

Flipping Tables Podcast



Study of Philippians

*The house church at Philippi
and beyond
with the women who led there.*

*"Grace and peace to you from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Table 2

Season 4 Episode 7

Welcome to the table!

Thanks for taking a few minutes to pull up a chair and meet with me at my table.

This week, here and on the podcast, we're talking about the baptism of Jesus.

Twila pulled up a chair at the podcast table too—you can hear our conversation on [Apple](#) and [Spotify](#). This was a conversation we really enjoyed, and we hope it's meaningful for you too.

To help you picture the scene, I'm including the passage from Matthew 3:13–17 in both the NIV and *The Message*. I love reading them side by side when I'm studying.

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."

From the Message...

13-14 Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, “I’m the one who needs to be baptized, not *you!*”

15 But Jesus insisted. “Do it. God’s work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism.” So John did it.

16-17 The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God’s Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life.”

Now we’re all on the same page. We can begin.

I’m drinking chai tea and thinking about a new beginning. I wonder if Jesus had any drinks or snacks on his walk out to the Jordan River. I hope He did.

It’s good to remember His humanity, especially in a passage that so clearly spotlights His deity.

The Son of God had ordinary needs, just like us.

I like to picture Jesus with a spring in his step. After all, He had been waiting a long time to step into His role and begin His ministry. Much farther back than where Matthew begins. We can trace His anticipation all the way back to creation. Finally, it’s time to begin.

With all of His anticipation, to be met with even a bit of resistance from John the Baptist, I want to whisper to Jesus, *Me too, Lord.*

Of course John is right. Baptizing Jesus was far above his pay grade. John’s humility, for just a moment, became a hindrance at the very height of his calling. He had faithfully prepared the way for Jesus. Now it was time to bridge the gap between the past and the future.

I’m going to pause and take a sip of my tea.

What do moments of resistance look like in my life? Am I hedging at the moments I most need to take a courageous step forward?

Jesus is the Son of Righteousness, and He's stepping into his role of fulfilling all righteousness—not abstractly, but right here, in the water.

I love how The Message says it:

But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it.

Thank you, Jesus, for beginning to put things right. Doesn't it feel like a weight is coming off your shoulders?

I relate to the crowds who came to the Jordan River for baptism. I remember stepping into the waters of my own baptism. The water felt powerful—but it wasn't the water itself. It was the new beginning.

The cleansing of sin, the filthy rags of my religious works being washed away, made the moment feel like a new birth.

Jesus didn't have the feeling of sin washing off his body. He had no filthy rags of righteousness to shed. I wonder what this moment felt like for him.

Try to free your imagination to step into the scene. What do you see, hear, and feel?

At baptism, we dedicate ourselves to a new way of life. Here's something I'm curious about—have you ever thought, *I need to be baptized again?*

I was so rooted in religion before and even after my baptism that I felt this many times. It took several years for me to break free from the cycle of thinking about baptism in that way.

Baptism is less about what happens in the moment and more about the life it begins. Jesus stepped into the Jordan to fulfill all righteousness, and in doing so, He invites us to step into a new way of

life—a journey that continues every day, long after the waters settle.

And so we return to that moment at the Jordan River. Jesus steps into the water—not because he needs cleansing, not because he’s broken—but because we do. He stepped into the river so that we, who are broken, might be made whole.

And it’s also because it’s time to begin. The heavens open. The Spirit descends like a dove. And the Father’s voice breaks through: *“This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.”*

In that moment, all of creation seems to lean in, watching, holding its breath.

Jesus, the Creator of all things, stands on ground cursed, in the midst of a creation that groans. What a glorious moment!

I can’t help but wonder: if I could step into that water beside Him, what would it feel like to hear God’s delight spoken over me in the same way?

It was a glorious day on planet Earth, when the Trinity came near to mark a new beginning at the Jordan River.

Jesus, like a new Moses, was preparing to guide his people into a flourishing freedom—the freedom found in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus’ baptism reminds us that God’s work is often quiet, patient, and full of intention. He stepped into the waters not for himself, but for us—for the world he came to redeem. In that ordinary river, heaven broke open, the Spirit descended, and the Father’s delight was declared.

I can’t help but think about the ways we hesitate in our own lives. How often do we hold back when God is calling us to step forward? How often do we cling to old ways of thinking, or feel the weight of our own imperfections? Jesus shows us that obedience, trust, and new beginnings are possible—even in the midst of groaning creation.

Baptism, whether ours or the remembrance of His, marks a turning point: a new way of life, a

chance to step into freedom, and a moment to hear God's delight over us. It reminds us that we are loved, included, and invited to participate in God's unfolding story.

So as we leave the Jordan River today—metaphorically or in our own imaginations—let us carry the reminder that the Creator walks with us, the Spirit empowers us, and the Father delights in us. Every new beginning is an invitation to join in the life of the Kingdom.

Keep following the Table Flipper, and leave the table flipping to Jesus.