

# Sunday, January 12, 2020

## Baptism of the Lord Sunday



### Matthew 3:13-17

#### The Baptism of Jesus

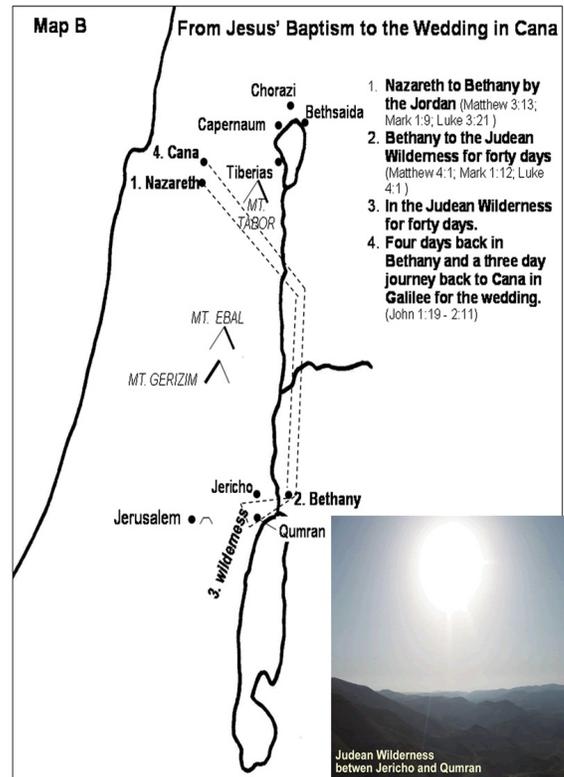
<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

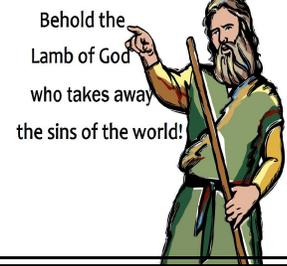
### QUESTIONS

1. Compare Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism with Mark's, Luke's, and John's.
2. How do you interpret "to fulfill all righteousness?"
3. What is the difference between John's baptism and Christian baptism?
4. What makes something "a sacrament?"
5. What do these phrases mean to you: a) "marked as Christian disciples" and b) "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace"?



# Sunday, January 19, 2020

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany



### John 1:29-42 (NIV)

#### John Testifies About Jesus

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "**Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**" <sup>30</sup> **This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'** <sup>31</sup> **I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."**

<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: "**I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.**" <sup>33</sup> **And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'** <sup>34</sup> **I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."**<sup>a</sup>

#### John's Disciples Follow Jesus

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "**Look, the Lamb of God!**"

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "**What do you want?**"

They said, "**Rabbi**" (which means "Teacher"), "**where are you staying?**"

<sup>39</sup> "**Come,**" he replied, "**and you will see."**

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him,

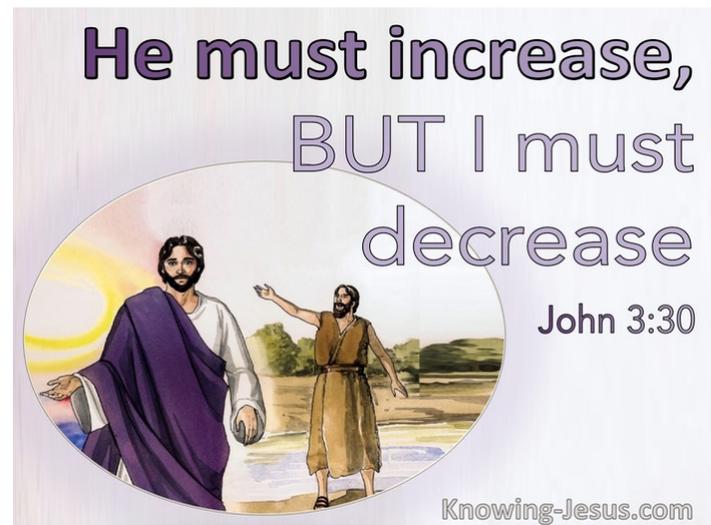
"**We have found the Messiah**" (that is, the Christ).

<sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "**You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas**" (which, when translated, is Peter<sup>b</sup>).

#### Footnotes:

- See Isaiah 42:1; many manuscripts "is the Son of God."
- Cephas (Aramaic) and Peter (Greek) both mean rock.



#### QUESTIONS

"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," the Baptist says. But, "I did not know him." Why did he make such (seemingly?) contradictory observations?

What did John mean by his observation, "He must increase, but I must decrease."? (John 1:30)

After John pointed Jesus out to the crowds, they wanted to know more about him, e.g., where did he live (v.38).

Some translations of v. 38 have Jesus asking, "What are you looking for?" What are most people looking for? What are you looking for? If you had been in the crowd, would you have wanted to follow Jesus?

Why was John so certain about Jesus when he said, "Behold the Lamb of God"? Was John listening to and watching for the Spirit? Do you watch and listen for

the Spirit in your life? Can you find and trust this Spirit of God?