

Mark 1:4-11 NIV

Let's be certain about Repentance, Baptism, and Jesus!

Sunday, January 11 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, January 12 at 7 PM
The Baptism of Our Lord – 2015

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We recently celebrated Jesus' birth – *the toys are not yet broken and some clothes have not yet even been worn*, yet we now turn our attention to John's ministry which will lead us to Jesus' baptism and the beginning of His ministry! As we move through **Mark 1:4-11**, we will focus on the topics of repentance, baptism, and Jesus!

1. **John's Ministry:** ⁴ **And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.** ⁵ **The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.**

- a. The location: John could have gone *to the people*, yet God brought *the people to him* "in the desert region..." – to pull them away from their daily routines and focus them on John's message of repentance. Think about the big differences between ♦living in a home versus a tent **or** ♦living *with* versus *without* electricity.
- b. Their repentance: Repentance is ♦sorrow for sin and ♦faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of that sin. **God is the One who enables people to repent!** For children *we baptize first*; then teach them to live lives of repentance (*thus sorrow and faith*).

For adults *we call to repentance first*; then baptize them.

- i. God's work of repentance prepares a person to receive the forgiveness offered through baptism. Therefore, John refused to baptize the Pharisees who had no *evidence* of repentance (**Mt. 3:7-10**).
 - ii. The Bible literally says that John was "preaching a baptism of repentance into a sending away of sins." Lenski wrote: "**The sins are taken from the sinner and are sent away so far and in such a way that even God will not find them on the day of judgment**" (31) ^{NAS} **Psalm 103:12** "As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us."
2. **John and Jesus:** ⁶ **John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.** ⁷ **And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.** ⁸ **I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." //**
- a. John's connection to Elijah: People who had met Elijah gave this description of him: "He was a man with a **garment of hair** and with a **leather belt** around his waist." (2 Kings 1:8 NIV) The LORD said this through Malachi: "See, I will send you **the prophet Elijah** before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes." (Mal. 4:5 NIV) Then Jesus helped us understand the connection

when He said: John “[is Elijah who is to come.](#)” (Mt. 11:14 ESV; see vv. 11-14)

- b. John’s appearance and repentance: John’s appearance was *so rough and poor* that his appearance itself “**was a call** [for change] **to all who made food and drink, house and [clothing] their chief concern in life to turn from such vanity...**” (Lenski, 38). We, *and all of America*, need that same message today!
 - c. The difference between their baptisms: They were essentially the same, since they both included *the work of the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins!* But this distinction can be made: John’s baptism “**made followers of the Christ to come...** [Jesus’ baptism made] **followers of the Christ already come**” (33).
3. **Jesus’ Baptism**: ⁹ **At that time** [thus at the height of John’s ministry] **Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.** ¹⁰ **As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.** ¹¹ **And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”** // For more details, see Mt. 3:13-17.
- a. Why was Jesus baptized? It was not to remove Jesus’ sin – *He had none*, neither was it to keep the law – *since baptism is gospel*. Instead, in the words of Lenski, “**Jesus was baptized by John because he regarded this as the right way in which to enter upon his great office**” (43) as the Messiah, the Christ – *thus the One anointed by*

the Holy Spirit to serve as the ultimate Prophet, Priest, and King! Also, we could say that Jesus *voluntarily and publicly* expressed His readiness to take away the sin of the world!

- b. How was Jesus baptized? Was He immersed or was water poured upon Him? We don’t know, *but consider this statement by Lenski*: “**All the ancient pictorial representations of the baptism of Jesus as well as of other baptisms—with not a single exception—show other modes, never immersion... Even the ruins of ancient baptisteries showed that these were too shallow to have made immersion possible**” (46).
- c. Key elements: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were present – audibly, bodily, and “**like a dove.**” Jesus coming “**out of the water**” could be referring to *six inches* of water. The Spirit descended upon Jesus – not during but **after** His baptism. Even though Jesus remained humble, God the Father boldly declared Jesus to be His Son, the One He loves and with whom He is well pleased! *So Jesus should be very important to us!*

Conclusion: So let us ♦continue in repentance—*thus in sorrow and faith*, ♦rejoice that we have been baptized into Christ—*thus united to our Savior*, and ♦ever-trust in Jesus—*thus knowing that He alone is our ticket to heaven!*

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230