



## Week 40: Seeing Jesus in Baptism

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:11-17, 28:18-20, Mark 1:7-11, Luke 3:15-22, John 1:26-34, 3:22, 4:1-2, Acts 2:38-39, 22:12-16, Romans 6:1-4, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-29, Colossians 2:9-12

### **Devotional:**

At the outset of his ministry, Jesus goes to the Jordan River, and like many others, is baptized by John the Baptist there. It is an important moment in which many powerful things happen. What can these things tell us about baptism? Probably a lot! But here are a couple which grab my attention:

**The Witness to Jesus as God's Son.** In all the gospels there is witness to Jesus being the Son of God. In Matthew, Mark and Luke, this witness comes from God himself. In John, it comes from John the Baptist. This testimony is at the heart of our Christian faith and identity. As the Church continues to baptize, we do so in the name of Jesus Christ. Baptism signifies our connection with God and the salvation and healing he gives through Jesus. In God's witness to Jesus as his son, there is also a beautiful picture of what God does for us in Christ. Through Jesus, God makes us again his sons and daughters. Baptism is a powerful assurance of this status. God says to us in Jesus, "You are my daughters and sons, whom I love and am pleased with."

**The Presence of the Holy Spirit.** In each gospel, the Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus. As the Church baptizes in Acts, the Holy Spirit is also closely connected with this event. Baptism isn't an act of magic, where the right words and right splash of water will bring about the Spirit. But, it is a picture of what happens when we believe in Jesus and are a part of God's people. God empowers us with his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is present in baptism, and wonderfully, throughout the many moments to come after in a believer's life. Baptism pictures and assures us of God's power and presence in the life of his people.

**The Journey that Follows.** In Matthew, Mark and Luke, following his baptism, Jesus is

immediately sent out into the wilderness and faces temptation. In John, Jesus begins to call disciples and teach them. Baptism marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and journey in which he will need the presence and power of the Spirit through many ups and downs. Our baptism marks the beginning of our journey with God. Being identified with Jesus means we'll face challenges such as opposition and temptation, as well as enjoy wonderful moments of seeing God's presence and kingdom in our lives. Our baptism is a constant reminder that we are on a journey, and that we need and *have* God's continued presence in the Spirit along the way. Jesus has gone under the water and journeys out in the power of the Spirit as God's Son. So, we too continue to go under the water and journey out in the power of the Spirit as God's children in this world.

### Song

"Whiter Than Snow"



### Activity

Reflect on your baptism in Jesus Christ. Why is this a significant event in your life?

### Memory Verse:

Romans 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

### Questions to reflect on this week:

- How have I seen Jesus in the **B**ible?
- How have I seen Jesus in the **L**ove I show toward God/others?
- How have I seen Jesus in **E**arth he's created?
- How have I seen Jesus in **P**rayer?
- How have I seen Jesus in the **O**thers he's placed before me?

[ **BLEPO**: means "to see" in Greek ]

**Seeing Jesus is believing in Him!**



---

*Copyright © 2016 Bethel Church, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

*MailChimp*