

The Way Prepared - Elijah Comes

Matthew 3:1-12, 13-17

Finishing off 1-12

Q: How does John's ministry make the way straight?

1. He preached a baptism of repentance is the primary call because sin is the primary barrier
2. He preached Christ as the solution and source of salvation and our unworthiness (Matt 3:11, Jn 1:29)
3. He preached the baptism of the Holy Spirit who is necessary for salvation, a changed life (Rom 8:9, 15-16)
4. He preached Christ as the end of religion
5. He preached Jesus as judge, Lord and Master

Q: What does is the statement God can raise up children from these stones meant to mean?

It is by the power of God that people are sons and daughters, not by heritage, nor religious history but by the power of God, freely available to all peoples, even those thought unreachable (Jn 1:12-13). God ordains praise by any means necessary (Lk 19:39-40, Isa 65:1, Rom 10:20).

13-17

Q: Why did John reject Jesus request at first? He knew Jesus was the Messiah. John isn't worthy to do this service for Him. Ironically, none of us are worthy of serving God, no matter how low or how high the service is. If we didn't render service to God because we weren't worthy, we wouldn't do anything for me. Not a good argument there but an understandable thought. Second, Jesus is sinless. John recognized in the Gospel of the Apostle John (1:29) that Jesus was the Lamb of God, perfect and sinless. Why would He "need" or even want to be baptized?

Q: Why is Jesus getting baptized by John? What does He mean "fulfill all righteousness"

John came with a command from God. As a prophet he called all to be baptized. Jesus was obedient to the prophet's call because it was God's call.

Jesus is our High Priest, perfect (Heb 4:15). The office of the priesthood was only entered after being washed (Lev 8:5-6), anointed with oil (Lev 8:10-12) and dabbed with blood (Lev 8:22-24).

He took on our humiliation - what would people think of Jesus for being baptized? He was a sinner. (Isa 53:4-6, Gal 3:13) He identified with us in doing this. His humility knew no bounds and His reputation was found in what the Father declared of Him, not men. His outward reputation was no matter so long as the Father approved. (Lk 6:26)

He showed us how to live. He would call us to the same baptism (Matt 28:19-20, John 3:5)

Q: What is the significance of God the Father's declaration? He is the Son of God. Divine. He is pleasing. Confirmation of this act. Confirmation of His life.

Q: What else does this moment teach us?

The trinity, 3 in one. All one yet manifested in different ways even at the same time.

We must walk in the Spirit, Christ Himself was anointed in the Spirit.

Sub Q: He said He did nothing of Himself (Jn 5:30, 8:28). Were His miracles done as a man fully laying aside His power and in submission to the Spirit? Were they half Him, half the Spirit? All Him? By the way the scriptures speak, it would seem that the Holy Spirit was who worked the miracles through Him (Mk 5:30, Lk 4:14, 5:17, 6:19, 8:46). Jesus, being sinless, perfectly obedient, and divine was full of the Spirit, given the Spirit without limit (Jn 3:34).

Q: If Jesus is perfectly pleasing to us, the most pleasant object of God's affection, who should He be to us?