

# “IDENTITY BEFORE FUNCTION – THE COMMISSIONING OF JESUS”

By Pastor Tom Oestreich 9-21-08

## PLEASE OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Mark 1:9-11

### READ Mark 1:9-11

9 And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting, and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. 11 Then a voice came from heaven, “You are my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

## Basic Biblical hermeneutics teaches us that we need to let scripture interpret scripture

- All 4 Gospels record the baptism of Jesus
- There are important details we can learn from each of them

## In the account recorded in Matthew 3:13-17 we read

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. **14 AND JOHN TRIED TO PREVENT HIM, SAYING, “I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU, AND YOU ARE COMING TO ME?” 15 BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, “PERMIT IT TO BE SO, FOR THUS IT IS FITTING FOR US TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.” THEN HE ALLOWED HIM.** 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold,, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from Heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

## In the account recorded in Luke 3:21-23a we read

21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. 22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove on Him, and a voice came from Heaven, which said, “You are My Beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” **23 NOW JESUS HIMSELF BEGAN HIS MINISTRY AT ABOUT THIRTY YEARS OF AGE.**

## In the account recorded in John 1:31-34 we read

31 And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from Heaven like a dove, and He remained on Him. 33 “I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, **“UPON WHOM YOU SEE THE SPIRIT DESCENDING, AND REMAINING ON HIM, THIS IS HE WHO BAPTIZES WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.** 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

## BRIEF TEACHING ON WATER BAPTISM:

“Baptism” - Comes from the Greek word: (G908) **baptisma** *bap'-tis-mah*  
- **From G907**; *baptism* (technically or figuratively): - baptism.

“Baptize” - Comes from the Greek word: (G907) **baptizo** *bap-tid'-zo*  
- **From a derivative of G911**; to *make whelmed* (that is, *fully wet*); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial *ablution*, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian *baptism*: - baptist, baptize, wash.

**A derivative of the Greek word: (G911) **bapto** *bap'-to***  
- to *whelm*, that is, cover wholly with a fluid; in the New Testament only in a qualified or specific sense, that is, (literally) to *moisten* (a part of one's person), or (by implication) to *stain* (as with dye): - dip.

### There are three distinct usages for the words BAPTO and BAPTIZO

1.) **MECHANICAL USE** –The word refers to the introduction or placing of a person or thing into a new environment or into union with something else so as to alter its previous condition.

- **Example: placing cloth into dye**

**Romans 6:3-4** Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised up from *the* dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life.)

2.) **CEREMONIAL USE** – A symbol designed to point to the purging away of sin on whom the rite was performed.

- **John's Baptism looked ahead to a coming Savior. Christian Baptism is a testimony of the inward fact of one's salvation.**

**Matthew 3:6** And they were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

**John 3:22** After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea. And He stayed there with them and baptized. )

3.) **METAPHORICAL USE** – Christ's sufferings are referred to as a **Baptism**

**Luke 12:50** But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am pressed down until it is accomplished!

**Matthew 20:22-23** But Jesus answered and said, You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They said to Him, We are able. 23 And He said to them, You shall indeed drink of My cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *to those* for whom it has been prepared by My Father.

## **1.) QUALIFICATION FOR WATER BAPTISM**

- a. Those who believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and receive Him as Lord and Savior.
- b. All Christians should be baptized in water (Jesus did)
- c. “Believers Baptism” is referred to in many scriptures to allow us to see the validity of the above statement.

***Read and Study: Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12; Acts 8:37;  
Acts 10:44-48; Acts 16:30-33; Acts 19:1, 5***

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## **2.) METHOD OF WATER BAPTISM**

- a. ‘Baptizo’ means to immerse (identify)
- b. Immersion is the scriptural pattern for water baptism

***Read and Study: Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:38-39 “They came up out of the water”***

- c. It is a symbol of a Redemptive Event:
  - We enter into the Death, Burial, Resurrection- of Christ
  - It reproduces Calvary in terms of Sight.

***Read and Study: Romans 6:3-11; 1 Cor 15:3-4***

- d. It is a symbol of Positional Transition
  - We go from Death to Old Life (Adam),
  - Into the New Life (Second Adam – Jesus Christ).

***Read and Study: Romans 6:4-5; 11 Cor 5:17-18***

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## **3.) MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM**

- a. Identification with Christ in His death, burial, & resurrection
  - That is why we immerse rather than sprinkle
  - You don’t throw a handful of dirt on a dead man and call them buried
- b. Believers Baptism is declaration of personal faith and commitment

***Read and Study: Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15; Acts 8:12-38***

- c. Believers Baptism is an identification with the people of God
  - Uniqueness of Spiritual fellowship in the Church

***Read and Study: Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12, 34-38; Acts 10:47***

## So what can we learn from Jesus' baptism?

### 1.) IT WAS THE MOMENT OF DECISION FOR JESUS

**For thirty years He had stayed in Nazareth.**

- Faithfully doing His day's work and duties.
- Waiting for the exact time that the Father wanted Him to be revealed.

