

Theme: 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.

## I. Intro - Queen Elizabeth II & King Charles III

- A. We have just witnessed the death of Elizabeth II
- B. Charles III is already announced as the new King, but his formal coronation will happen sometime later
- C. Similar pattern for Jesus; today's text is announcement

## II. The King Arrives

- A. Jesus arrives on the scene

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Mark 1:9

  - 1. 'At that time' - during John's ministry
  - 2. Jesus, the King at the center of this story arrives
  - 3. This is a very important moment in the Gospel - the first time we meet Jesus.
  - 4. This is heightened in Mark's Gospel because we do not have the introduction in eternity past as in John, nor in the infancy of Christ as in Matthew and Luke.
- B. Jesus is baptized by John?

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Mark 1:9

  - 1. This is surprising - Jesus gets baptized by John?
  - 2. Why would Jesus, the sinless son of God get baptized by John?
  - 3. Mark does not overtly answer our questions now

- a. Matthew tells us John tried to refuse; Mark does not
  - b. Matthew tells us why Jesus said He was getting baptized but Mark does not
4. Mark gives small hints to make Jesus very distinct from the other people
- The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River...<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Mark 1:5, 9
- a. They came from Jerusalem and Judea, Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee - total opposite directions
  - b. Crowds were coming from the south, now a lone figure comes from the north.
  - c. Jerusalem was the center of Judaism, while Galilee and Nazareth were despised
  - d. This is part of Mark's motif of things being turned upside down and the opposite of what the people, and especially the religious leaders, thought.
  - e. The people came confessing their sins - Jesus did not confess His sins, for He had none to confess.
  - f. We will also see very different events that surround Jesus' baptism in a moment.
5. But Mark is also letting the story unfold naturally and letting us wrestle through the question "Who is this? What kind of King is He?"

## III. The Baptism of Jesus

- A. Unusual events follow Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:10-11)

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.<sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

1. Literally 'and immediately coming up' - εὐθὺς
2. Three immediate events
  - a. Heaven is 'torn open'
  - b. The Spirit descends upon Him
  - c. A voice from heaven rings out
3. This baptism is very different!
4. God Himself is setting this baptism apart as very different from all others! **(After Hours on Trinity)**

## B. Unpacking the events at Jesus' baptism

1. Heaven is 'torn open'  
 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, **he saw heaven being torn open** and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10–11
  - a. KJV just has open, but the Greek word means to rip or tear open - it is only used here and in Mark 15:38 in the Gospel, and both show that Jesus is the Son of God!
  - b. This is the answer to the prayer of Isaiah for the exiles and the 'new exodus'  
 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! Isaiah 64:1
  - c. This was in response to the people's rebellion and grieving of the Spirit! (Isaiah 63:10-14)  
 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. <sup>11</sup> Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people — where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, Isaiah 63:10–11

1. God had brought Israel through the waters - but they rebelled and He was very displeased with them.
2. The people were rebellious and grieve the Spirit
3. This is why Isaiah cries out for God to rend the heavens and come down again!
- d. Jesus, the True Israel, here goes through the waters, but He is obedient and pleases the Father and the Spirit, and thus the heavens are torn open for the Spirit to descend.
- e. The tearing open of the heavens is a sign that Jesus is the True Israel & the Messiah - the King Is Here!

## 2. The Spirit descends upon Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and **the Spirit descending on him like a dove**. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10–11

- a. The Spirit descends upon Jesus, showing that He is the Messiah, Who is anointed not with the symbol of oil but with the reality of the Holy Spirit.
- b. The Spirit coming upon the Messiah was also prophesied by Isaiah  
 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord — Isaiah 11:1–2
  1. This is a passage about the Messiah - a shoot from Jesse; the Branch (Isaiah 4:2; Zechariah 3:8; 6:12; Jeremiah 23:5)
  2. The Messiah is the One the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon.
  3. There are seven titles for the Spirit in this passage - for the Messiah will be anointed with the fulness of the Spirit!

