

# **First Baptist Church Smiths Falls**

Sunday, June 10, 2018 Benevolent Sunday

## **Preservice Music**

**Call To Worship:** Psalms 34.3; 122.1.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!

**Welcome:** Welcome to all, and to Cogeco Family and internet audience at [www.firstbaptistchurchsmithsfalls.ca](http://www.firstbaptistchurchsmithsfalls.ca)

**Statement:** Vision: "To Impact hearts and lives with the gospel of Christ in the Church, in the community and beyond."

## **Announcements:**

### **Prayer:**

God of mercy, grace, and power, pour forth Your Spirit upon us in such a way that our hearts might be cleansed, our minds enlightened, our affections for you rekindled, and our ability to worship you enhanced in such a way that this hour of worship might be profitable for eternity and a means of bringing glory unto Your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

### **Greeting one Another:**

### **Songs:**

### **Offering:**

### **Children:**

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:11-17 New International Version (NIV)  
11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." 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."

### **Congregational Prayer: "Our Father"**

Our Father, Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven. Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread, And Forgive Us Our Trespases, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom, The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

### **Message: Message: "The 3:16 Trail: Baptism"**

#### **Introduction:**

- A horse walks into a bar. The bartender walks over to him, looks him straight in the eyes and says: "Hey buddy, why the long face?"
- The best jokes are often only funny to us when something happens that we don't expect. We have been walking down the 3:16 Trail for the last two months, and along the way we have

seen God's plan of salvation, His compassion, His mighty hand of deliverance, and how we are called to respond appropriately, and to share the good news with our family, even as we stand firm for Him.

- Today's stop on the 3:16 Trail is about something that maybe we have grown to expect, but perhaps should not. Today we go to our first stop in the New Testament: we are at Matthew chapter 3, and looking at the baptism of Jesus to see why Jesus came, the importance of baptism, and what our obedience is to be.

Part one: Jesus is Baptized????

- The story of the baptism of Jesus is one that we have all heard before. Therefore doesn't shock us. Therefore it doesn't surprise us. And this in itself should be a surprise to us.
- The Gospel of Matthew begins with the birth of Jesus. After the genealogy of Jesus is traced, we have the story of the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel followed by a the birth of Jesus. Chapter 2 is the only place where the magi are recorded

as visiting, followed by the escape to Egypt, and then the story of the family setting up their home to the North of Jerusalem in Galilee, in the small town of Nazareth. All this is history to help us to understand that a remarkable birth has happened, and this birth is about to not just change history, but make history.

- Do you remember our first stop on the 3:16 Trail in the book of Genesis? Here we had punishment being given out to the first couple who had turned their back on God and purposely sinned against Him. And yet, we saw that even in this punishment, God gives His wonderful plan of salvation. In Genesis 3:15 there is the promise of an ancestor who would one day stop Satan and his evil. This one would be the long-awaited one, the anointed one, otherwise known as The Messiah.
- The Messiah was destined to save His beloved people. But the people believe that this form of saving would come as a warrior who would release them from the tyranny of oppressors, the Romans. Praise the Lord, thought, God had a much bigger plan

in mind. God's plan was to send a Saviour to save the people once for all time. The Saviour would, therefore, not be like you and I. This is because the Saviour would save us from ourselves. The Saviour would save us from our sins. The Saviour would save us from the mess of sin that the first couple introduced to us in Genesis 3, that basically changed our DNA. You see, when sin came into humanity, we as a people thought different, reacted differently, and because of the stain of sin being in our lives, we are not only born with sin, but we are always one step away from it in our lives.

- Now, to be fair, some of you that are here or watching on cable TV, might be saying to yourself right now, "Whoa! Wait just one second! I have been a good person. I live a good life. I have done some good things in my life. And here you are, pastor, saying that I am born into sin, and I live in sin. And that offends me."
- Have you ever been with a dear friend who is doing something

really stupid and everyone the world knows it and it's time to tell him or her the truth? Or have you ever been put in the place where you need to go and talk to somebody about what's happening in their life, and you know that they're not going to appreciate what they need to hear? Have you heard the expression: "The truth hurts?"

- The Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, is designed to be offensive. I don't want to excuse that. I don't want to cover that up. Its offensive nature is not meant to drive people away from God, nor to mislead them into a false understanding of their need to turn to God. Instead, the Gospel is offensive because we need to face the truth. The truth is that we need God. The truth is, like it says in Romans 3:23: "*For... all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*"
- The simple word "all" is so very important in that Bible passage. All of us have sinned. All of us a fallen short of the glory of God. All of us have offended God because of our sinful nature.

