

10.11.20
Jesus, Our Spiritual Leader in All Things
Matthew 3:13-4:11

To lead off I wanted to tell you that I felt led just to talk about Jesus. I am not making very much personal application to our lives other than how Jesus led us in the way to enter in and live our spiritual lives.

So let's pick up where we left off last week and that is the baptism of Jesus. Take a look at this event with me.

Matthew 3:13-15, "Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me? But Jesus answering said to him, 'Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. The he (John) permitted Him. After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

As I was thinking about Jesus and His leadership I thought I might first talk about another leader.

Have you ever been around someone that truly inspired you? When you were around them you felt good, excited and truly inspired to be a better man or woman? Each of you probably have.

You might have met someone like this but probably not someone quite like President Theodore Roosevelt.



He was truly a man for the ages. Bigger than life and full of all kinds of gusto.

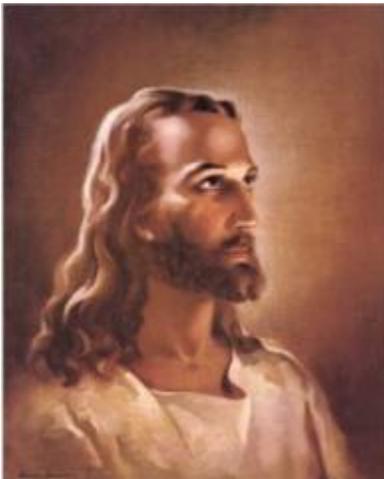
A journalist named William A. White wrote of his meeting with President Roosevelt in 1897 saying, “He sounded in my heart the first trumpet call of the new time that was to be... I had never known such a man as he, and never shall again. He overcame me. And in the hour or two we spent that day at lunch, he poured into my heart such vision, such ideals, such hopes, such a new attitude toward life and patriotism and the meaning of things, as I had never dreamed men had... After that, I was his man.”

Theodore Roosevelt was a man of vision for sure. What he accomplished in his lifetime for this country was amazing. He won a noble peace prize. Instituted a policy for monitoring the purity of drugs and meat products. He extended foreign policy to protect the islands around the United States against invasion. He created national parks and game reserves with over 100 million acres.

He created a reform that monitored big business, limiting monopolies that could demand any price they wanted for their products like oil, timber and other natural resources. Put workman’s compensation in place and of course, was responsible for the panama canal which allows ships to pass back and forth from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Theodore Roosevelt was able to accomplish so many things because people believed in the man and in his vision of what could be. He was a true leader.

This morning we want to begin looking at another leader of men and women and that is our Savior Jesus Christ.



That He was a man and a leader of people is an understatement. He not only achieved tremendous things Himself but He inspired and equipped others to do miraculous things.

As we look at our passage I wanted to us to pick up where we left off last week. When Jesus came to the river Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist, John was hesitant to baptize Jesus as he believe it was he that needed to be baptized by Jesus.

Look at Jesus' reply in **verse 15, "But Jesus answering said to Him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."**

As I mentioned last week Jesus didn't say let me do this thing. No, He said let us do this thing. Let us John, you and me do this baptism so we can together fulfill all righteousness. That is how Jesus operates. He doesn't go out on His own. He takes others with Him and He builds them up to join Him in journey.

That is what a good leader does. They don't try and do everything themselves but they inspire people in what to do by leading the way themselves. That is what Jesus is doing when He is being baptized. He is showing the people, this is the way.

I believe Jesus is saying I don't need to be baptized for forgiveness of sin, I have not sinned. But if God, My Father sent John to preach repentance and to be baptized for the forgiveness of past sin then since I came as a man, even though I am deity, the Son of God, I must go as the forerunner of all of mankind. I want to lead in everything that I expect people to do.

1. Jesus leads the way in all things

By His baptism Jesus is showing everyone that John was sent from God. John's message is true and the processes of preparing for the coming kingdom of heaven is correct. By being baptized by John, Jesus is giving His stamp of approval from heaven and He is saying this is the correct order.

Fits with what we think about accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior right? Repent, confess and ask for forgiveness and be baptized right?

Now let me just quickly say that baptism isn't your seal of salvation. Without spending too much time on baptism, we know it is the heart that enters into the baptism experience that is the important thing. If someone hasn't really, from their heart, repented, asked for forgiveness and confess they want Jesus as their Savior and Lord and they are baptized then all they have done is gotten wet.

We certainly believe in baptism. We are commanded to be baptized and we are to be obedient to this command as it is a public confession of our acceptance of Jesus as our Savior and Lord and the death of our old selves and the rebirth we have experienced through our new relationship with Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

We see Jesus affirming baptism. So...

2. Jesus leads the way in rite of **baptism**

Let's think about what happens next in our passage in Matthew. Look back at

Matthew 3:16-17, "After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

After being baptized the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. These things that are happening to Jesus take just a bit of thought about why. Why would the Son of God need to be baptized, why would He need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Let's look at what Paul wrote to the church in Philippi.

Philippians 2:6-7, "Jesus, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but (He) emptied Himself, taking on the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men."

Jesus knew that in order to be a leader on earth He must experience life on earth as a human so He humbled Himself by leaving His position in heaven.

We all know the ins and outs of being human don't we? The struggles physically, emotionally and mentally not to mention the challenges of living out our lives in a spiritually pleasing way.

