

Scripture Reading

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:13-17 ESV

Praise of the Father

Matthew 3:13-17

Praise and Validation

- Children seek validation from their parents
- Both parents, but especially fathers are looked to for validation from their sons.
- Look to Dad for guidance, teaching, support, and acceptance
- Need “the nod”, and verbal confirmation.

Why Validating and Praising a Child is Important

- When a child does not receive praise and validation, it is damaging to their mental and emotional well-being.
- Their self-worth is damaged.
- A void that can't be filled
- Creates a lifetime of validation seeking behavior.

Effects of Fatherless Societies

- According to the US Census Bureau, 18.2 million American children live in a fatherless home.
- Studies by the USDA, National Fatherhood Initiative, US Dept of Ed, and others show impact of fatherless homes.
- Roughly 1 in 4 households without a father (biological, step, foster, etc..)

Effects of Fatherless Societies Cont.

- This 25% of children make up:
 - 85% of youth in prison
 - 85% of youth with behavioral disorders
 - 71% of high school drop outs
 - 63% of youth suicides

BE A DAD!

- It's one thing to father a child, and something entirely different to be a dad.
- Be involved!
- Give love and praise!
- Do the little things!
- Teach them the ways of the Lord!

Matthew 3:13-17

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Matthew 3:13-17 ESV

God Validates Jesus

- God finds it necessary to include in verse 17, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”
- He made sure Jesus knew He was proud of what Jesus was doing.
- The ultimate validation
- Provided reassurance to Jesus

John the Baptist

- At the Jordan River
- Baptizing those who came to him for repentance.
- Preparing the way for Jesus and His ministry.
- βαπτίζω – baptizó
 - Means to dip, immerse, or submerge.

History of Baptism

- Baptism did not start with John.
- Ancient Hebrews also had baptism
- Roots of baptism come from ritual washing called tevilah טְבִילָה
- Part of a mikvah, or ritual bath for cleansing.
- Several Old Testament examples of ritual washing.
 - Naaman
 - Priests

- ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

2 Kings 5:14

Priests' Cleansing

- ²⁰ When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the LORD, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die. ²¹ They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations.”

Exodus 30:20-21

Jesus is Baptized by John

- What did John say to Jesus?
 - “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”
- John knows who Jesus is and acts in humility.
 - Knows Jesus is perfect, holy, and righteous.
- Jesus comes to John to fulfill ALL righteousness.
 - Jesus didn't need to be cleansed, but wanted to fulfill God's wishes.

Takeaways from the Lesson

1. It is important that WE seek the validation from the Father, and in turn validate our children.
2. We should seek to fulfill righteousness too.
3. We have to be made clean.

Be Born Again

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”