

The Gospel of Matthew

“The Inauguration of Jesus”
(Matthew 3:13-17)

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Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.
But John tried to prevent Him, saying, *“I have need to be baptized by You, and do you come to me?”*
But Jesus answering said to him, *“Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”* Then he permitted Him.
And after being baptized, Jesus went immediately from the water; behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him,
and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

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Inauguration of Jesus

1. The Baptism of Jesus

A. John’s Reluctance

- Jesus is righteous and not in need of repentance for the preparation of the kingdom
- Jesus is the one who brings the baptism of the Spirit and is not in need of John’s symbol of water baptism

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Inauguration of Jesus

1. The Baptism of Jesus

B. Significance

- *“Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”*
- (“Let it be so for now, for this is the right way for us to fulfill all that God requires of us”)*

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Inauguration of Jesus

1. The Baptism of Jesus

B. Significance

- by John’s baptism Jesus marks his solidarity with his people as the messianic servant (he identifies with sinners as their representative)
- by His baptism Jesus affirms his determination to accomplish His assigned work as the Suffering Servant of Yahweh

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Inauguration of Jesus

2. The Anointing of the Spirit

➤ **Significance**

- it identified Jesus as the Spirit-anointed servant or Messiah (c.f. Isaiah 42:1; 61:1)
- it inaugurated the ministry of Jesus which is marked by the power of the Spirit of the Messianic Age
- the Spirit empowered Jesus for His ministry as the servant of Yahweh

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Inauguration of Jesus

3. The Affirmation of the Father

➤ Implications

- These words link Jesus to the “servant of Yahweh” in Isaiah 42:1-4; the servant who suffers for the sin of the people (Isaiah 53)
- While He is Yahweh’s servant, Jesus is uniquely God’s “beloved Son”

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Inauguration of Jesus

Jesus as the “suffering servant”...

- is our perfect representative who became “*sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*”
- is a perfect high priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses

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