

I. Introduction.

Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV) |¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

A. There are a number of interesting things going on here in this scene that are quite instructive. The fact that Jesus was baptized and the way God the Father responded to it are both quite extraordinary. Keep in mind, this isn't when Jesus was a young kid. Jesus is about 30 years old at this time. He's a grown Man and has three decades of perfect obedience to God on His resume. With this in mind, let's dig into a few of the lessons we can glean from it all...

II. Lessons we can learn from Jesus's humility at his baptism.

1. The first lesson is about lowliness and self-condescension: how well we take the low place when given the opportunity.

- Jesus had never sinned and therefore did not need to repent ever in His life. In His going to John to be baptized, He was seen by many and thought of as just any other sinner needing to get right with God. Jesus was okay with being viewed as less than He really was because He was very secure about who He really was. He knew He was genuine and He knew that the Father knew who He really was. (Long and loving obedience produces this kind of security and identity.)
- Lesson: understand that in order to fulfill God's highest purpose for your life, it will involve making decisions that will cause others to view you as less than you are. Make a habit of doing life this way, and carrying your heart this way, and the grace of God will increase on your life, because God gives grace to the humble (Proverbs 3:34, James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5). The reason the vast majority of Christians get off track is they care too much about their public image rather than their real life and the actual condition of their heart. Focus on pleasing God (I mean for real, even in private) instead of projecting a certain image (which is more and more of an issue in this social media age).

2. The second lesson is about receptivity and respect: how well we receive from others who God is using (especially when they are above us).

- Jesus knew He was going to have a ministry far more powerful than John the Baptist's ministry. He knew more than John the Baptist. He could have taught John the Baptist so much. But instead of acting like a big shot, we see Jesus coming under John's ministry to receive from him and learn and respond to his message. In fact, Jesus lived His whole life this way (Luke 4:16).
- Lesson: understand that if you want God to give you your ministry or calling, you need to first receive and learn from someone else's ministry and calling. Friends, even Jesus did this! (So, how much more should we?) Too many make the mistake of trying to make things happen in their life without first becoming receptive to a spiritual family where God wants to grow them. Keep in mind that God typically grows us under people with a message and/or emphasis different than the one we're called to carry so that we mature in ways we would not on our own.

3. The third lesson is about perspective and preparation: how well we discern our own (personal) need for grace based on what's ahead.

- Jesus was humbling Himself under another man's ministry because He discerned that around the corner was a great test and severe temptation—the greatest of His life (perhaps second only to the drama leading up to and including His crucifixion). Jesus knew that He needed the grace of God on His life in order to remain steadfast in His calling when the devil himself would attack multiple times. Jesus also knew that if He could come through this time of testing and temptation that there would be an added dimension of power to His ministry—people would be touched in more powerful ways (Luke 4:14).
- Lesson: understand that how you respond in this season will determine the level of grace you have for next season. And you never know what's around the corner. It could be life's greatest test, or the most joyous and sweetest season of family connection, or a revival season in which God uses you in great ways. We never know what season is ahead, but the fact remains, we need God's grace for it no matter the season. Similar to how it was with Jesus, the grace of God includes more of the Spirit and a greater ability to hear God's voice, which is especially needed in times of testing and temptation.

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for August 9, 2019.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** Stay tuned!
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School; Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Austin and Amy Zhu** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
6. **Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), kingdom business prayer groups (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
7. We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
8. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
9. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*