



Message Discussion Guide Week of January 21, 2024

Message: Turn the Page, Part 3: Listen Up!

Key Scriptures: [Mark 1:9-13](#)

Preachers: Pastor Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

One by one people came to the Judean wilderness to be baptized by John, each one a sinner in need of cleansing. And there was Jesus, standing in line with all the sinners, waiting his turn. Why does Jesus need a spiritual bath?

- Jesus doesn't need a bath. He never sinned. But he chooses to be baptized because he chooses to be treated like a sinner.
- He chooses to be treated like a sinner, and to take on responsibility for our sin.

John's baptism was a human action – it reflected a person's desire to be cleansed from their sin and to live differently. The problem, of course, is that none of us can stay clean. We all sin again and need to be cleansed again.

Jesus' baptism was different. It was an act of God. The heaven's tore open and Jesus was proclaimed as God's Son, the one who would suffer and serve as the promised savior.

- We are not baptized in the name of John the Baptist. We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- In our baptism, God treats us like Jesus, proclaiming us as His sons/daughters and promising us a place in his eternal family.

Jesus becomes as we are, so we can become as he is.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Do you remember your baptism? If you were a baby, do you know why your parents decided to have you baptized? If you chose to be baptized yourself, why did you choose to be baptized? What does baptism mean to you?
- 2.) What was the meaning of John's baptism? How is it different than the baptism we receive today?

- 3.) If those who repented knew that they would sin again, then why was it important for them to be baptized as a sign of their repentance? Why is it important for us to repent, even though we know we will fail again?
- 4.) [Read Mark 1:9-13](#)
 - a. Why does Jesus choose to be baptized by John?
 - b. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit coming upon Jesus? What does that mean? Why does the Spirit look like a dove?
 - c. What do God's words in v. 11 tell us about Jesus' identity and what he came to do? Why are these words important?
 - d. Why is Jesus tempted in the wilderness? What does it mean that angels attended him?
- 5.) Pastor Tom said, "Jesus became as we are, so we can become as he is." What does this statement mean? How does God enable you to become like Jesus?
- 6.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?