

## Applying God's Word

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**This Week's Passage:** Matthew 3:13-17

**Corresponding Sermon from King's Church:** "The Baptism of Jesus"

### Opening Discussion

1. Read this week's passage together.
2. Share *your* immediate observations from this text. Was there anything shared in Sunday's sermon that stuck out to *you*?
3. In what ways were you able to see *yourself* in the sermon and in the text?

### Going Deeper

1. Read **Isaiah 53:10-12** & **Hebrews 2:14-18** together. As you think about these two passages in relation to Sunday's sermon, consider why it is so important that Jesus be like us in our humanity, while at the same time being without sin?

How are both of these requirements met through Jesus's baptism?

2. In humility, Jesus submitted himself to John's baptism of repentance even though there was no need for him to do so. In a sense, this is a foretaste of the ultimate humiliation he will experience when he offers himself as a sacrifice for our sins on the cross. What does this reveal to you about Jesus's character and his mission? What should your response be to this demonstration of his love?

3. After Jesus is baptized, he receives a “divine commission” from the Holy Spirit and from the Father (vs. 16-17). Let’s look deeper at the two complimentary aspects of Jesus’ commission mentioned in Sunday’s sermon.

*First*, we saw “the heavens were opened” and the Spirit of God descended to rest upon Jesus. This signified that *Jesus was indeed the anointed Messiah*. Read **Luke 4:16-21** together in which Jesus confirms and explains this truth. What did this messianic ministry look like during Jesus’s earthly life and what does it look like now through the ministry of the church?

*Second*, we saw God the Father confirm Jesus’s ability to complete this mission by saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” In saying this, God the Father is testifying not only to Jesus’s divinity, but also to his perfection. God is completely pleased with Jesus’s sinless life. Read **2 Corinthians 5:21** together. According to this verse, what does Jesus’s perfect obedience during his earthly life mean for your life today? What does it mean to be counted as righteous? How does this affect your relationship with God?

#### Prayer Points

1. Ask God to give you a deeper appreciation for the love he has for you in the person and work of Jesus.
2. Ask him to help you see that the righteousness of Christ leads to a desire for thankful holiness, not apathy.