This should mean, therefore, that we cannot approach a pure God. This should mean, therefore, that because we are sinful we cannot come before God who cannot look upon sin. This should mean that our sinfulness makes us unworthy before God.

- But, and here's the Good News - here's the Gospel, as Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV) says: *"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."*

This verse, like many others in the Bible, reminds us that in God's perfect timing, God sends a part of Himself, a part that He called His Son, to come as a human being, to come from a woman, and come with one purpose in mind: to redeem us. To redeem means that we have our debt paid in full. To redeem means that whatever was owing is gone. To redeem means that we are free. Now, from what are we freed? We are freed from our sins, and even the stain, the residue, of our sins.

- And this is only possible because of the Saviour, Jesus. This is

only possible because of the Messiah coming. Some people in the world are still waiting for the Messiah to come. Know this: Jesus, the One and only Messiah, has already come, made an entrance in this world, and died to pay for your sins and mine. Jesus did so to pay off our debt of sin in full. And then, our Jesus arose as the Risen Saviour. And, as if that's not cool enough, the only thing we have to do is accept His gift of life. And, because we have accepted His gift of life, we will be redeemed, we will be cleansed, we will be freed of our sins.

- So that is why we have Matthew chapters 1 and 2. Let's take a look at Matthew chapter 3 as Jesus is baptized. The Greek word for baptize is "baptizo," which means to fully immerse. Think of washing your dishes. Would you take your scallop potato dish and flick some water on it, or would you "baptizo" it - fully immerse it in water? This was a word that our Baptist ancestors looked at early in the Reformation. We Baptists have long held to the belief, as seen in Scripture, that those that are baptized are

those who accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who pledge their life to follow Him, who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, and who obediently want to walk with Him as those who have made a decision. And the reason that we get completely wet in baptism, as you saw here on Easter Sunday, is the meaning of this word baptizo: it means to fully immerse.

- So, therefore, Jesus got completely wet that day. We are going to talk about why Jesus was baptized in just a few seconds, but let me encourage all of you: if you have been baptized, rejoice in your step of obedience. If you have not been baptized yet, understand that once you love the Lord Jesus Christ you are destined to be his precious child forever. Baptism will not save you. But, being baptized is vitally important. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus instructs us to go and baptize the people of all nations in the name of "... *The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...*" If God is leading you to be Baptized, let me encourage you to do

this vitally important act so that you may grow in your faith, and please the Lord as you stand before others as you profess your faith in Jesus Christ. We may be doing baptisms this coming fall, so please talk to me.

#### Part two: Obedience

- Here's the conundrum: why would Jesus be baptized? Now, think about this: Jesus is a part of God, the second member of the Godhead. He is God's beloved Son. The Bible tells us that Jesus was there at creation, and all things were created through him [Colossians 1:16]. Jesus has seen the wonders of glory, and has made a choice to come to earth. Why? Why would Jesus do that? Would He take on a human body, and become one with the created? Would you step down from your position to become something much less? Why did Jesus come to earth? It was for love. It was to save you and I. And it was out of obedience.
- And it was out of obedience that Jesus came to John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Now, you and I are baptized as a

recognition of our former sinful nature, from which we have walked away, having been cleansed by the blood of Christ. You and I are baptized as a symbol of the fact that we have resigned our life to the God of all. You and I are baptized to symbolically show an outward expression of the inward change that has happened to us. None of these reasons were true for Jesus. Jesus was baptized because he was obedient.

- And, because He was obedient, we have this story from Matthew 3:16: *"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..."*

And it goes on to say in the next verse that there is a voice, the voice of God, that acknowledged His Son, and His pleasure.

- God was pleased with the obedience of Jesus.

Conclusion:

- Okay, here's one of the shortest jokes you can never tell: "A man walks into a bar - "Ouch!" God is the God of the unexpected,

and all He asks for us to do is follow and obey Him. Let me ask the most important question of you this day: is God pleased with your obedience? Is your walk with God pleasing to Him? Are you walking with the Lord in such a way that all that you are doing is in obedience to Him?

- Jesus was baptized out of obedience. You should be living your life in obedience to our God. Let's choose this day to walk the trail of our life in obedience to Jesus the Saviour.