

Was Jesus Baptized? Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, February 4, 2024
Covenant Church
Pastor Zack Phillips

Mark 1:4-11

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Introduction

"You are my Son, [the Beloved;] (Ps 2:7) + with you I am well pleased" (Isa 42:1) = Coronation of king + suffering servant + God's "beloved" = "Mighty" power + weakness + love

Jesus' baptism as a problem: Matt 3:13-15; John 1:32-34?

Wilderness

Israel "goes out" of Egypt, goes into wilderness and receives covenant to become God's people, leaves to enter Promised Land

Pre-Christian Baptism

Priests before sacrifice (OT)? People after impurity (OT)? Repeated Spirit-focused washings (Qumran)? "Proselyte" baptism (later Jewish sources)?

"As Israel had once come out of the wilderness, passed through the waters of the Jordan, and settled in Judea and Jerusalem, now the whole people are pictured as returning to the wilderness, passing through the waters of the Jordan, confessing their former sinfulness, and reemerging as the nucleus of the renewed people of God" —Eugene Boring¹

Jesus' Baptism

¹ M. Eugene Boring, *Mark: A Commentary*, ed. C. Clifton Black and John T. Carroll, The New Testament Library (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), 41.

Examples; Damien of Molokai; Vincent Lebbe (1877-1940)

Did Jesus confess sins?

2 Cor 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” ...

Question: What is one thing that God may have said to you through this sermon?