

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW... YOUR KINGDOM COME... ON EARTH

Week 15 - JROC – Matthew 3:11

October 10, 2021

John the Baptizer referred to three types of baptism in v. 11:

- John immersed with water unto repentance – John’s IMMERSING had its roots in the OT purification rites – EXTERNAL cleansing (Lev. 15:13). The OT purification rites foreshadowed a GREATER cleansing to come – an INTERNAL cleansing through the HOLY SPIRIT! NOTE that John spoke of the Holy Spirit!
 - As we’re reading through the Gospels, we SO NEED to UNDERSTAND what the Jewish people were taught by God through the OT books. AND, we need to realize that what they believed then is NOT what Jewish people are taught by rabbis today.
 - The Holy Spirit is found creating in Gen. 1:2. He hovered over the face of the deep.
 - Gen. 6:3 - *My Spirit shall not strive (plead) with man forever* – convicting work of the Holy Spirit.
 - I Sam. 16:13 – Samuel anointed David and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.
 - (Gen. 41:38; Ex. 31:1-2; Num. 11:17; Num. 27:18 – the Spirit is in Joshua; Isa. 63:10-11- Israel grieved the Holy Spirit; Dan. 5:11-14 – Daniel has the Spirit of the Holy God; Joel 2:28 – “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh”; Zech. 12:10 – “I will pour out on the House of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication....”; Luke 1:13-15 – the angel Gabriel told Zacharias that John the Immerser would *be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb*)
 - With water unto repentance – why would the Jewish people understand this? (Repentance in the OT: Isa. 55 – turn to Me, Israel;
 - Jewish people immersed Gentiles who came to faith in the God of Israel. “Proselytes,” “Gentile conversion.” The immersion of Gentiles was conveying that they had been outside the covenant of God.
 - It was submission to God/surrendering to God and realizing their need of being forgiven. The Gentiles were repenting by coming to faith in the God of Israel.
 - BUT, to have John the Baptizer immersing JEWISH PEOPLE – was not what Jewish people followed.
 - John immersing Jewish people powerfully, dramatically symbolized repentance. Jews accepting John’s baptism were admitting they had been as Gentiles and needed to become the people of God genuinely, inwardly. An amazing admission.
 - And, the Jewish people were repenting in anticipation of the Messiah’s arrival (Isa. 40:1-3; Mal. 3:).

○ Because this was not the norm – a Jewish man immersing other Jews – the Jewish religious leadership came to the banks of the Jordan to investigate. And, thus, the exchange between the religious Jews and John. The Jews were attempting to find out John’s identity (John 1:19ff) – the Christ, the Prophet, Elijah. John was the one who was immersing the Jewish people. In the religious purification rites, the Jewish

2

people immersed themselves. (This is part of the reason WHY the religious leadership came down to the Jordan River to INVESTIGATE John.

- John announced that the One coming after him would baptize with the Holy Spirit (John 16:7ff) Whom He would send. I Cor. 12:13 – from Pentecost on the Holy Spirit has permanently indwelt believers and the Holy Spirit has placed us into the body of Christ – the Church.

- John announced that the One coming after him would also baptize with fire. Fire speaks of JUDGMENT – which speaks of a baptism of judgment upon those who do NOT repent. We might say that for the unsaved, they do NOT identify with Jesus... they do NOT place their trust in Him for salvation... and they are condemned/judged:

- John 3:18-21 - *He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

Matt. 3:15 – “to fulfill all righteousness” – Jesus identified Himself with sinners at His baptism. He will ultimately bear their sin – and His righteousness will be imputed to them (II Cor. 5:2).

His first public event of His ministry is a picture of His death and resurrection.