

Mark 1:9-10 The Baptism of Jesus

As Margie shared last week, we are going to spend some time in the Gospel of Mark. Mark, the earliest gospel, written by John Mark and retelling what he heard the Apostle Peter share. The book is in two parts – who Jesus is and what it means to follow him.

Mark gets right onto point with a clear picture of our need for getting right with God: Just as the scriptures foretold Elijah – John the Baptist who came in the spirit of Elijah – comes, calling the nation of Israel to repentance for the forgiveness of sins – and to return to God – just as Elijah did in the days of King Ahab. And God was in this move as thousands from all over Israel responded. In the midst of this national revival, Jesus ke revealed.

Mark 1:-9-11. At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. [10] As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. [11] And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Baptism an act of submission

When Jesus came to be baptised, it wasn't for his sins. There is a case for the thought of him repenting for the sins of the

nation – like almost every prophet who identified with the people they came to serve.

There is another side to repentance – which for us seems mostly about turning from our lives of sin – it is also about turning to God. It is an act of submission. This action symbolised his whole life – one of submission to the Father's will. "Not my will but yours be done," was his life.

Philippians 2:6-8 *Who, being in very nature * God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature * of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!*

In His act of submission three things happened as he rose out of the water:

1. The heavens were opened

'torn open, rent' - not like a ziplock bag which is tidy and can be closed but a violent tear, a slash in the cosmos that couldn't be fixed.

"The coming of Jesus brought an irreparable breach in the fabric of reality." Heaven was open for unbroken communion between Jesus and His father. No longer are the heavens as brass but there is an open heaven for you and I to call upon the Lord. When we call He will answer, when we search for Him He will be found by us.

1 Peter 3:12 *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer,*

Heaven was torn open.

2. The Holy Spirit descended and stayed on him

While the Holy Spirit isn't a dove, He did come in a visible way what John the Baptist saw too such that it confirmed Jesus as the son of God. The imagery is from the book of Genesis where the Spirit brooded or hovered over the creation to bring it to fullness.

Jesus, clothed in human form and abilities, needed the empowering of the Spirit to accomplish all God was asking Him to do. He lived and ministered in the power of the Spirit – just as we must.

One of the most beautiful descriptions of the Holy Spirit's work is found in **Isaiah 61**:

[61:1] The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

The wonderful presence of God in the person of the Holy Spirit which strengthened and empowered Jesus is given to us that we might follow in His footsteps:

John the Baptist declared to his listeners: “He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38-39 *Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

Heaven was torn open, the Holy Spirit came to stay.

3. A voice spoke from Heaven

“You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased.”
Isn't this one of the most affirming words you would ever wish to hear?

“You are my Son...

All the taunts of his illegitimacy, the innuendo of his conception out of wedlock, are audibly answered by His Father.

His Father says, **my** son. His parentage is declared.

His father uses the word of son ‘Huios’, not just son by parentage but by position. He was a mature son, a son who

now carries his fathers authority, and represents him in public.

Not only is his DNA the same as His fathers but he carries his position. He can speak on his behalf – his words are his fathers words and backed up by his fathers authority. All the Father has is now his.

Illsn: Farming accounts – who is your father?

We are sons of God:

John 1:12 *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—*

Galatians 4:4-7 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba , Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

...Who I love...

Being loved is pretty high on our list of needs isn't it?

It never gets old for me when my dad gives me a hug and says he loves me – somehow I always manage to get a bit of grit in my eye!

The father reassures Jesus of His love for him – his agape love – unconditional love, a love that always wants the best, *a Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5] It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6] Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7] It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

Even Jesus needed to hear his fathers love for him – Love strengthens us. It empowers us. It enables us to give and to serve.

The Fathers love empowers us too: Colossians 3:12-14 , *as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

'...with you I am well pleased.'

Isn't it interesting that His father spoke this words of commendation **before** he started his ministry? What pleased Him?

I think it was Jesus life of obedience in the small things, and His submission to do the Fathers will – like being baptised.

But I think it was also his submission to Mary and Joseph (Lk 2:51) and his care for his mother and family of 4 brothers

and 2 sisters after Joseph's death. We can't make God love us more but we can live a life that pleases him.

Scripture tells us things that please God:

- obeying our parents - Col 3:20
- Being prayerful for others - 1 Tim 2:3
- Worshipping and Sharing with others and doing good – Heb 13:16
- Living a life of faith - Heb 11:6

All things Jesus did – long before he started his public ministry.

You know what pleases God the most? Accepting His son Jesus Christ and submit our lives to Him these tender words of affirmation God speaks over everyone of us.

1 John 3:21-24 *Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

Those wonderful words He spoke over his son – he will speak over you:

“You are my son, who I love, in you I am well pleased.”

Song: you're a good good father.