

“Baptism #1”

Matthew 3:1-12 (TEXT)

Same story in the other three gospels:

1. **Mark 1:1-5 (Read)...** the complete story goes to Verse 11...
 - **Mark begins his account of the gospel with this story of baptism.** (In his mind this is the beginning of the gospel)
 2. **Luke 3:2-6 (Read)**
 3. **John 1:19-26 (Read)**
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- Some things that John homes in on... **It's the religious people that came to John the Baptist**
 - #1 The Jews sent, priest and Levites to question him. **(V19-Who are you?) V's 21-23 WHY?...** **What prompted them to ask or even to go out to inquire...**
 - #2 Those who were sent, were from the Pharisees **(V24)**
 - #3 Why do you baptize... **(V25)**

Matthew 3:1-2...3 (TEXT)

- **Isaiah 40:2-3**

“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, (Lit: speak to the heart of Jerusalem) and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins, (V3) The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

- Why the wilderness?
- **Isaiah 61:7**

“Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore, in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs.”

Matthew 3:4-7 (Read)

- Remember we asked why did the Pharisees and religious come out?
- (V4) John was clothed like a prophet and ate like a prophet... common food even today in the middle east and Africa among the poor.
- And he was baptizing... **Jews understood baptism or ceremonial washings.**
- Also understood that a prophet like Elijah would be the forerunner to the Messiah

John 1:21 Priest and Levites asked... **Are you Elijah... are you a Prophet?**

JEWS FOR JESUS: Ritual Washings and Baptism.

*“Though it might seem like a completely Gentile Christian practice, baptism of purification was a preexisting part of Jewish religious tradition and culture before the time of Jesus... In The Hebrew Scriptures, washings were almost always for those of the already believing community. They symbolized cleansing from sin and guilt. Whereas sacrifices were to atone for **acts** of sin, washing or bathing seems generally associated with cleansing from a sinful or otherwise unholy condition... Baptism took on a magnified meaning in first century Israel for those who believed in Jesus as Messiah.”*

A few examples:

- Exodus 19:10-11 (National Cleansing and consecration)
- Leviticus 8: 6-9 (Priestly Cleansing and consecration)
- Leviticus 14:8-9 (Individual Ceremonial cleansing)

Matthew 3:7-8 (Text) John tells the Pharisees and Sadducees... *“Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance...”*

Matthew 3:10-12 (Read)

Acts 19:1-7... John’s baptism or water baptism is unto repentance.

Jesus’s baptism is a baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire...

Acts 8:10-13... *There is something about the power of baptism, that we are missing.*