD CALLS FOR REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM (Matthew 3:1-6 cont'd)

Matt 3:5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him,
Matt 3:6 *and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

Repentance is not just saying sorry publicly to save face after being caught doing something wrong; it is a real change in one's thinking. True repentance is an inward reorientation affecting the whole of one's thoughts, but it expresses itself in outward acts. In repentance one turns away from idolatry, sin, evil, wrongdoing and any other way of life that is contrary to God's word...Repentance is a prerequisite for entering the kingdom of heaven.

- Joe Kapolyo

Africa Bible Commentary

FILL IN THE BLANKS

P. 54 – **Repentance** is a response to God's gracious call to salvation. It includes a genuine sorrow for one's sin, a turning away from one's sin toward Christ, and a life that reflects lasting change and transformation. It is the human counterpart to God's work of regeneration; in other words, the human side of our conversion.

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.

- Acts 17:30-31

If we *confess* our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- *1 John 1:9*

2. THE SON'S HERALD CALLS FOR THE FRUIT OF REPENTANCE (Matthew 3:7-12)

Matt 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Matt 3:8 *Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.*

Matt 3:9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Matt 3:10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.¹⁵

2. THE SON'S HERALD CALLS FOR THE FRUIT OF REPENTANCE (Matthew 3:7-12 cont'd)

Matt 3:11 *"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

Matt 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

To signify repentance in preparation for God's arriving kingdom, John baptized. His baptism was shocking. Such a baptism went beyond daily Jewish ritual cleansing exercises. John's baptism involved confession of sins, which, in this context, would involve a radical redirection of thought and life - conversion, in other words.

- Gerald L. Stevens
Biblical Illustrator

“...for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Jesus (Acts 1:5)

“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, *‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’* If then God gave the same gift to them as He gave to us *when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ*, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

- *Acts 11:15-18*

FILL IN THE BLANKS

P. 54 – **Baptism**: Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- *Romans 6:3-4*

3. THE SON'S HERALD BAPTIZES JESUS (Matthew 3:13-17)

Matt 3:13 *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.*

Matt 3:14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Matt 3:15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

Matt 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he

3. THE SON'S HERALD BAPTIZES JESUS (Matthew 3:13-17 cont'd)

saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

Matt 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

- *Isaiah 53:11*

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

- *Isaiah 11:2*

John's baptism has now its day, and therefore honor must now be put upon that, and they who attend upon it must be encouraged. John was now increasing, and therefore it must be thus yet; shortly he will decrease, and then it will be otherwise. It must be so now, because now is the time for Christ's appearing in public, and this will be a fair opportunity for it (see Jn. 1:31-34). Thus He must be made manifest to Israel, and be signalized by wonders from heaven, in that act of His own, which was most condescending and self-abasing.

- Matthew Henry

NEXT WEEK

April 12, 2020

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The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the
love of God, and the communion of the
Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

– *2 Corinthians 13:14*