

THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS: HIS BAPTISM

Can you pick out the four events surrounding Jesus' baptism that set Him apart and demonstrate that He is unique?

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to the Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John would have hindered him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? But Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffereth him. And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway from the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon him; and lo, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:13-17 ASV).

When John objected to the idea of baptizing the Lord, John was showing that Jesus was unique. John knew that Jesus was sinless, and he also knew that his baptism was “unto remission of sins” (Mark 1:4). How could he baptize someone unto the remission of sins who was sinless? He couldn't. John's objection demonstrated the sinlessness of the Lord. It also shows that there is more to being baptized into Christ than simply obeying God. It must be “unto the remission of sins” to be valid (Acts 2:38).

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens did not simply open, but, as Mark says, “the heavens rent asunder” (Mark 1:10). Mark uses the Greek verb *schizomenous*. The Greek word means “split or divide.” The heavens were divided. What a magnificent wonder to behold!

The descent of the Holy Spirit in the bodily form of a dove set Jesus apart from all men. God had promised the prophet John that the Spirit would descend upon the One who “was before” John and who was greater than all (John

1). When the Spirit descended upon Jesus, John knew He was indeed the Lamb of God (John 1:29).

The last event in this context that set Jesus apart and demonstrated that He is without parallel among men is the voice of God out of heaven. The heavenly announcement declared Jesus to be special. He is the only begotten Son of God. No baptism had ever, or will ever, witness such a divine display of approval. Unique indeed!

If we fail to realize that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, we miss the whole point. If we fail to submit to Him, we will deprive ourselves of being with Him (Mark 16:16).

Ron Cosby from *West End Watchman*

THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS: HIS LIFE

One has accurately observed, “Of the religions of the world, Christianity is unique because it stems from the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, the greatest man who ever lived.” The life of the Lord was marked with His character of life and His treatment of others.

We acknowledge His uniqueness when we see He was sinless. He was tested in all things in like manner as we, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Even His enemies could find no fault (Luke 23:4, 14-15, 21-22). The cross was the most difficult test (Hebrews 5:7-9). Eyewitnesses describe the Lord's suffering as exquisite sorrow, literally crushing out the Savior's life (Matthew 26:37-39). His agony produced sweat “as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground” (Luke 22:44). Except for Jesus, none has ever lived sinless (Romans 3:23). All must be born again (John 3:3-5).

We acknowledge His uniqueness when we see Him as the powerful prophet of God. While Jesus walked the earth, Rome ruled in all power and glory. But, Rome also ruled in all cruelty. Contrast the compassionate, caring, yet powerful Jesus, “...Jesus went about all the cities...teaching...and

healing all manner of disease and all manner of sickness. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them...” (Matthew 9:35-36). While on the earth, Jesus walked on water — not people. He laid on curing hands — not cruel hands. He lifted the hearts of the downtrodden — not the politic fortunes of the rich and famous. He viewed all without respect of person. Napoleon Bonaparte said, “I know men, and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world, there is no possible comparison. I have founded empires, but upon what do they depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions would die for Him.”

We acknowledge Jesus as unique when we see He practiced what He preached. Though the attitude and action of the world is “You only go around once in life, so grab for all the gusto,” Jesus taught and practiced the principle of denying self (Matthew 16:24-26; Luke 9:58). Though the attitude and action of the world is “Look out for number one,” Jesus taught and practiced the principle of loving others more than self (Matthew 22:39). Though the world's attitude and action is “Winning is everything,” Jesus taught and practiced the principle of dying for others (Matthew 16:25-26; 20:28).

Jesus Christ is the greatest person who ever lived. His moral character, His teachings and His influence upon history demonstrate that He is indeed unparalleled.

Ron Cosby from *West End Watchman*

Family Bible Studies

July 24-28, 2006

Adult class teacher: Jim O'Connor

BIRTHDAYS

Barbara James, 07-02; Cindy Bright, 07-03.

ILL

Sunday: Anne Adams, Kyle Greer, Natalie Parish.
Wednesday: Anne Adams, Kyle Greer, Abby Stillwell.
Anne Adams was released from the Olathe Medical Center on Sunday June 25. Ron Wood, son-in-law of the Scotts, will have chemo treatments for 18 weeks in Jacksonville, Florida. **Those battling cancer:** Diane Cannon, Ledgia Campbell and Ron Wood. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The James' are at Clinton Lake this week. Ted and Julia Thrasher will be in Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri this week on vacation and visiting relatives.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the Clark family in the passing of Kim Clark on Sunday June 25. Memorial services were held on June 29 at Lee's Summit.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday July 9. Come and enjoy the good food and company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held on Sunday July 16. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 40; Sunday PM, 33; Wednesday PM, 29.

Those To Serve

July 2, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Ken Greer
PRESIDE..... Myron Nebergall
ASSIST..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Trent Thrasher
CLOSING PRAYER..... Charles Tullis
LORD'S SUPPER..... Myron Nebergall

WEDNESDAY July 5th

SONG LEADER..... John Cody Carter
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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