

Matthew 3:13-17

Fulfilling all Righteousness

Water ...

I. One of Us

- A. Baptized
- B. With Sinners

II. But Righteous

- A. Manifest
- B. Fulfilled

III. Son of God

- A. Heaven Opens
- B. The Spirit Descends
- C. The Father Speaks

... fire.

Children, Listen ...

1. What did John the Baptist's baptism stand for?
2. Why didn't John think he should baptize Jesus?
3. What three things happened as soon as Jesus was baptized?
4. What did God say about Jesus when He spoke from heaven?

An Uncomfortable Awesome Moment

It comes as no surprise to us that John the Baptist was reluctant to baptize Jesus. The prophet may not have had complete knowledge of Jesus, but he certainly knew that He was the Righteous One sent by God. Jesus explains that he must undergo Baptism as a part of fulfilling all righteousness, so John concedes and applies to the Lord this sign of repentance. It was uncomfortable for John and a little uncomfortable for us too. Why would Jesus need to repent of sin? ... after all, we are told elsewhere that he had none. The Savior is effectively aligning Himself with the likes of those he came to save. In this sense it is a reaffirmation that He is one of us, yet without sin. While His baptism may be uncomfortable, it was necessary, and the fact that He aligns Himself with us for the sake of our salvation should bring us great comfort. What happens next is even more eye-opening. It is an awesome moment when heaven opens, the Spirit descends on Jesus, and God speaks about His Son. What an amazing inauguration for Jesus public ministry of humility and power. He was baptized with water and soon thereafter he is anointed for His calling to go forth and baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire!