Sermon Notes

January 19th

Baptism—a line in the sand. With Jesus baptism a new world began.

God recognized Jesus. “This is my son. I love him.” This is the one!

He immediately began his ministry…making disciples….preaching, feeding, healing, liberating and proclaiming a new order…the Kingdom of God

When we are baptized God recognizes us. And our ministry begins.

In the Matthew 3 account of his baptism, Jesus replies to John’s objection that it is the right thing to do to fulfill all righteousness.

Question: Whose righteousness is fulfilled by Jesus being baptized?

* Jesus righteousness did not need fulfilling. He was already perfect
* It was for us he was baptized so that when we are we can be like him

1 Jesus is our pattern

* A bruised reed he did not break
  + He trod lightly—not destroying damaged lives
  + He allowed for the wounded to be made whole
* A smoking wick he did not quench
  + When we are sputtering and about to lose hope
  + Jesus gently blows us back into flame

2 We follow him in all we do

* We should tread lightly—offering healing
* We should encourage one another to keep faith’s flame alive

3 When we are baptized we signal a divide between our old life and our new

4 Like Jesus we are commissioned to

* make disciples
* preach (and if necessary use words)
* feed
* heal
* liberate
* and model the Kingdom
  + by loving each other
  + by caring for the helpless
  + by loving the unlovable