

Further Reading

BAPTISM OF JESUS

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS (Luke 3: 21 – 22)

When Jesus was around 30 years of age, He went to be baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus was the last to be baptized. Although he did not need to repent as He did not sin. When he was baptized, the heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. At the same time, a voice from heaven said, “You are my own dear son. I am pleased with you”.

Jesus was baptized because (importance of Jesus’ baptism):

1. He wanted to show his approval of John’s Ministry of baptism.
2. Jesus accepted the work of redemption of humankind to be completed through suffering and death.
3. Jesus identified himself with the sinful humankind who needed redemption through baptism
4. Jesus carried all the sins of humankind (baptized last). He wanted to carry the sins of people/ humankind upon himself in order to bring about reconciliation between people and God.
5. God can confirm to the people that Jesus Christ was the messiah (Ps 2:7). During baptism, it was an opportunity for the trinity to be manifested.
6. It was an act of preparing those who were ready to receive the Messiah.
7. Baptism was a way of fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.
8. Those present at R. Jordan had the opportunity to acknowledge Jesus as the son of God.
9. Those present were receptive to His Messianic work.
10. Jesus was empowered to start His public ministry.
11. He was prepared for the temptation in the wilderness.
12. He taught people the virtue of humility.
13. It was meant to fulfill all righteousness.

Relevance (lessons) of the baptism of Jesus to Christians today

IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM OF JESUS ON CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN LIVING

The baptism of Jesus is an important event in the Christian faith, and its importance can be seen in contemporary Christian living in a number of ways:

1. Identification with Jesus: Just as Jesus was baptized, Christians are also baptized as a sign of their identification with Christ. This signifies their commitment to following Jesus and living a life that is faithful to his teachings.
2. Repentance and Forgiveness: Jesus’s baptism symbolizes repentance and forgiveness, and this is an important aspect of Christian living. Christians are taught to repent of their sins and seek forgiveness, just as Jesus did. His baptism serves as a model for this process.
3. The Holy Spirit: After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him. This event is seen as a foreshadowing of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the lives of believers. In contemporary Christian living, the Holy Spirit is seen as an essential part of a Christian’s life, guiding them and empowering them to live a Christ-like life.
4. Obedience: Jesus’ baptism was an act of obedience and submission to God’s will. In contemporary Christian living, Christians are called to obey God’s will and follow the example of Jesus.

5. **Role Model:** The baptism of Jesus serves as a role model for Christians, as it demonstrates Jesus' obedience to God and his desire to fulfill God's will. Christians are called to follow in Jesus' footsteps, and his baptism serves as an example of humility and obedience that should inspire believers.
6. **Forgiveness and Salvation:** At his baptism, Jesus was confirmed as the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. This event marked the beginning of his public ministry, which ultimately led to his death and resurrection, and the salvation of humanity. Christians see the baptism of Jesus as a symbol of their own forgiveness and salvation through faith in Christ.
7. **Relationship with the Holy Spirit:** Following his baptism, Jesus was empowered and led by the Holy Spirit. Christians believe that, through faith in Christ, they too can receive the Holy Spirit, who guides and empowers them in their lives.
8. **Confirmation of Jesus' identity:** The baptism of Jesus serves as a confirmation of his identity as the Son of God. When Jesus was baptized, a voice from heaven declared, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). This declaration affirms that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, and the promised Messiah.
9. **Example of humility and obedience:** Jesus' baptism is also an example of humility and obedience, as he willingly submitted to being baptized by John the Baptist, despite not needing to be cleansed of sin. In doing so, Jesus also demonstrates the importance of obeying God's will and fulfilling all righteousness.
10. **Symbol of repentance and forgiveness:** The baptism of Jesus is a symbol of repentance and forgiveness, which are key themes in the Christian faith. Jesus' baptism represents the beginning of his public ministry, which is focused on the redemption and salvation of humanity.