

**The Gospel of Luke: *Dearly Loved***

Speaker: Dave Solmes

Read: Luke 3:1-20

## **Why did Jesus ask John to baptize Him?**

#1. Community is created by the actions of serving others and being served by others.

Jesus said of Himself that he had come as a serving servant but exemplified that true community involves being served. Christian community is not just showing up with your gift but showing up so you can be gifted.

**Question:** Why is it important to seek out those to advise us? Help us? Build us up? Someone to pray for us? Someone who serves us with their spiritual gifts.

**Question:** Who are you helping? Who are you serving with your gifts? Who are you building up? Who are you teaching? Who are you encouraging? Who are you serving with your spiritual gifts? Who are you praying for?

#2. Matthew 3:15, Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So, John agreed to baptize him."

This meant different things for the people involved:

For each of us: Scripture calls you and I to be water baptized.

For John: John never felt qualified to baptize Jesus. John never felt qualified or capable but yet this is what God had on His mind for John, the Baptist. Being called into Christian community is being called to do things because God says we are qualified to do them not because we think we are or think we are not.

For Jesus: This could be thought of as a foreshadow of what would happen in 3 years - when He would be crucified on the cross, buried and resurrected.

**Question:** Have you been water baptized? Why? What was it like?

#3. During this baptism we see Jesus complete identification with sinners as we are able to see the radical humility of Jesus.

God could have saved us in any manner of His choosing but seemed to embrace the most difficult and arduous way which was the path of Incarnation and accompaniment. Jesus didn't come to rule in a palace, behind tall walls.

**Question:** Why was the incarnation of Jesus so important?

#4. The baptism of Jesus seems to mark the inauguration of His public ministry. Jesus steps into the Jordan River and into His mission of redemption through this public religious act. We see Jesus emergence from a life of seeming obscurity into a life of growing popularity on account of His preaching, miracles, healings and proclamation of mercy and forgiveness.

**Question:** Why was Jesus first 30 years just as important as His last 3 on earth?

#5. This mysterious utterance reveals Jesus as the Son of God, the One sent from the Father to accomplish the salvation of the human race.

**Question:** Why is it important to know who Jesus is?

#6. 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God."

We need now look to Jesus to baptize us with the Holy Spirit. (John 1:33-34)

**Question:** Why is seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit important?

#7. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

When we become Christians you and I are adopted into the family of God. We receive a new identity as we become adopted as children of the Father.

**Question:** Do you think of those in your church as family?

The Father's message speaks to three questions that everyone asks about our identity and personhood:

#1. Who Loves me?

#2. Where do I belong?

#3. Do I matter?

**Question:** Why do these questions need to be answered?