

Reading - Mark 1: 1 - 11

Introduction

John the Baptist had been practising a Baptism of repentance in the River Jordan. He prophesies that the Messiah is coming after him and will baptise with the Holy Spirit. John himself is a fulfilment of the Old testament prophesy of an Elijah character who would prepare the Way of the Lord (Isaiah 40.3) John's humble recognition before the One who comes after him is beautiful to read in itself.



Jesus comes to be baptised by John not because he has sins to repent of but in order to fully identify with us. He sets the example for us to follow on. His Baptism also marks the beginning of his public ministry and an anointing by the Father with the Holy Spirit. He sees the Dove and hears the voice and knows for certain that his Father is pleased with him.

Discussion Starters

- If you were at or watched the Baptismal service on Sunday what elements of it echo the Baptism of Jesus we read about here?
- What difference do you think there is between the Baptism John practised and full Christian Baptism? Why did Jesus submit himself to John's Baptism?
- What does it mean to be baptised not just in water but with the Holy Spirit? What did it mean for Jesus himself?
- Jesus heard the voice of his Heavenly Father encouraging and affirming him. Do you think we can hear that kind of voice ourselves? How would it feel?

Prayer time

Please pray for needs that are known or shared. Please also pray for those baptised on Sunday and for others thinking about being baptised.

Summer Note-

From next Sunday 1st August we are running a new series for the Summer - Mixed Emotions from the Psalms. I hope you can enjoy some fellowship together over these next weeks, but unless you would like them Lifegroup notes will not be sent out until September. Attached is the Mixed Emotions series.