

1.29.12

THE WAY

Living in the dust of the Rabbi

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22

Jesus' IPO

1. Jesus is greater than John

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

Luke 3:15-16

2. Jesus' baptism is greater than John's

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke 3:16

3. Jesus' judgment is greater than John's

His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

Luke 3:17-20

4. Jesus' IPO

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22

I see something so precious in the fact that people had confessed their sins standing in those waters and then were baptized. Jesus comes after they've made this confession. He is baptized—drenched in the same waters where they had confessed their sins. Don't you almost see Him wearing the sins they had confessed in those waters?

—Beth Moore, *Jesus: The One and Only*, page 61

THE WAY: Living in the dust of the Rabbi

Week 3: January 29

For groups, friends, families, couples, or individuals to take this week's message deeper.

THE QUESTION

Where are you with confession, repentance and baptism?

CORE POINT

Jesus identified with us in the waters of baptism. We can be covered in His dust by humbly coming before Him in confession, repentance, and baptism.

GETTING FOCUSED

1. Read Luke 3:1-23 and Isaiah 40:3-5.
 - a. Reflect on these Scriptures. What paves the way for Jesus to come and do a powerful work in your life? In the lives of others?
 - b. When John the Baptist saw all the people streaming to be baptized, he stated: "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." What is repentance? What kind of fruit is he talking about?
Have you been baptized? Share that experience with one another. What holds you back?
2. Read the section titled *Representation* on pages 60-62 of the book, *Jesus, the One and Only*.
 - a. The author paints a picture of Jesus being immersed in the sins of the people. What is your heart response to this picture?
 - b. If confession is agreeing with God, why would that be beneficial?
 - c. What keeps you from confessing your sins?
 - d. Read James 5:16 and Matthew 11:28. What does God promise us in these verses?

GROUP REFLECTION

Sit in silence together for 5 minutes and imagine sitting with Jesus and telling Him about the sin you would rather not admit.
What is His response?

OUR PRAYER FOR ONE ANOTHER & OUR COMMUNITY

Pray this for each other:

May you believe in God. But may you come to see that God believes in you. May you have faith in Jesus. But may you come to see that Jesus has faith that you can be like Him. A person of love and compassion and truth. A person of forgiveness and peace, and grace, and joy, and hope. And may you live in the dust of your rabbi, Jesus.

For Chile:

Pray for Jim Breen as he goes to work with YWAM (Youth With a Mission) in Chile. Pray for hearts to be open to the Gospel.