

Luke 3 pt 4

Luke 3: 21-22

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

1. The backdrop to this scene is:
2. Jesus leaves Galilee where he was unknown for 30 years
3. At age 30, when the law permitted a person to enter into ministry, He goes to the Jordan to be baptized
4. This is the launching of His ministry
5. John recognizes the Messiah and declares, behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
6. Jesus comes down into the water with the others
7. John tried to stop Him saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"
 - a. John is preaching repentance but recognizes his own sinfulness
 - b. This should be the case with every minister
 - c. We preach God's Word knowing that we're first in line that need to hear and obey it

8. **In speaking of Jesus, why was He baptized?**

9. He was not baptized because He needed cleansing from sin
a. **He is sinless**

10. **4 reasons**

a. **Confirmation to John ministry; that repentance is the way to God**

- i. **John preached repentance**
- ii. **Jesus preached repentance**
- iii. **It's the first step into a relationship with God**

b. **Identification with people**

- i. He identified with sinful man
- ii. "I've walked your road and am walking with you on your road today" - Jesus
- iii. Jesus did everything we are to do and is an example
- iv. He sympathizes with us
- v. "Only those who can sympathize can serve and save"

c. **Submission to God**

i. He obeyed the will of the Father

1. Jesus waited until He was 30
2. He participated in the Passover meals

a. Whatever the law said to do, He did

ii. **Wouldn't that send the wrong message?**

1. When God say's do something, my role is to submit & obey

iii. The simple acts of obedience (which may include submitting to someone) can cause heaven to open up and move you in power into your ministry

iv. Submission is following God's orders

v. The captain of the ship looked into the dark night and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message "Alter your course 10 degrees south." Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north." The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south--I am the captain!" Soon another message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north--I am officer third class." Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south--I am a battleship." Then the reply came "Alter your course 10 degrees north--I am a lighthouse."

d. **Separation**

- i. A new season of ministry is about to begin
- ii. Jesus was ending his quiet years of preparation in Nazareth and was about to enter the ministry of service and sacrifice which was to be performed in obedience to the will of his Father

1. Coronation / inauguration

2. From this point forward, all will see the gospel personified

- 3. This is when He goes from being an unknown carpenter from Nazareth; to Jesus the Son of God

11. There are a couple of things happening at the same time in this baptism

- a. We've got a clear picture of the Holy Trinity
- b. We've got 3 distinct responses from each member of the Trinity
 - i. We have the Son praying during baptism.
 - ii. We have the Holy Spirit descending.
 - iii. And we have the Father speaking out of heaven

12. The Trinity is a beautiful mystery impossible for us to wrap our minds around

13. We have proof all around of this truth

a. **If we look at humanity, we are a 3 part being**

- i. We are a spirit
- ii. We have a soul
- iii. We live in a body

b. **If we look at nature; Everything you touch, see, smell or taste is made of atoms**

- i. Atoms are composed of particles called protons, electrons and neutrons.
 - 1. All 3 need to be present
- ii. The most basic of things like water is made up of H₂O

c. **If we look at God's Word**

- i. **We understand that we have one God**
- ii. **Duet 6:4** "Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

d. We have 3 persons in the Godhead

- i. **Genesis 1:26** Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness

ii. **Isaiah 48:16** Draw near to me, hear this! From the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there. And now the Lord God has sent me and his spirit.

1. **Matt 3:15** Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness

a. The **us** is Father, Son, Holy Spirit

14. **God the Father is our heavenly Father**

a. **Isaiah 63:16** For you are our father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our father;

15. **God the Son is our savior. Who humbled Himself and came to this earth and was crucified, buried and rose again from the grave**

a. The Son is God

b. **Dr. Wayne Grudem:**

c. ... If Jesus is not fully God, it would be hard to see how His death was sufficient to cover our sins.

d. ... If Jesus is not fully God, hard to see how one could place total faith in Him.

e. ... If Jesus is not fully God, hard to see why we would pray to Him and offer Him worship.

f. Jesus forgave people's sins

g. He accepted worship

h. He said, **before Abraham was, I AM**

i. **John 20:28** Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

16. God the Holy Spirit who authored the Holy Word of God, empowers believers, and guides us into all truth

a. **Acts 5:3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ... You have not lied to man but to God."

b. So the fingerprints of the Trinity are all around us

c. ... [Without the] Trinity, there are no interpersonal relationships within the being of God to model His relationship with us upon.

d. ... If there is no perfect plurality and unity within the Triune Godhead, hard to accept that there is a perfect unity within a diverse universe.

