

THE
LIVING ROOM

SESSIONS

with
(Lf) livingfaith
Church

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH: MATTHEW 3

Matthew 3

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

4John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

13Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16As 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. 17And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

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Baptism as an Act of Worship

This is one of the really cool chapters in Scripture that I really think you can visualize exactly what is happening. John the Baptist is calling upon the masses to repent, calling out the Pharisees for their arrogance, and in the middle of it all, Jesus shows up! Jesus then humbles himself, and asked to be baptized, as was the will of the Father. In that moment, we hear God's voice from Heaven declaring joy over his son. In our act of baptism, we are declaring as Jesus did, that we are submitting our lives to the will of the Father, and that is why we worship and celebrate.

Reflection Points

1. Do you need to be baptized? If you have not, please tell your life group leader if this is something you want and need to do?
2. For those that have been baptized, when you consider what the action represents, how have you maintained your submission to God's will?
3. In whatever area of your life that you need to give over, pray today for repentance, but also that God will continue to grow in you and grow your faith, that we may reflect Christ to the best of our ability.

Prayer for Today:

Thank you God for the act of baptism, and giving us Christ's example to follow. I pray that today, I will be the best representation for you.