

**Title:** "My Space"

**Text:** Matthew 3:13-15

**Target:** Jesus came to do for us what we could never do for ourselves.

- I. **Baptism of Inauguration:** *"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him"* (Matthew 3:13)
  - A. **The Announcement of Jesus:** *"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29)
  - B. **The Acknowledgment of Jesus:** *"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"* (Luke 3:16, Matthew 3:11)

**Discussion Question:** I've heard it said that all worship begins with the acknowledgement that our God is great. David spent a good portion of the Psalms extolling the greatness of God as part of his worship (see Psalm 145). Our acknowledgement of God's glory and greatness leads us to worship which will in turn lead us to repentance and sanctification. When is the last time that you acknowledged the character and nature of God? Spend some time as a group speaking/sharing the attributes and characteristics of God.

- II. **Baptism is an Illustration:** *"John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"* (Matthew 3:14)
  - A. **The Origination of Baptism:**
    1. **Ceremonial Cleansing:** (Leviticus 14:1-4)
    2. **Conversion to Judaism:** (Circumcision and Immersion) \*Acts 2:41
  - B. **The Observation of (Christian) Baptism:**
    1. **Confession of Repentance:** *"and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins"* (Matthew 3:6)
    2. **Confession of Salvation:** *"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life"* (Romans 6:4)
    3. **Confession of Belonging:** *"baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matt. 28:19)

**\*We must answer this question, "Why did Jesus get baptized?"**

- III. **Baptism of Identification:** *But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.* (Matt. 3:15)
  - A. **Jesus takes our Sin:**
    1. **Fulfills the Moral Law:** *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them"* (Matt. 5:17)
      - a) **Romans 3:23:** *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*
      - b) **James 2:10:** *"for whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it"*
    2. **Fulfills the Judicial Law:** *not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.* (Matt. 5:19)

- a) **Romans 6:23:** *“wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life”*
- b) **Ephesians 1:7:** *“in Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace”*

**B. Jesus changes our Status:** *“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”* (2 Cor. 5:21)

**Discussion Question:** Baptism is an act of obedience and a declaration for the believer. It proclaims to all that Jesus is Lord and I belong to Him.. Baptism is a beautiful picture of dying to ourselves and trusting Jesus to live in and through us...death to life stories are a big deal. This is one of the reasons we celebrate baptisms the way we do at CBC. Read Acts 8:26-38. If you have had an encounter with Jesus and moved from unbelief to belief, but have not been baptized...what keeps you from being baptized? If you have been baptized, are you faithfully sharing the gospel like Phillip? Who in your life needs a guide to hear and understand the Gospel so that they can have their own death to life story?

**Take Away:** “In Jesus’ name” is more than saying we are with Him; it is more about Him saying He is with us!