

Lesson 5. Baptism, Temptation, Transfiguration

9 Baptisms

Meaning of the Greek word baptidzo

- * "To dip" or "immerse"

Examples in classical Greek are of dye, tempering hot steel, and a ship sinking.

Note: Baptize does not mean to sprinkle (rantidzo, Greek word for sprinkle)



➤ **Classical Usage:**

1. To dip. *"Jesus therefore answered, 'That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to Him.' So He dipped the morsel and gave it to Judas."*

(John 13:26)

"And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God." (Revelation 19:13)

➤ **Ritual Usage:**

2. Cleansing. *"and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots."* (Mark 7:4)

* **Baptism indicates an identification.**

➤ **Ceremonial Usage**

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 3. Baptism by John the Baptist | Mark 1:1-8 |
| 4. Baptism of Jesus | Matthew 3:13-17 |
| 5. Baptism of Believers today | Matthew 28:19 |

➤ **Metaphorical Usage**

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6. Baptism of Moses | 1 Corinthians 10:2 |
| 7. Baptism of Christ's Sufferings | Matthew 20:22 |
| 8. Baptism of the Holy Spirit | 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13 |
| 9. Baptism of Fire | Luke 3:16-17 |

Baptism of Jesus

➤ Jesus was baptized to mark the beginning of His public ministry.

📖 Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22

The baptism of Jesus Christ was literal baptism. He was immersed by John in the waters of the Jordan River.

I. Baptism by John the Baptist

A. John's message:

"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

B. Those who turned to the Lord were baptized as an indication of their repentance for the forgiveness of sin and belief in the coming Messiah and His kingdom.

📖 Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

C. John's baptism was part of his message preparing the way of the Lord.

1. The coming of Jesus Christ was proclaimed by John the Baptist.
2. The baptism of Jesus marked John's awareness that Jesus was the one whom He was proclaiming (John 1:29-34).

II. Why was Jesus baptized by John?

There was no need of repentance by Him. There was no forgiveness of sin in view.

A. Jesus was baptized "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).

His baptism was an act of righteous obedience. To accomplish salvation on our behalf, Jesus had to be a lamb without blemish. The baptism of John was a righteous act that believers took part in. Therefore, Jesus also participated in this ceremony, though for Him it was not symbolic of having turned from sin.

B. The baptism of Jesus identified Him with the will and plan of His Father. It was an act of submission.

C. The baptism of Jesus identified Him with sinful humanity (Luke 3:21). He was like us in all ways, yet apart from sin.

D. The baptism of Jesus was an anointing for His public ministry.

- a. He was introduced as the Son of God ("My beloved Son")
- b. John had been looking for this event to occur (John 1:19-34).
- c. Compare this to the priest being cleansed when consecrated for service at the age of 30 in the Old Testament (Numbers 4:3; 8:7ff). Jesus is our High Priest.

The Temptation of Jesus by Satan

 Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

I. The temptation was initiated by God.

Matthew – “led by the Spirit”

Mark – “the Spirit impelled Him”

Luke – “full of the Holy Spirit”

II. Tempted (peiradzo)

Tempting is done to determine the quality of something or what kind of person one is.

Hebrews 4:15 speaks of Jesus as “one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

III. Purpose of the temptation of Jesus.

A. To demonstrate the sinless nature of Jesus

B. To demonstrate the character of the Messiah

1. Would He abandon God’s plan for His life for personal gain?
2. Would He abandon God’s plan for His life for prestige?
3. Would He abandon God’s plan for His life for power?

IV. The tests: Matthew 4

:3-4 Satan recognized His deity

Satan ignores Scripture.

:5-7 Satan recognized Him as the Messiah

Satan misquotes (misapplies) Scripture

:8-11 Satan recognized His kingship

Satan quotes but omits part of Scripture

A. :3-4 Would Jesus act independently of the Father’s will and the sustaining ministry of the Holy Spirit? Would He abandon God’s plan for His life in order to receive personal gain?

1. Satan acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God.

“If you are the Son of God”

First class conditional = “since you are the Son of God”

2. This temptation was unique to Jesus since He is God and man. He could turn the stones into bread! This would be no temptation to us since we have no ability to do what was asked.

3. Response by Jesus – He quoted Deuteronomy 8:3

The Word of God is more important than physical food.

Cf. Job’s response to testing.

Job 23:12 *“I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”*

B. :5-7 Do something sensational.

Would He abandon God’s plan for His life in order to gain prestige?

1. Satan misquotes Psalm 91:11 by omitting the words “to guard you in all your ways.”
 2. To jump would violate the natural laws of God.
There is no guarantee of success when pitting misquoted or misapplied scripture against natural laws.
 3. Response by Jesus – He quoted Deuteronomy 6:16
- C. :8-11 Temptation to bypass the cross in God’s plan.
Would He abandon God’s plan for His life in order to gain power?
Would Jesus submit to Satan or to His Father?
1. Satan offered the kingdom without the cross.
 2. The offer was valid since Satan is “the god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
 3. Worship is an act of submission.
Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 2:49; John 6:38-39; Matthew 26:39; I Peter 4:19
 4. Satan desires people to worship Him.
Cf. the fall of Satan and the time of tribulation
 5. Response by Jesus – He quoted Deuteronomy 6:13

V. Temptations will continue through life!

Luke 4:13 “And when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.”

Hebrews 4:15 speaks of Jesus as “one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

VI. Lessons

- A. We need the Holy Spirit and God’s Word to live successfully in Satan’s world.
- B. We are not simply to quote Scripture (Satan does that), but to submit to it.
James 4:7 “*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*”
Peter 5:6-9
- C. Satan tempts in all areas of our human makeup –
body, soul, and spirit; intellect, emotion, will, desire
Cf. I John 2:15-17 lust of the flesh; pride of life; lust of the eyes
- D. We triumph through Christ.

Transfiguration of Jesus

📖 Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

I. The event occurs in the Gospels after Peter's confession of Christ.

Matthew 16:16; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20

II. Account

A. Prediction (Matthew 16:27-28)

B. Jesus transfigured – metamorphoo (Luke – “He became different”)

C. Moses and Elijah appear.

They represent the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:27, 44)

They also experienced a manifestation of God. (Exodus 33:17-23; 1 Kings 19:9-13)

D. Conversation centered on the cross.

Luke 9:31 *“speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”*

E. Peter's proposal – preserve the glory!

He misunderstood the need for suffering and the cross. (1 Peter 1:10, 11)

F. Approval by God the Father. (cf. Baptism of Jesus)

G. 2 Peter 1:12-21 commentary on the event

H. Impact – The disciples fell on their faces and kept silent

1. “We beheld His glory.” John 1:14

2. “Eyewitnesses of His majesty” 2 Peter 1:16-21

III. Significance:

A. This prefigured Messiah in His kingdom. His essential deity was beyond doubt.

B. This is a presentation of the Father's approval of the Son.

C. The event confirmed His impending death at Jerusalem. (Luke 9:31; cf. Matthew 16:21-23)

D. This is a picture of the resurrection. (Moses and Elijah)

E. This is a picture of spiritual transformation.

The Greek word, metamorphoo, occurs 4 times in the New Testament.

📖 Mark 9:2; Matthew 17:2 Transfiguration

📖 Romans 12:2 *“do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

📖 2 Corinthians 3:18 *“We all, with unveiled faces beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.”*

➤ We look forward to seeing Jesus Christ in His glory.

Titus 2:13 *“looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,”*