17. The Holy Trinity is always in absolute unity and harmony

18. Our focus is not to try and explain or prove the Trinity

I. Each member of the Godhead is active in the redemption of mankind

1. **2 Cor 13:14** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- a. **The Grace of our Lord Jesus**
- b. **The love of God the Father**
- c. **The fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

2. Let's look at Jesus

- a. He is baptized while praying & heaven opens

3. Here is a picture of the Grace of our Lord Jesus

- a. Heaven was previously closed to the nation in general
- b. **Isaiah 1:15** When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, **I will not hear**. Your hands are full of blood.
- c. **In the N.T. Hebrews 10:19** Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body

4. His life was marked by praying

- a. He prayed here at the outset of His public ministry
- b. He prayed when He was becoming well known and crowds followed Him (5:16)

- c. He spent a whole night in prayer before choosing the 12 disciples (6:12)
- d. He prayed after feeding the multitude (9:10-17)
- e. He prayed in front of His disciples (11:1)
- f. He prayed for backsliding Peter (22:32)
- g. He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane (22:41,44)

5. His Prayer life teaches us that we have absolute need and reliance on our heavenly Father

- a. When we approach the Lord's table, do it in prayer
- b. When we open God's holy Word...
- c. When we're ready for baptism...
 - i. Do everything with this same mind of being in prayer

6. **Who was Jesus praying for?**

- a. He was praying for us
 - i. Whatever God does, He does for our benefit
- b. **Jon 17 Vs. 9 I pray for them**
 - i. **Vs. 11** He prays for our **unity**
 - ii. **Vs. 13** He prays for us to have **His joy**
 - iii. **Vs. 15** He prays for our **protection** from the enemy
 - iv. **Vs. 17** He prays for our **sanctification**
- c. If I heard that Billy Graham or the Pope are praying for me personally, how honored would I be?

- d. The King of Glory personally is praying for me
7. He not only prayed for us while on earth, but prays for us now from heaven
- a. **Hebrews 7:23** Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
 - b. **As He prayed, heaven opened**
 - c. When someone prays earnestly for another, it's called love
 - i. It's a revelation for us as well
 - 1. As long as I'm in Christ, God hears my prayers
 - a. **Daniel 10:12** Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.
 - b. **2 Kings 19:19** So now, O Lord our God, save us, I pray you, from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone."
20 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I have heard your prayer to me

- c. **Ezra 8:23** So we fasted and petitioned our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty
- d. Answered prayer belongs to believers
- e. **John 15:7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you

8. **The Spirit descending like a dove; in fellowship**

- a. When the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended on Him as a dove
- b. The Holy Spirit is gentle in His approach
 - i. He'll never force Himself on anyone
- c. At the same time, His power moves mountains
- d. He's the perfect balance between gentleness & strength
 - i. As a body building father holds a newborn

9. His role pictured by Eliezar & Rebecca (Genesis 24)

- a. Father Abraham sent him to find a bride for Isaac
- b. Eliezar finds her
- c. He speaks comfort to her
- d. He invites her to leave her familiar surroundings and journey to see her groom

- e. He blesses her with gifts
- f. He walks the journey with her from her country to meet Isaac
- g. That's the role of the Holy Spirit
 - i. To walk with us
 - ii. To speak comfort to us
 - iii. To correct us when necessary
 - iv. To bless us with gifts
 - v. To bring us safely to our Groom
- h. What do you call walking with someone through every stage of life?
 - i. **Unconditional love...**

10. **The Fathers voice from heaven affirming His love for Jesus**

- a. **You are my son whom I love; with you I am well pleased**
- b. As the Father looks from heaven on His flawless Son, He places His stamp on approval on Christ
- c. It's an affirmation and confirmation on who Jesus is
- d. Why does the Father confirm the Son?

- e. Because of His great love for the Son
- f. Also because of His love for us, so that we'd know His heart
- g. **If I am in Christ, what does that mean for me?**
- h. **John 15:9** "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.
- i. **1 John 3:1** See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- j. **John 16:27** for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.
- k. **John 17:23** "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."
 - i. What is all this saying?
 1. God the Father loves us eternally
 2. Jesus Christ demonstrated His love with the Cross
 3. The Holy Spirit desires intimate fellowship with us

- l. This is the foundation on which Jesus will begin His ministry**
- m. It's not one of a distant savior, it's a love story of sacrifice and giving oneself to the very end
- n. If He did it without love, it's meaningless.
- o. The foundation of our redemption is the love of God
- p. It's demonstrated with The Grace of Jesus, the Love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
- q. This is what God thinks of you, how do you view yourself?