



The King Is Here!

Key idea:

At His baptism Jesus was publicly announced as the King when the heavens were torn open, the Spirit descended to rest on Him, and the Father's voice rang out to certify that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Key text:

Mark 1:9-11

At that time 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."

Key points:

1. Mark sets apart Jesus' baptism from those undertaken by the people by noting that he comes from a differently different place as a lone person to be baptized.
2. Jesus' baptism is set apart by God by three key testimonies that mark Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God:
 - a. Heaven is 'torn open'
 - b. The Spirit descends upon Him
 - c. A voice from heaven rings out
3. The tearing open of the heavens was prayed for by Isaiah in response to the rebellion of the people of Israel in the wilderness when they grieved the Holy Spirit (see Isaiah 63:10-64:1).
4. The descent of the Spirit upon Jesus was prophesied by Isaiah as the sign of the Messiah, the Shoot and Branch from Jesse's stump (see Isaiah 11:1-2).
5. The voice of the Father from heaven certifies Jesus' identity by three key phrases, each of which is a quote or allusion to a key Messianic text in the Old Testament:
 - a. You are my Son - Psalm 2:7

- b. My Son Whom I love - Genesis 22:2
- c. With You I am well pleased - Isaiah 42:1

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. How is Mark's introduction of Jesus different from that of Matthew, Mark, and Luke? What effect does it have to give this abrupt introduction of Jesus as a full-grown man about to enter public ministry?
3. Have I ever felt uncomfortable about the fact that Jesus was baptized by John? How might someone misunderstand Jesus' actions here?
4. Why does Mark say heaven was 'torn open' instead of just 'opened'? What does it tell me when I realize the only other time he uses this word is when the Temple curtain is 'torn' at the death of Christ?
5. Why was Mark describe the Spirit as descending 'like a dove'? How might this be related to Genesis 1:2 where the Spirit "hovers" like a bird over the waters?
6. What did the Father's words "You are my Son, Whom I love, with Whom I am well pleased" communicate to Jesus? How would it affect me if I heard my father speak those words over me?
7. What did the events at Jesus' baptism communicate to John the Baptist? How does John 1:29-34 relate to the description Mark gives us of these events?
8. How does the baptism of Jesus encourage me in my daily walk with God? How does it communicate the Gospel to me?
9. Have I ever been baptized in water? Jesus Himself underwent baptism and commanded His disciples to be baptized. Have I obeyed His command in this area? If not, reach out to the church office or an elder to talk about getting baptized!
10. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? How will I work to share life with them this week?