

# LESSONS FROM THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

By Keith Greer

Jesus came in the wilderness to John the Baptist to be baptized by him in the Jordan River. We can learn some valuable lessons from these accounts, Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21,22.

**Jesus was baptized.** "It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan." {Mark 1:9} Many would like to void from the scriptures the accounts of our Lord's baptism. Why? It is something that he DID. Did He need to be baptized? No, because He was sinless, 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15. He was not sprinkled as a infant but was almost thirty years old when John baptized him.

**Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness.** "But Jesus answered and said to him, Permit it to be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he allowed Him." {Matthew 3:15} This precept was part of God's law, John 1:33. Though He had no sin-He must still keep the law. Could we say this was a CONDITION? Many want to debate today that if we do anything this negates grace. It takes God's grace to save us, this cannot be denied. Yet, all the conditions must be met to attain that grace. One of those conditions is BAPTISM! Mark 16: 16; Acts 2:38.

**When Jesus was baptized He was immersed.** "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him." {Matthew 3:16} Baptism means immersion, covered, or buried. Despite some of men's depictions of His baptism it was not some water poured over His head in the Jordan River. He was immersed! The Bible teaches immersion-not sprinkling!. Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3,4

**Jesus is the Son of God.** The Father's voice from heaven acknowledged that Christ was His Son! Jesus is the one man must hear today, Matthew 17:1-5. Even at His death, they knew He was the Son of God, Matthew 27:54. If Jesus saw the need to be immersed in water why do men fight the water so hard today? Jesus understood. Why can't men accept that and follow His example? \*\*\*