

Luke 3:21-38

Last week we saw John the Baptist come on the scene and vanish from the scene. His ministry was characterized by:

1. Preparation...he came to prepare the way for Christ to come.
2. Devastation...he came to warn that long cherished traditions and barriers were going to be brought down and laid low.
3. Salvation....he came to point them to the salvation that was coming in the person of Christ.

This morning, we pick up in verse 21 and see Jesus arrive on the scene at the Jordan.

21 *Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized,*

1. When all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized.
2. This implies for us that Jesus' baptism was not just a part of John's work, but its *climax*.
 - a. We don't have to press "all" to mean that Jesus was the very last person John baptized,
 - b. but it must mean that John's ministry was virtually done when Jesus was baptized.
3. We saw this illustrated last week with John prepping the way and then getting out of the way!
4. John 3:25-30 *Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." 27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.*

and while He was praying, heaven was opened,

1. Literally the heavens were torn open or ripped apart.
2. This was a powerful display answering Isaiah's prayer from 600 years earlier!
3. Isaiah 64:1 *Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, That the mountains might quake at Your presence*
4. He did! *While he was praying, heaven was opened,*

22 *and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove,*

1. The Spirit of God had been on Christ before he was ever born.
2. This didn't occur so much for His benefit as for the benefit of the people
3. John 1:32-33 *John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'*
4. This was a visible testimony of the fact that Jesus was the Messiah and His ministry was officially beginning.
5. Isaiah 61:1 *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;*

and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

1. The audible voice of God booms from heaven: This is my beloved Son!
2. Isn't this amazing... God the Father's voice is heard testifying to the Sonship of Christ.
3. Don't miss this! God declared that Jesus is His Son.
 - a. Now we know that this does not mean biologically
 - b. This means that Jesus was miraculously placed as a seed in the womb of a virgin named Mary.
 - c. He is the exact image and representation of the Father...he looks just like His dad!
4. Hold on to that: **Jesus is the Son of God.**

When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph...name after name in the genealogy ending with verse 38...the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Adam...the son of God.

1. It is interesting that Luke ends the genealogy with this description: Adam, the son of God
2. It is interesting that Luke has placed the genealogy in this place in the narrative.
 - a. Doesn't it seem logical to place it just after the birth of Jesus?
 - b. Instead he places it right after the baptism of Jesus.
3. This is not by coincidence. This is significant.
 - a. At the baptism, he has shown that Jesus is the Son of God: this is my beloved Son!
 - b. In the genealogy he shows that Adam, the first man, is the son of God...and the great grandfather of Joseph...who was "supposed" or thought to be the father of Jesus.

There are 2 sons of God in the Bible

1. Adam and Jesus
2. There are two Adam's in the Bible: the first Adam and the last Adam.
3. This is so important to understanding who Jesus is...and the rest of the gospel.

Romans 5:12-21

I. The First Adam Verses 12-14

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

What does all of that matter?

1. **The first Adam was a literal person.**
 - a. He was directly created by God
 - b. He was a husband.
 - c. He was a father.
 - d. And we all descend from Adam.
2. **We are all descendants of the first Adam**

3. As descendants of the first Adam we have been affected by his sin.

- a. Biologically speaking we were in Adam
- b. Heb 7:7-10 *It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him*
- c. We have inherited the fallenness and depravity of our father Adam.
- d. Humans are not sinners because they sin, but rather they sin because they are sinners.

II. The Last Adam

15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. 16 The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

1. Christ is not a Son of Adam, but the Son of God.

- a. Therefore, Christ was not born with a sin nature.
- b. Christ was not, in His human nature, descended from Adam by ordinary generation, and so the guilt of Adam's first transgression was not imputed to Him under the covenant of works.
- c. Luke 1:26-38

2. Christ did not sin like Adam, but perfectly obeyed.

- a. We will see this next week as we look at the temptation of Jesus
- b. He resisted every temptation Satan threw at him

3. Christ suffered the penalty for our sin.

4. Just as it is certain that we were born in Adam, the son of God, it is possible for us to be born again and in Christ, the Son of God

18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. 20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are in Adam.

1. We are either in the first Adam
2. Or, we are in the last Adam.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive*

1 Corinthians 15:44-49 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life- giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven

We are either in Adam, or we are in Christ.

1. All it takes to be in Adam is to be born
2. But to be in Christ, we must be born again.
3. The story of Nicodemus
 - a. Separate one: Pharisee
 - b. Successful one: Sanhedrin
 - c. Sincere one: Came to Jesus by night
 - d. Needy one...except you be born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of heaven!
 - e. Regenerated....born again...made a new creation!
4. Have you been born again? In the last Adam...in Jesus, the Son of God?
5. Have you professed that and followed Him in believers baptism.