



1/12/2020 | MT 3:13-17

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Commentary:

Matthew gives us front row seats as observers of Jesus’ baptism. We might be inclined to wonder why Jesus needs to hear this important announcement and what sort of change this makes in his life. But God isn’t speaking to Jesus. The opening of the heavens signifies a new possibility of communication between God and humanity. God is speaking to us. It’s for our benefit. God identifies Jesus for us not only for who he is but also for what he will do in his ministry. Our tendency with this passage is to simply watch and take it all in. But this Son of God will ask much more than that we be physically present. Those who follow Jesus, and do as he does, will please God as well.

Thought starter:

What is God asking of you with the help of the Holy Spirit?