

aired on KALS March 25, 2003

Matthew 3:13-17

13. “Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John, to be baptized by him.

14. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?’

15. But Jesus answering said to him, ‘Permit *it* at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he permitted Him.

16. After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,

17. and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’”

This is Matthew’s account of Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan River. When Jesus came to John for baptism, John tried to prevent Him saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?”

John obviously knew of Jesus. John’s baptism is defined in Mark 1:4 as “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” Jesus had no sin to repent of or be forgiven, so John says, “I have need to be baptized by You.”

But Jesus answering said to John, “Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Notice Jesus says, “In this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” He didn’t say, “In this way it is fitting for Me to fulfill all righteousness!”

The Scripture then reveals what happened when John did baptize Jesus: “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’”

Jesus’ baptism is an example or prototype for us in several ways and serves to show us how we are to follow in His steps. In His own words, “For us to fulfill all righteousness.”

Jesus submitted to water baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. This He did, even though He Himself did not need to repent or be forgiven.

Jesus received the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, which proved to be the power to fulfill all righteousness. From that point on He no longer worked as a carpenter, but went into full-time ministry, culminating in His death, burial, resurrection, appearance, and ascension.

God publicly acknowledged Jesus as His Son at His baptism. When we receive the Holy Spirit, the Scripture states, “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of

truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14

Romans 8:15 states, “For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’”