

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."

Questions:

- 1) Do we ever try to stop God from doing something or prevent Him getting closer to us (and us closer to Him) by not fully understanding His mission or His love for us? [v14]
- 2) How easy, and at the same time counter-intuitive, is it to obey God?
- 3) In light of Jesus being baptized [v16], what is it that prevents some Christians from being baptized? Discuss baptism, its significance and symbolism.
- 4) What are we to do in order for God to be "well pleased" (v17) with us? [Hint: there is more to it than being baptized]
- 5) What were the reasons Jesus humbled Himself and came to be baptized?
- 6) John didn't fully understand why Jesus came to be baptized. Do we recognize Jesus for who He is and His mission? [v14]
- 7) Discuss Pastor Jonathan's comment that Jesus' baptism didn't save anyone. Why is it that baptism doesn't save?
- 8) Contrast Israel in the Old Testament and their obedience to God with Jesus' obedience to His Father. Where do you see yourself in this comparison?
- 9) Discuss Pastor Jonathan's statement that Jesus met us at our point of need - how did Jesus meet you and how does He continue to meet you at your point(s) of need?
- 10) Consider Jesus as fully man and fully God. Discuss the extent of His humbling Himself to be baptized. Discuss also the extent to which he humbled Himself to fulfill His mission.