

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



Jordan River

The Jordan River meanders over a length of about 200 km between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea, an actual distance of only 105 km (as the crow flies). Due to the many twists and curves, the Jordan River is not navigable. In the region shown here, the river is deeply imbedded in infertile marl banks. The drawing about shows the area where John the Baptist was active. Matt 3:1–17; Mark 1:1–11; Luke 3:3–22

The Necessity of Baptism (Matthew 3:13–17)

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Matthew 3:13–17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

And John *tried to prevent Him*, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Message Notes: Jesus Identified with Repentance

It was a message He came to proclaim as well, Mt. 4:17

Our baptism identifies us with Jesus, Jn. 4:1-3

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John 4:1–3

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John

(though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),

He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.

Message Notes: Jesus Obeyed God's Instructions for His Time and Place

John's baptism was from Heaven, Mt. 21:24-25

John's baptism was God's will--God sent Him, Jn. 1:31-33

Matthew 21:24–25

But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things:

The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'

John 1:31–33

I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.

I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

Message Notes: Jesus Modeled Behavior That He Expected of Us

His instruction was such that some think baptism is necessary for salvation (usually using Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38)

Our obedience to His instruction demonstrates our heart condition, Lk. 7:28-30

The early Church followed His instruction by baptizing immediately after salvation (Acts 8:12, 38; 9:18)

The early church too His instruction so seriously they re-baptized people who had been baptized in the wrong manner or for the wrong reason, Ac. 19:1-5

Luke 7:28–30

For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

And when all the people heard *Him*, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

Acts 2:41

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

Acts 10:47–48

"Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?"

**Baptism of Jesus**

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?"

So they said, "Into John's baptism."

Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 16:33

And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Acts 19:1–5

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples

he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

1 Corinthians 1:13–17

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.

Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.