

## Gospel of John (lesson 5)

In the last lesson we learned that John the Baptist was calling the people to repentance, but his ultimate assignment was to identify the Messiah. All four gospels have the account of John's ministry. John just confronted the Jewish leaders who were sent from Jerusalem to find out what was going on in the wilderness. The text leads us to believe that the Jewish leaders left before Jesus came to be baptized. There is no mention in the four gospels that the Jewish leaders witnessed Jesus' baptism.

### John 1:29-36

<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."

The other three gospel accounts of the baptism are similar with the addition of God the Father's voice from heaven affirming Jesus as his beloved son.

### Matthew 3:13-17

<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."

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Mark 1:9-11

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just 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.”

Luke 3:21, 22

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

The voice of God the Father from heaven is significant. Matthew states he spoke to the people, but Mark and Luke states he spoke to Jesus. This portion of scripture displays the trinity: Jesus the son, the Holy Spirit the dove, and God the Father the voice from the opened heaven. This is the start of Jesus' ministry. Some commentaries say that this was Jesus' 30<sup>th</sup> birthday and his ministry lasted 3 ½ years ending in the resurrection. The launch of Jesus' ministry took place in the physical, spiritual, and heavenly realms.

## John's Disciples Follow Jesus

John 1:35 – 36

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

John knew his ministry was over and that he had fulfilled his calling with the baptism of Jesus. He told his disciples to follow Jesus. John the Baptist still called the people to repentance, but his effectiveness was transferred to Jesus. Jesus now became the public figure.