

CLASS: SS3
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: THE BAPTISM OF JESUS
WEEK: 2
TERM: FIRST TERM

CONTENT

1. The Meaning of Baptism
2. The Purpose of Jesus' Baptism
3. Synoptic Accounts of the Baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark. 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)
4. Significance of Jesus' Baptism

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

Baptism is defined as a practice of the Christian church – dipping into water completely (immersion) or more usually the pouring of water by the priest on the person who is receiving baptism. This is a sign of washing away of sins and showing that the person has become a member of the church, which marks the transition into a new kingdom.

THE PURPOSE OF JESUS' BAPTISM

1. The purpose of Jesus baptism is to show God's visible sign and blessing on Jesus.
2. It to prove Jesus unique status as the Son of God.
3. It is to prepare Jesus for His earthly ministry and also marked the beginning of His public ministry on earth.

SYNOPTIC ACCOUNTS OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

(Matt. 3:13-17; Mark. 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)

ST. MARK (MARK 1:9-11)		ST. MATTHEW (MATT. 3:13-17)	ST. LUKE (LUKE 3:21-22)
1	That Jesus came from	That Jesus came from	That the baptism did

	Nazareth of Galilee and went into the river	Galilee to Jordan for the purpose of being baptized.	not take place till all the people had been baptized (therefore the baptism was almost private).
2	When he came up out of water, he saw heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove.	That John was unwilling to baptize Jesus but was constrained by our Lord. "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting to fulfill all righteousness.	After baptism Jesus prayed.
3	A voice came from heaven "Thou art my beloved Son; with Thee I am well pleased."	When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water and the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lightning on him. A voice from heaven saying, "this is my beloved Son" with whom I am well pleased.	The Holy Spirit descended in bodily shape or form.

SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' BAPTISM

1. The baptism presents Jesus as a law abiding citizen.
2. The humility of Jesus to present Himself to be baptised by a lesser person is revealed.
3. To fulfil all righteousness Jesus identified Himself with the customs and the people he has come to save.
4. The baptism was one of the preparations Jesus made for His public ministry.
5. Jesus baptism was not for the remission of his own sins, (being without sin), but that of the world, as his baptism will culminate in his death.
6. The appearance of the Holy Spirit as well as the voice from heaven, confirmed to John that actually Jesus was the Messiah earlier prophesied about.

7. His baptism has taught the world that believers ought to be baptized – it is necessary, else Jesus would not have insisted on being baptized.
8. A dove signifies the Holy Spirit in Christendom. Therefore, the appearance of the Holy Spirit during the baptism of Jesus shows that Jesus is a member of the Trinity. Thus, all the three members of the Trinity were present during the baptism of Jesus. God the Father's presence was symbolized by the voice.
9. The baptism of Jesus was the very first forum to declare his Messiahship; hence, its significance.
10. It indicated that Jesus' mission on earth will mainly benefit sinners; hence, his decision to identify himself with sinful humanity.

ASSIGNMENT

1. State the significant difference between the Matthew and Markan accounts of the baptism of Jesus. (SSCE June 1998)