# Lesson 4 Matthew 3Jesus’ Baptism

Life in Christ: When did you feel closest to Our Lord this week?

1. A. Why do you think John the Baptist’s criticism of the religious leaders was so harsh?

Matthew 3:7-10

7 When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees\* coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

8 Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.

9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

10 Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

B How does John 19:15 demonstrate the correctness of his assessment?

John 19:15

15They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

1. What two things does the Matthew passage state that baptism represented?

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?”

15 Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him.

16 After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him.

17 And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

1. It what ways does Matthew’s presentation of Jesus as a new and greater Solomon compare to Solomon’s anointing as David’s successor in 1 Kings 1:32-34, 38-40?

1 Kings 1:28-35, 38-40

28 King David answered, “Call Bathsheba here.” When she entered the king’s presence and stood before him,

29 the king swore, “As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress,

30 this very day I will fulfill the oath I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Your son Solomon shall be king after me and shall sit upon my throne in my place.’”

31 Bowing to the floor in homage to the king, Bathsheba said, “May my lord, King David, live forever!”

32 Then King David said, “Call Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, son of Jehoiada.” When they had entered the king’s presence,

33 he said to them: “Take with you the royal officials. Mount my son Solomon upon my own mule and escort him down to Gihon.

34 There Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet shall anoint him king over Israel, and you shall blow the ram’s horn and cry, ‘Long live King Solomon!’

35 When you come back up with him, he is to go in and sit upon my throne. It is he that shall be king in my place: him I designate ruler of Israel and of Judah.”

38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and Pelethites went down, and mounting Solomon on King David’s mule, escorted him to Gihon.

39 Then Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. They blew the ram’s horn and all the people shouted, “Long live King Solomon!”

40 Then all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing so much the earth split with their shouting.

1. What was the role of Bathsheba, the Queen Mother and the role of Our Blessed Mother in the initiation of the reign of Solomon and the Kingdom of God respectively?

John 2:4-5

4 [And] Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.”

5 His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.”

1. Read John 1:29-34. What does this passage say distinguished Jesus during His baptism?

John 1:29-34

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, [21](#21) who takes away the sin of the world.

30 [22](#22) He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'

31 I did not know him, [23](#23) but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."

32 John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove [24](#24) from the sky and remain upon him.

33 I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.'

34 [25](#25) Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

1. Challenge Question: Many have asked (including John the Baptist) why Jesus, who was without sin, came to be baptized? Jesus answered the question in verse 15. What do you think Jesus meant by “to fulfill all righteousness”? Consider Matthew 22:37-40.

Matthew 22:37-40

37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and the first commandment. 39 The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

1. A theophany is a manifestation of God in the Bible that is tangible to the human senses. In the Baptism of Jesus we see a theophany of the Holy Trinity. In what ways does this event reveal the three persons of the Trinity? How is this meaningful to you?
2. The Catechism refers to pronouncements by the Father and by Jesus Himself that Jesus is the beloved Son, the only Son of God. What does this fact tell you about the love of the Father and the Son for you individually and personally?

Catechism 444

444 The Gospels report that at two solemn moments, the Baptism and the Transfiguration of Christ, the voice of the Father designates Jesus his "beloved Son." Jesus calls himself the "only Son of God", and by this title affirms his eternal pre-existence. He asks for faith in "the name of the only Son of God". In the centurion's exclamation before the crucified Christ, "Truly this man was the Son of God", that Christian confession is already heard. Only in the Paschal mystery can the believer give the title "Son of God" its full meaning.

In the story of Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac (not completed) God refers to Isaac’s relationship to Abraham as “only son” and “whom you love.” How does that terminology show us the enormity of Jesus sacrifice and God’s love for us.

Genesis 22:2

Then God said: Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you