If you were already in heaven, experiencing the presence and goodness of God, knowing what you know about the human experience, would you want to come back and live again?

I feel sorry for the people who believe in reincarnation. Buddhist, Hinduism and others believe that, depending on how you live your human life, when you die you will be blessed or cursed to come back in another life from. It might be human but it could be a cow, a bird, an insect or a snake.

In one group they believe once you have passed through several stages of reincarnation that you reach nirvana, which means you are absorbed into God.

I don't know exactly what that means, I stopped my research there. But I got to tell you. When this life is over and I am in heaven, please God, don't send me back down to earth. I know He wont but who would want to for you would be in Jesus presence at that time.

But Jesus wanted to come to earth didn't He? Jesus did because He wanted to be the first in all things. He wanted to lead the way. In fact, He wanted to become the way to God didn't He?

When Jesus came to earth to live and die as a human He gave up the right to His heavenly rights while He was here. He didn't give up His position as the Son of God and as part of the Trinity, He couldn't do that. But He gave up His right to enjoy those rights during His stay on earth. Meaning, He didn't bring His power associated with His position as the Son of God with Him to earth.

He remained the Son of God but in human form and it was only when the Holy Spirit was placed upon Him that He was able to accomplish any miracles. Just like the only way miracles can be accomplished through us is by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That is why we are told, after He came up out of the water, the Spirit of God descended on Him like a dove. Jesus experienced the filling of the Holy Spirit in the same way we do when we come into a relationship with God. But Jesus was first. The way He was filled with the Holy Spirit was unlike anything that had happened on earth to date.

PLEASE PUT THE SCRIPTURE AND POINT ON ONE SLIDE

The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel wrote of this day when he wrote.

Ezekiel 11:19-20, “And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh: That they may walk in My statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”

A new thing was happening and Jesus was leading the way.

3. Jesus leads the way in the baptism of the Holy Spirit

The next section of Matthew, Matthew 4:1-11 tells about Jesus, being led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by Satan.

Think about this statement. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by Satan. Kind of strange when you think about it. We are not going to take the time to read through the temptations of Jesus this morning, I will refer to them in a second but the reason Jesus was tempted by Satan is the following.

PLEASE PUT THE SCRIPTURE AND POINT ON ONE SLIDE

Hebrews 4:15, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet He did not sin.”

Jesus was tempted in every this life tempts a person but

4. Jesus leads by living a **holy** life, overcoming temptation

Jesus was tempted as a human just like we are but He did not sin. Think about this for a moment. The first temptation of Jesus was when He was in great need. He fasted for 40 days so He was hungry. Satan came along and said you can do something about this. Jesus said nope, I am leaning on my God to provide. I am not going to take things into my own hands.

Then Satan said push the limits of what you should be doing as a human. Go live life on the edge. Push the boundaries of your relationship with God, you know God will protect you. But Jesus said nope, I am not going to put My God to the test by seeing how much I can get away with.

Satan then came and said, look at all the wealth of the world. I can make you a very rich man. In fact, I can make you the richest man in this world.

Jesus said nope, it is written. In fact Jesus said that every time Satan tempted Him, it is written in God's Holy Word and in this case, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'

Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are, and yet He did not sin.

As you study the life of Jesus we know He lived a life of purity. He always deferred to God and God's will for His life.

Now lets to go back to Philippians and look there.

PLEASE PUT THE SCRIPTURE AND POINT ON ONE SLIDE

Philippians 2:6-7, "Jesus, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a things to be grasped, but (He)

emptied Himself, taking on the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Here we see..

5. Jesus leads in a sacrificial death

It wasn't a common death for sure as He was the pure sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins for all who would accept it. But this passage tell us that Jesus was obedient to the mission God sent Him on. He was willing to die to Himself and literally physically die a brutal to fulfill His purpose on earth.

But we know it didn't end there did it?

PLEASE PUT THE SCRIPTURE AND POINT ON ONE SLIDE

Colossians 1:18, “Christ is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first born of the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”

6. Jesus leads in being the first to be raised from the dead in a physical/spiritual form

What this looks we don't know for sure. Some of the apostles and disciples were able to see Jesus after His resurrection but the fullness of the form Jesus was in was new and unique. It was something that had never been seen on earth or in the heavens.

What does all this mean to us? It means we can expect most of the same great things Jesus experienced in our lives.

Jesus led us in baptism, the filling of the Holy Spirit, in what it means to live a holy life, what it means to live a sacrificial life for the Kingdom of God and what resurrection from the dead will look like. But it also means this.

2 Corinthians 2:14, “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.”

As we follow Jesus’ lead in the things He did and taught, we will be walking in the triumphal procession with Him.

We have a King, Savior and a Leader who knows the way to true life because He is the truth who forged the way through all things in this life into the new life we live here and for eternity.

As we focus upon Him and the things He has done for us the following will be our cry. I re-wrote what was written about Roosevelt in the following way.

“Jesus sounded in my heart the first trumpet call of the new time that was to be... I had never known such a man as He, and never shall again. He overcame me. And in the years we spent together, He poured into my heart such vision, such ideals, such hopes, such a new attitude toward life, truth and the meaning of things as I had never dreamed... After this, I was, and shall ever be, His.”

Let’s pray