

Sermon Title: Baptism Sunday- Remember Who You Are

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17



Sermon Discussion Guide (4/12)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Matthew 3:13-17 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

What is the significance of Jesus's baptism occurring before He begins His public ministry?

How would you paraphrase verse 17, particularly when the Father speaks to the Son, in your own words? What do these words reveal to us about the character of the Father?

Read Matthew 4:1, 17. What happens after Jesus's baptism? What does Matthew 4 show us about the relationship between baptism and mission?

Read Ephesians 1:3-8. What do these verses reveal to us about the identity given to all those who are in Christ? What do these verses reveal to us about the work of God?

Application

Baptism begins not with our action but with God's initiative. Where have you seen God's grace at work in your own life before you started following Jesus or before you began to actively move towards God?

The Father's love for Jesus is expressed before Jesus's public ministry begins. Where do you find yourself believing that you are not enough or feeling like you must earn God's love through your actions? How might God be inviting you to rest in your identity as His beloved rather than striving to prove your worth?

In baptism, I am named as beloved. What are some names, identities, or past actions that you allow to shape who you are? How might these labels keep you from recognizing your primary identity as being a child of God?

In baptism, I am invited into God's mission. Given your everyday context, with the people you already know and the places you are already in, how is God calling you to live on mission in these places and with these people? What is one step you will take this week to follow this call?

Prayer

God, we thank You that You meet us in the water to claim us, name us, and send us. Teach us once again that our identity is not found in what we do, but in who You say we are. Strip us of the false names that we carry and help us live as Your beloved. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we may live on mission in the ordinary moments of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.