

## Mark 1:4-11 NAU and Other Passages



# Baptism and Money

Saturday, 1/9 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/10 at 9:00

The Baptism of Our Lord – 2021

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Here at Bethlehem we follow the church year; therefore, *about SIX MONTHS each year*, we focus on Jesus' coming, birth, ministry, and sacrifice! However, *things are a bit lopsided in our approach*. In other words, *over the past SIX WEEKS*, Jesus was anticipated, born, named, and baptized, ***so Jesus is already 30 years old!***

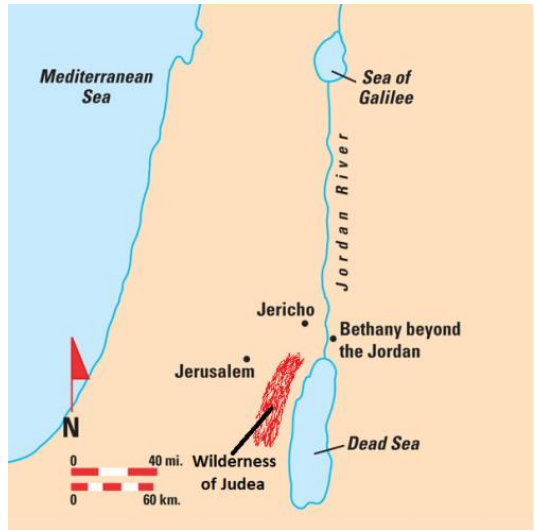
Today we will skim over Jesus' baptism; then, *at the end*, we will turn our attention to the topic of money.

1. **Baptism:** We now focus on John, *who baptized Jesus*:

- a. John Preached and Baptized: <sup>4</sup> **John the Baptist** [*baptizer*] **appeared in the wilderness** [*about 40 miles east of Jerusalem*] **preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.** <sup>5</sup> **And all the country of Judea was**

going out to him, and **all** the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. // What happened? Many

- ▶ went out to John,
- ▶ heard him preach,
- ▶ confessed their sins, and
- ▶ were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.



- b. John was Different: <sup>6</sup> **John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.** // John didn't waste his time with clothes and food. What about us, are we wasting our time with temporal things? Let us ▶ think, ▶ identify such things, and ▶ repent / change!
- c. John Pointed People to Jesus: <sup>7</sup> **And he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals** [which was the task of the lowest servant]. <sup>8</sup> **"I baptized you with water; but He [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."** // John used water, and **God forgave sins!** Then, 50 days after Jesus was raised, **He** poured out the HS. The HS works through the Bible to ▶ teach us, ▶ guide us, and ▶ strengthen us!
- d. John Baptized Jesus: <sup>9</sup> **In those days** [when John was baptizing] **Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan** [not for forgiveness, but to

*accept His mission to be the Christ*].<sup>10</sup> **Immediately coming up out of the water** [after He was baptized], **He** [God the Son] **saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit** [God the HS] **like a dove descending upon Him;**<sup>11</sup> **and a voice came out of the heavens** [the voice of God the Father]: **“You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”**  
// That is one of the rare times when *the F, the S, and the HS* were all individually present at the same time!  
Regarding the Father being pleased: Adam fell, and all of us have also fallen, yet *Jesus did NOT fall*; instead, He **✦did not sin and ✦perfectly followed the will of His Father**. As the Father was pleased with His Son, so *He is pleased with us through our faith in Jesus!* We now turn to the topic of money...

2. **Money:** We need it and God has given it; now what?

a. **Some Bible basics:**

- i. God has given us all we have (1Co. 4:7).
- ii. We are called to return 10% for the work of His kingdom from the **first of all** we receive (Pro. 3:9).
- iii. *GIVING* should be based on *RECEIVING*.
- iv. A tithe is 10%; here are some examples:
  1. \$10/week (allowance) = \$1 tithe
  2. \$100/week (after school job) = \$10 tithe
  3. \$1,000/week (full-time job) = \$100 tithe
  4. \$1,500/month (social security) = \$150 tithe
- v. When we give faithfully (weekly/biweekly/monthly) and generously (10%), **God will abundantly give to us** (Luke 6:38). For all who are giving first, faithfully, and generously, **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!** *You are blessed because God's promises NEVER FAIL!*

b. Robbing God: What does that mean?

i. **Sin:** “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! [That is what the LORD said to the people who were not tithing.] But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ [Then the LORD answered:] In tithes and offerings.”

ii. **Consequence:** “You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me... [then the LORD stated the remedy]

iii. **Remedy:** “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... test Me now in this... if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows” (Malachi 3:8-10 NAU). If you are robbing, *repent and He will bless you!*

c. Our 2021 offering envelopes:

i. Statement: **Let Us Be Faithful Managers:** God has given us **our part** and **His part**; *let us gladly give Him His part (10%) for the work of His kingdom! // When we do, God will bless us!*

ii. Verse: “Honor the LORD with your wealth... then your barns will be filled with plenty...” (Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV). // That is one of many verses in which God promises to bless those who give to Him **first!** *Firstfruits giving demonstrates **faith** in the Almighty!*

**This Week’s Challenge:** Rejoice in Jesus, your Savior; give thanks for God’s countless gifts; and honor the LORD with Biblical giving!

**Let Us Pray:** Father in heaven, TY for sending Your Son for our eternal benefit; *then clothing us in Him through Holy Baptism!* Now, *knowing we are forgiven in Christ,* help us to fully believe and actually do Your Holy Word!

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