**This was the moment of decision to launch out upon His task**

- **Jesus knew when John the Baptist emerged**
- **That His moment of decision had come**
- **Nazareth was home sweet home**
- **But Jesus answered the summons and challenges of God**

**And the Voice cries out in the Glory,  
"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" Matt 3:17**

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### 2.) IT WAS THE MOMENT OF IDENTIFICATION FOR JESUS

**Jesus did not need to repent of sin**

- **His baptism was a death to His reputation**
- **Instead He took on the form of a servant**
- **He humbled Himself**
- **Became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross**

**Philippians 2:5-11** For let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, 7 **but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.** 8 And being found in fashion as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.** 9 Therefore God has highly exalted Him, and has given Him a name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of heavenly ones, and of earthly ones, and of ones under the earth; 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**And the Voice cries out in the Glory,  
"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" Matt 3:17**

### 3.) IT WAS THE MOMENT OF APPROVAL FOR JESUS

**Jesus had submitted His decisions to the Father**

- And that decision was unmistakably approved.
- Mark's gospel records that the Father said:
  - "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

**Jesus hadn't really done anything up to this point:**

- No miracles, casting out devils, healing the sick,
- No calling the disciples, walking on water,
- Nothing that we would say as special:

**Other than His birth, He had lived a pretty ordinary life**

- He was born
- He spent time with the elders when He was 12 years old
- He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52 )

**Yet the Father said that He was well pleased!**

And the Voice cries out in the Glory,  
*"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"* Matt 3:17

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### 4.) IT WAS THE MOMENT OF EQUIPMENT FOR JESUS

**This was the moment the Holy Spirit descended upon Him**

- John's message was one of the axe laid to the root
- Jesus' message began with the image of a dove resting
- Jesus is the baptizer of the Holy Spirit
- His ministry would be marked with a message of love

**Luke 4:22** And all bore witness to Him and wondered at the gracious words which came out of His mouth. And they said, Is this not Joseph's son?

**Luke 24:32** And they said to one another, Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us by the way and while He opened the Scriptures to us?

And the Voice cries out in the Glory,  
*"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"* Matt 3:17

## 5.) The Baptism lead Jesus to His testing in the wilderness.

- The same Spirit that came upon Him in the waters of baptism
- Drove Him into the wilderness to be tested

**Mark 1:12-13** Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. 13 And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan. And He was with the wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him.

- Satan's goal was to stop Jesus' mission before it could get started
- That is why we can look to Jesus when we are tempted:

**Heb 4:15-16** For we do not have a high priest who cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted just as *we are, yet* without sin. Therefore let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

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### First the baptism, then the testing, then the ministry

- We want Ministry, Identity, and then (maybe) testing
- But it doesn't work that way.

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Have you ever noticed that in the middle of the word “obedience” is the word “die”?

God want us to die to ourselves

- He wants us to Rely on Him, and Him alone
- And then allow His Spirit to flow through us to others.

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**John 5:19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, most assuredly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of Himself but what He sees the Father do. For whatever He does, the Son also does likewise.

**John 15:5** I am the Vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Even from a very early age, most of us discover that that what we do determines our value.

- We are driven, pulled by inner urges; yet never satisfied.
- We get the ‘prize’ yet we are no happier than we were before.
- This is true for those who know Christ as well as those who don't.
- And while we are chasing this world's system for determining who we are; a still small voice is crying out for us to come to Him to find our self-worth: ***“This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”***

**It is important that we have our identity before our function.**

**Jesus did what He did because He KNEW who He was (and is)**

**Out of order, we are open prey to the enemy:**

**Act 19:14-16** And there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 But answering the evil spirit said, Jesus I know, and I comprehend Paul, but who are you? 16 And the man in whom the evil spirit resided leaped on them, and overcoming them he was strong against them, so that they fled out of the house naked and wounded.

## **HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

### **1.) HAVE YOU COME TO YOUR MOMENT OF DECISION?**

- **The moment of decision to launch out upon your task**
- Have you come to faith in God through His Son Jesus Christ?
  - You can today, right now.
  - Don't wait. His arms are open to receive you.
- **Are you daily surrendering to say "YES" to His will for your life?**
  - **Salvation is a one time event**
  - **But surrender is a daily occurrence**

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### **2.) HAVE YOU COME TO YOUR MOMENT OF IDENTIFICATION?**

- Have you come to the place where you are relying on His life?
- Are you "buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life?" (Romans 6:4)
- Are you "counting yourselves also to be truly dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord?" (Romans 6:11)

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### **3.) HAVE YOU COME TO YOUR MOMENT OF APPROVAL?**

- **Have you heard the Father crying out in the Glory, "This is My beloved Son or My beloved Daughter in whom I am well pleased"?**
  - He knows how hurt wrong thinking has left you;
  - He wants to heal you.
  - But, then He wants you to pick up your mat and go home. (leave your old identity and pick up what He says about you)
  - Stop performing to get your function and rest in His approval.

#### 4.) HAVE YOU COME TO YOUR MOMENT OF EQUIPMENT?

- Scripture says be filled with the Holy Spirit:
  - Which is an ongoing verb that means “stay filled”
- **Jesus is the baptizer of the Holy Spirit**
  - Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? (not just water)
- **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not an apex experience**
  - IT IS A LAUNCHING PAD
  - The tempting comes to stop us before we launch out to do God’s will
- **In all temptation, God will be there to help us be victorious**

**1Co 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except as is common to man; **but God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation also will make the way to escape, so that you may be able to bear *it*.

**Gen 4:7** If you do well, shall you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at the door; and its desire *is* for you, and you shall rule over it.

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#### 5.) FINALLY:

- **Go take this Good News into the world in which you find yourself:**
  - That they can stop striving for their function
  - That they don’t have to work at measuring up to other’s standards
  - That they too can be complete in Him!
  - That they too can hear His voice giving them identification

**WORSHIP TEAM PLEASE COME UP HERE**

**He longs for you to hear His voice:**

**Zephaniah 3:17**  
The LORD your God, in your midst;  
The Mighty One, will save;  
He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
He will quiet you in His love;  
He will rejoice over you with singing.

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#### LET’S PRAY

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#### BENEDICTION:

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:13**)