- c. The descent of the Spirit is the public sign that Jesus is the Messiah. The King Is Here!

### 3. A voice from heaven certifies Jesus' identity

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> **And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."** Mark 1:10–11

- a. A voice from heaven to certify the identity of Jesus!

- b. You are my Son

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, **"You are my Son..."** Psalm 2:7

1. Psalm 2 is ultimately about the Messianic King
2. God declares the Messiah is His Son.
3. The Davidic kings were only sons of God in the sense of being types and shadows of the True Son of God - the Messiah.
4. This is the Father's public certification that Jesus is His Son, the Messiah.

- c. My Son Whom I love

Then God said, "Take your son, **your only son**, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Gen 22:2

1. 'your only son' in Genesis 22:2 is virtually identical to "my Son Whom I love" in Mark 1:11.
2. It is usually translated 'your only son' in Genesis because it is followed by the phrase "whom you love" and "your beloved son whom you love" does not make sense.
3. As Isaac was Abraham's son, the son of promise whom Abraham loved and who was the heir of his father, so Jesus is the Only Son of God, Who is loved by the Father and Who is the heir of all God's riches and promises.

4. This phrase will be repeated verbatim in Mark 9:7 at the Transfiguration when Jesus' Deity and Power are openly revealed.

5. Of course, this also foreshadows the fact that while Abraham did NOT have to sacrifice his son, God the Father will be willing to see His Son sacrificed so that our sins may be forgiven!

- d. With You I am well pleased!

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations." Isaiah 42:1

1. The Father is pleased with Jesus - a fulfillment of the statement that He would delight in the Servant of the LORD on Whom the Spirit would rest.
2. The Father here gives Jesus His public approval and certification as He begins His ministry to bring justice to the nations - for He will satisfy the justice of God and the Gospel will go forth to all!

- e. The voice from heaven certifies that Jesus is the Beloved Son Who is pleasing to the Father. The King Is Here!

### C. A threefold testimony: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

The heavens will be opened, and from the temple of glory sanctification will come upon him, with a fatherly voice, as from Abraham to Isaac.

And the glory of the Most High shall burst forth upon him.

And the spirit of understanding and sanctification shall rest upon him [in the water].

For he shall give the majesty of the Lord to those who are his sons in truth forever. (Testament of Levi 18:6–8, probably 250 BC)

1. The same threefold testimony: heavens open; voice of the Father; Spirit rests upon Him in the water
2. The Father has announced to all - Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!

## IV. Applying the Word

### A. Do I see how Jesus identifies with sinners?

1. Mark is subtle at first, but Jesus' baptism was unique!
2. Yet He was baptized to identify with the call for the people of God to respond in repentance and confession.
3. He fulfilled God's call perfectly in our place!
4. Like Israel in the Old Testament, I have often rebelled and grieved the Spirit, but Jesus was obedient in my place. This is the Gospel!
5. Jesus had no sin and fully obeyed God's commands so that my sins could be forgiven and His righteousness could be given to me! This is grace! This is the Gospel!

### B. Have I responded to Christ the King?

1. God gave a three-fold testimony: Jesus is the King!
2. But our age is built on our autonomous will - we want no king but our own will.
3. Listen to how often you hear the language of autonomy, self-government, self-determination, and freedom from any restraint to be who I want, love who I want, and act how I want.
4. But this is the language Satan used in rebelling against God (see Isaiah 14:12-14) - and it leads to slavery and death!
5. The King has come and commands all to embrace His rule - which leads to true freedom and life!

6. Embrace the King by faith - and be baptized!
7. Embrace the King - and submit to His Law, for your own good!
8. Embrace the King - here at His Table!

### C. The Table of the King

1. Here we celebrate our King's work in our behalf
2. Here we respond to our King in renewing our vows

## The King Is Here!

Mark 1:9-11

September 25, 2022

Communion

Revelation 1:4-6

Teaching keywords: Jesus; Christology; Offices of Christ

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne,<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth, Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,<sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.  
Revelation 1:4–6

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